

Next Sunday

January 22 2023, @ 10am
Epiphany 3 – Day of Mourning
Voice + Truth + Treaty

Leader: Deok Hee
Preacher Deok Hee

Psalm:85: 7 – 13; Micah 6:6 – 8; John 14:15 – 24;
1 John 4:7 – 21

Church Council

Chair
Secretary
Treasurer

Dinah Roepers
Richard Goodman
John Baglin

Councillors Dorothy Makasa (2023) Robert M°Alpine (2023)
Sue Baglin (2025)

Elders John Baglin (2023) Richard Goodman (2024)
Dinah Roepers (2023)

Safe Church Contact Person Richard Goodman



The Uniting Church in Australia

KOGARAH UNITING CHURCH

We welcome people of all cultures and lifestyles,
We create a safe place for the community
We share the journey of life and faith.

WELCOME

January 15 2023, @ 10am
Epiphany 2 – Called Together

Leader: Dinah
Preacher Deok Hee

Isaiah 49:1–7; Psalm 40:1–11 ;1 Corinthians 1:1–9;
John 1:29–42



For details and information about our church activities and The Kogarah Storehouse, check out the websites: kogarah.uca.org.au and www.kogarahstorehouse.org.au

For pastoral concerns, please contact the
Rev Deok Hee Cho
on 0401 975 745

Face to face Services Kogarah Uniting Church

At 10:00am

Some COVID Conditions have changed

We are in the middle of a new wave

Masks are highly recommended given the vulnerability of some of our members. Please do not come in if you are feeling unwell.

Social distancing is also to be observed.

Watch this space for any changes.

Planning Ahead

1. 24.01.2023 Worship task Group meeting 7pm via Zoom
2. 14.02.2023 next Church Council meeting 7pm via Zoom
3. 15.02 2023 Storehouse Board of Management meeting

Please pray for ...

The mission and ministry of our congregation and for our Minister, Deok Hee

Worship leaders; helpers, leaders, followers as we prepare for the new year.

The Kogarah Storehouse and its many clients; Lala and staff of the Storehouse.

Dorothy and Godfrey and the work of LACLA.

Nick Hedges and the scripture teaching at JCBTHS and MGHS

The team, parents and children in the Early Learning Centre.

Those who are sick, sad or lonely: Brian and Rhonda in Banks Lodge and Brian and Rhonda's son Malcolm; Prema, and others whom we name in our hearts; health care workers in this time of COVID-19, including Richard, Millin and Roseline Goodman and Dorothy Makasa and Elin. The people who are feeling anxious because of the continuing unseen and rising numbers of new COVID infections and deaths; those who feel lonely and afraid in this time of continuing infections,

Called Together

Faithful God, you invite us to be curious. You ask big questions with us and allow us to create big magic by your side. Help us to listen and wonder.

Amen.

Many of us struggle to find meaning in a culture that often values productivity and possession above a sense of vocation and being. To what do we give our strength? What grabs our attention and makes us curious?

The prophet of Isaiah 49:1–7 grabs our attention with the summons, “listen to me...pay attention.” Written following the defeat of the Southern Kingdom, Judah, by the Babylonians in 587 BCE, Isaiah 40–50 is commonly referred to as Second Isaiah. This section of the book of Isaiah has four passages, identified as Servant Songs. They tell about the call of God’s servant and chosen one. The servant here is the prophet, or perhaps Israel itself, called to spend their strength for the important task of doing God’s will. God calls the prophet to proclaim to a people in exile in Babylon that God is faithful and will restore them. The Hebrew people begin to see a glimmer of hope after long years away from Judah and Jerusalem. The prophet describes his vocation – God knew him

before his birth and has given him powerful words to proclaim God's message. The story follows a pattern common to Hebrew prophets: there is a strong sense of a task God wants the prophet to fulfill, and there is a point when the prophet feels vulnerable. Brené Brown explains how vulnerability is at the core of emotions such as fear, self-doubt, comparison, anxiety, uncertainty, grief, disappointment. Still, vulnerability is also the birthplace of love, belonging, joy, trust, empathy, creativity, innovation.

So it is for this prophet and Israel.

The call is repeated as God promises to do even greater works. This is a story of a call – being called and known, experiencing failure to live up to the call, hope remaining strong, and being called with a greater purpose. God's light is to shine on all. Regardless of the people's early success or failure, God is faithful. The servant maintains hope in God.

God's faithfulness is never in doubt in Psalm 40:1–11. The writer praises God's steadfast love. The testimony in this psalm offers a glimpse of what it is like to be wanted. The writer wants to remain in God's true love and faithfulness. "Here I am" (v. 7) echoes Samuel's call in 1 Samuel 3. The psalm is a vivid, physical testimony of being heard, seen, helped, and given a song of praise. To live in the ways of God's life-giving law brings delight.

In 1 Corinthians 1:1–9, Paul speaks of his call and reminds the Corinthian church that God has called them to be saints in community with Christ. God gives strength and spiritual gifts to be used by each who are a part of this wide call. God is faithful and will continue to strengthen, empowering people to live in service to God's call.

John 1:29–42 tells the story of Jesus' baptism as a prelude to the call of the disciples. Many prophets and teachers had disciples who accompanied them and listened to their teaching. Jesus' first disciples are disciples of John. They are drawn to learn more about the one whom John calls "the Lamb of God." Jesus invites them to "come and see."

Andrew answers that call by finding his brother Simon Peter and bringing him to Jesus. Together they answer the call.

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In each of this week's readings, the call is to something wider – more than is imagined. In Baptism, we are named as members of the Body of Christ. What does it mean to be called and named by God? The biblical passages raise questions about our own call. How do we identify and confirm that call to be all we are and can be? Today, what does it mean to be "a light to the nations"?



Special Days Commentary

January 16 – Birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr. (observed) Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., African-American civil rights leader, was born on January 15, 1929, in Atlanta, Georgia. A Baptist minister and peace activist, Dr. King was a voice for equal rights for African Americans and others. Dr. King was assassinated on April 4, 1968, in Memphis, Tennessee. In 1983, his birthday was designated a national holiday in the United States,

observed on the third Monday in January. On August 28, 1963, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., delivered a pivotal speech from the steps of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, DC. The words, which have come to be known as the “I Have a Dream” speech, inspired the crowd of more than 300,000 people who made the march on Washington to advocate for civil rights. Dr. King spoke fervently of a day when all God’s children would join hands and walk together as sisters and brothers.



January 18 – Confession of St. Peter

The feast day commemorates Peter’s statement (or confession) that Jesus was Messiah, as recorded in Matthew 16:16, Mark 8:29, and Luke 9:20. The predominance of Peter in the Roman Catholic tradition, coupled with the significance of St. Paul in Protestant theology, inspired the choice of the week between this day and the feast of the Conversion of St. Paul as the first Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in the Northern Hemisphere.

January 18–25 – Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity was introduced in 1908 by the Rev. Paul Wattson, founder of the Franciscan Friars of the Atonement-Graymoor, to promote Christian

unity throughout the world. The theme for this ecumenical event is established each year by Graymoor Ecumenical and Interreligious Institute.

The dates were initially chosen to reflect St. Peter’s Chair (January 18) and the Conversion of St. Paul (January 25). These dates are still observed in most countries, including the UK and the US. The week always includes two Sundays in Canada, beginning the Sunday prior to January 25. In Aotearoa New Zealand and Australia, the week is generally observed between Ascension and Pentecost.

Christmas Bowl

John Baglin will be taking donations until the end of January using the envelopes. You can also make donations directly at the Christmas Bowl/Act for Peace website

<https://christmasbowl.actforpeace.org.au/>

