

First Sunday after Epiphany

7 January 2024

Morning Worship at 10:30 a.m.

Holy Communion Service

(*: Congregation stands)



APPROACH

PREPARATION SONG “Be Still and Know”

– Music: Anon

Be still and know that I am God

Be still and know that I am God

Be still and know that I am God

In Thee O Lord I put my trust

In Thee O Lord I put my trust

In Thee O Lord I put my trust

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*** CALL TO WORSHIP**

O: All creation proclaims the greatness and love of God.

A: God's love permeates even the deepest darkness.

The light of God shines on us with new hope.

We are called to be people of compassion and justice.

Open our hearts, O Lord, to see your light and live in your hope.

Prepare us for service to all your people and to this world. AMEN.

*** HYMN “God Whose Almighty Word”**

– Music: F de Gardini, Lyrics: J Marriot

God whose almighty word

Chaos and darkness heard

And took thier flight

Hear us we humbly pray

And where the Gospel day

Sheds not its glorious ray

Let there be light

Let there be light

Spirit of truth and love

Life-giving holy dove

Speed forth Your flight

Move on the water's face

Bear the lamp of grace

And in earth's darkest place

Let there be light

Let there be light

Holy and blessed three

Glorious Trinity

Wisdom love might

Boundless as ocean's tide

Rolling in fullest pride

Through earth far and wide

Let there be light

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CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Timeless God,
you cast Light into sin's dark places
and call us your Beloved.

Forgive us:

**when we still linger in the shadows;
when we treat others in hurtful ways;
when we speak ill of your friends.**

As he knelt in the waters of Jordan,
you proclaimed Jesus as your Child,
pointing to him as the way to you.

Forgive us:

**when we put ourselves ahead of him;
when we think he is no longer needed;
when we fail to see him in the broken of our world.**

Baptized and blessed in your living waters,
you would have us be your servants in our time.

Forgive us:

**when we fail to welcome the stranger;
when we refuse to forgive as we should;
when we believe we are too good to kneel down
and tie the shoes of the lost, the least, the last, the little.**

ALL RESPOND “Kyrie Eleison”

– Composer: Traditional Orthodox

Kyrie Eleison

Kyrie Eleison

Kyrie Eleison --||--

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

THE WORD OF GOD

Lord, open our lips.

And our mouths shall show forth Your praise.

HYMN "I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry"

– Composer: J Ylvisaker

"I was there to hear your borning cry,

I'll be there when you are old.

I rejoiced the day you were baptized,

to see your life unfold.

I was there when you were but a child,

with a faith to suit you well;

In a blaze of light you wandered off

to find where demons dwell."

"When you heard the wonder of the Word

I was there to cheer you on;

You were raised to praise the living Lord,

to whom you now belong.

If you find someone to share your time
and you join your hearts as one,
I'll be there to make your verses rhyme
from dusk 'till rising sun."

In the middle ages of your life,
not too old, no longer young,
I'll be there to guide you through the night,
complete what I've begun.

When the evening gently closes in,
and you shut your weary eyes,
I'll be there as I have always been
with just one more surprise."

"I was there to hear your borbning cry,
I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized,
to see your life unfold."

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SCRIPTURE READING

Your Word, O Lord, is a lamp to our feet.

A light to our path.

Genesis 1: 1-5 (O.T.)

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, 2 the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters.

3 Then God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light.

4 And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness.

5 God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

Mark 1: 4-11 (N.T.)

4 John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. 5 And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

6 Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey.

7 He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals.

8 I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

9 In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. 10 And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him.

11 And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.”

Lord, may Your Word live in us.

And bear much fruit for Your glory.

FAMILY TALK

SERMON

*** AFFIRMATION OF FAITH – THE APOSTLES' CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son,
our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;**

he descended into hell.

On the third day he rose again;

he ascended into heaven,

he is seated at the right hand of the Father,

and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the holy catholic Church,

the communion of saints,

the forgiveness of sins,

the resurrection of the body,

and the life everlasting. Amen.

THE OFFERTORY

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

ALL RESPOND “In the Lord”

– Composer: Taizé Community

In the Lord I'll be ever thankful,

In the Lord I'll rejoice.

Look to God, do not be afraid,

Lift up your voices, the Lord is near;

Lift up your voices the Lord is near. --||--

OFFERTORY

THE HOLY COMMUNION

THE PEACE

HYMN “Let Us Break Bread Together”

– Composer: Traditional

Let us break bread together

On our knees

Let us break bread together

On our knees

When I fall on my knees

With my face to the rising sun

O Lord have mercy on me

Let us drink the cup together

On our knees

Let us drink the cup together

On our knees

When I fall on my knees

With my face to the rising sun

O Lord have mercy on me

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INVITATION

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

The Lord is with us

We rejoice in God's Presence.

We lift up our hearts.

We lift our hearts to the Lord.

We give thanks to God,

who creates and sustains all things.

Loving God

In the fullness of time you gave us Jesus Christ,

Who entered into the world as your servant,

To heal,

To liberate,

To proclaim the Good News of your kin-dom.

As a sign of God's presence among us, our Lord Jesus prepared a meal of bread and wine, a celebration,

**of life over death
of love over fear
of union over separation.**

Christ lives in us,
and we in Christ,

In Christ we are set free :
a new creation.

Confirmed for us in bread and wine,
a meal of jubilation.

With all your Church throughout the world
we offer you our praise and lift our voice
to join the everlasting song of heaven:

SANCTUS

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of pow'r and might
Heaven and Earth are full of Your Glory;
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

PRAYER FOR THE HOLY SPIRIT

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in
heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our
sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

DISTRIBUTION

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

**We thank you, Lord,
that you have fed us in this sacrament,
united us with Christ,
and given us a foretaste of the heavenly
banquet prepared for all peoples. Amen.**

* **HYMN** “The Spirit Lives to Set Us Free ”

– Composer: D Lundy

The Spirit lives to set us free

Walk walk in the light

And binds us all in unity

Walk walk in the light

Walk in the light

Walk in the light

Walk in the light

Walk in the light of the Lord

Jesus promised life to all

Walk walk in the light

The dead were wakened by His call

Walk walk in the light

Walk in the light

Walk in the light

Walk in the light

Walk in the light of the Lord

By Jesus' love our wounds are healed

Walk walk in the light

The Father's kindness is revealed

Walk walk in the light

Walk in the light

Walk in the light

Walk in the light

Walk in the light of the Lord

The Spirit lives in you and me

Walk walk in the light

His light will shine for all to see

Walk walk in the light

Walk in the light

Walk in the light

Walk in the light

Walk in the light of the Lord

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* **COMMISSION and BLESSING**

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

God does nothing except in response to believing prayer. – John Wesley

Please remember as you pray. . .

- Happy New Year! May we wish everyone peace, joy and good health in 2024. This year, we shall celebrate our church's Centenary, and we look forward to your warm support and eager participation in KUC – *Where All Are One*. May the Lord continue to bless this church, our Pastors, our Council and Trustees, our church leaders and our congregation to serve our community as a beacon of light, love and hope.
- Japan faced a dual catastrophe as a 7.6-magnitude earthquake struck on New Year's Day, leaving 62 people dead and many more trapped under the rubble. The Noto Peninsula on the Sea of Japan coast was particularly devastated, with buildings in towns like Wajima and Suzu reduced to rubble. An aftershock and tsunami warnings added to the challenges. Tragically, on the second day of the new year, a runway collision occurred at Tokyo Haneda airport, involving a Japan Airlines Airbus A350 and a Coast Guard turboprop bound for delivering aid to earthquake victims. While all passengers on the JAL flight miraculously escaped, five of the six Coast Guard crew members lost their lives. In prayer, we lift up the people of Japan, who find themselves grappling with the aftermath of both the earthquake and the tragic aviation incident at the onset of this new year. May they find strength, resilience, and support during these challenging times.
- Amnesty International has issued a stark condemnation of the escalating homophobia in sub-Saharan Africa, where governments are increasingly criminalizing homosexual acts, imposing harsh penalties, and sending a toxic message that LGBTQ+ individuals are criminals. The report reveals that homosexual acts remain illegal in 38 African countries, with South Sudan and Burundi introducing new laws in the last five years. The situation is dire, with violent attacks against LGBTQ+ individuals on the rise, exemplified by the recent beating of Sierra Leonean gay activist George Freeman. Amnesty urges the repeal of these discriminatory laws, emphasizing the need to uphold the human rights and dignity of all Africans. We pray for those facing persecution due to

their sexual orientation in Africa, seeking understanding, compassion, and a path towards acceptance and equality.

- China has responded to an International Monetary Fund (IMF) warning about the potential detrimental impact of national security restrictions on global growth. The IMF Deputy Managing Director, Gita Gopinath, had expressed concerns that if the world economy divided into two blocs, with the U.S. and Europe in the West and China and Russia in the East, global GDP could suffer a significant decline. Gopinath emphasized that actions such as trade wars, science and technology conflicts, and efforts to decouple or de-risk economies amount to the politicization of economic and trade matters, which is deemed immoral and unsustainable. The situation underscores the need for international cooperation and understanding to foster fair and mutually beneficial economic relationships, promoting global stability and prosperity. In prayer, we seek wisdom and collaboration among nations for the greater good of the international community.
- In Hong Kong, prosecutors alleged on Wednesday that activist and publisher Jimmy Lai encouraged residents to protest and urged the U.S. to take action against Chinese authorities. The 76-year-old media tycoon, arrested in 2020 during a crackdown on pro-democracy protests, faces a national security trial, closely watched for its implications on the city's freedoms and judicial independence. Lai, who has been in jail for over three years, pleaded not guilty to charges of conspiring with foreign countries and publishing seditious material. The trial highlights concerns about freedom of the press and judicial autonomy in Hong Kong. In prayer, we seek justice, the rule of law, and the preservation of freedom of the press, recognizing the importance of these principles for a just and open society.

For the Congregation

- Pray for those facing health challenges that require body strength restoration:
Edna Lai, Paul Wong, Kevin Ng, Revd Bud, Jeanette Lee, Hend, Ng Kam Lee, Raymond Lau, Joy Babasa, Julianne Long and John. We continue to remember our senior members and friends: Mrs Samuel and the mother of Alex Melwani. May God heal the sick and give strength to those caring for loved ones at home and in care facilities.

- We thank God that Paul Wong has received his first hip replacement surgery well and is now recovering at home. We continue to pray for his recovery as he builds up his strength for his subsequent surgery.
- Please pray for our sister Sherri Cheung and her family. Sherri's father passed away on Friday morning after a time of illness. May the family be comforted at this time of great sorrow and loss.
- We welcome our new intern, Estella Yeung, to the KUC family. Estella is studying at the Alliance Bible Seminary and will be with us from January to May. We pray our time of learning together will be a fruitful one.

For the Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

We lift up in prayer the churches and people of all faiths in Iran, Iraq, and Syria.

We are **thankful** for:

- the resilience of the people who remain in their homelands even when they face constant threats and ongoing violence
- the relief and assistance that has been provided to so many
- those who have made a new home for refugees fleeing from these countries
- those who have worked continually for peace, justice and reconciliation.

We **pray** for:

- an end to the violence racking these battlefields of global powers
- political leaders emerging in these countries who will pursue peace, the common good, and the human rights of all groups
- the international community to pursue policies that will result in acceptable, just peace for all involved
- greater openness to welcoming those displaced or fleeing from these lands, desperately seeking safety and well-being.

Announcements

Today - A warm welcome to all who join our worship this morning. Please stay and join the tea and coffee fellowship after the service. Thank you, Pastor Phyllis, for sharing the word of God with us this morning.

New Year Appeal From the Peacemaking Team - As we enter the new year, the peacemaking ministry is appealing to you all for donations of supermarket vouchers. These vouchers will enable us to provide for families and people in need within our community. For more details, please get in touch with Katie Ho.

Dates For Your Diaries:

Want to contribute to the KUC Centenary Book? Join the creative writing workshop being organised by KUC on **14 January (Sunday)**, 1 PM, Lower Fellowship Hall. The Centenary Committee will receive all written pieces resulting from the workshop. Our KUC friend, Yvonne Yu, will be our resource person and facilitator. See you all there!

English Service for Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

This year, the worship materials for the Unity gathering have been shared by the people and churches of Burkina Faso.

Date: 23 January 2024 (Tue)

Time: 8:00 pm

Venue: St. Mary's Church (5 Dyer Ave, Hung Hom)

Speaker: Revd Eden Fletcher (The Methodist Church, Hong Kong)

Theme: "You shall love the Lord your God and your neighbour as yourself" (Luke 10:27)

Starting in February 2024

As part of the KUC centenary celebrations, the Christian Education The committee will launch a new study series entitled 'Discipleship. Then and Now. Every first Sunday after worship in the Upper Fellowship Hall.



	TODAY 7 January	NEXT WEEK 14 January
Liturgist:	Maggie Mathieson	Maggie Mathieson
Preacher:	Phyllis Wong	Paul Cooper
Pianist:	Jessica Tso	Eva Kwan
Lector:	Harry Chan	Alex Melwani
Intercessory Prayers:	Sunita Suna	Judy Chan
Family Talk:	Rey Asis	Lydia Cathedral
Greeter:	Edna Lai	Edwina Antonio
Offering Rota:	Rose Muiriri Joshua Pang	Thapa Samjhani Caden Lam
Counting Rota	Jennifer Chan Ramon Bultron	Ramon Bultron
Sunday School Leaders:	Mary Adesina, Jailyn Tomitis	Mary Adesina, Jailyn Tomitis
I.T. Team:	Amber Tong, Bervinder Kaur	Venus Cheng, Bervinder Kaur
Freewill offering last week: HK\$8,832.50-		