

Kowloon Union Church
“Where all are one”
4 Jordan Road, Kowloon
Tel. 2367-2585 • kuc@kuc.hk
Secretary: Candy Lam
Social Ministry Worker: Katie Ho
Minister: Maggie Mathieson
Minister-in-charge: Phyllis Wong



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

* **CALL TO WORSHIP**

* **HYMN** “God Whose Almighty Word” – Music: F de Gardini, Lyrics: J Marriot

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ALL RESPOND “Kyrie Eleison”

– Composer: Traditional Orthodox

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

SCRIPTURE READING

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

A light to our path.

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

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

Lord, may Your Word live in us.

And bear much fruit for Your glory.

FAMILY TALK

SERMON

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

THE OFFERTORY

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

ALL RESPOND “In the Lord”

– Composer: Taizé Community

OFFERTORY

THE HOLY COMMUNION

THE PEACE

HYMN “Let Us Break Bread Together”

– Composer: Traditional

INVITATION

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

SANCTUS

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

PRAYER FOR THE HOLY SPIRIT

THE LORD'S PRAYER

DISTRIBUTION

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

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

– Composer: D Lundy

* **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-