

Next Sunday

February 12, 2023, @ 10am Epiphany 6 – From the Heart

Leader: Deok Hee
Preacher Deok Hee
Holy Communion Deok hee

Deuteronomy 30:15–20 or Sirach 15:15–20; Psalm 119:1–8
1 Corinthians 3:1–9; Matthew 5:21–37

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.

February 5, 2023 @ 10am Epiphany 5 – Greatness of Heart

Leader: Robert
Preacher Deok Hee

Isaiah 58:1–9a, (9b–12); Psalm 112:1–9, (10);
1 Corinthians 2:1–12, (13–16); Matthew 5:13–20



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.

Planning Ahead

1. 14.02.2023 next Church Council meeting 7pm via Zoom
2. 15.02.2023 Storehouse Board of Management meeting
3. 8.03.2023 Worship Task Group 7pm via Zoom

The Journey to Easter

Add these dates to your diary. Friends are welcome.
22.02.2023 Ash Wednesday 7:30pm – the Lenten journey begins.

2.04.2023 Palm/Passion Sunday 10am

6.04.2023 Maundy Thursday 7:30pm

7.04.2023 Good Friday 9am + Hot Cross Buns

9.04.2023 Easter Day 10am

From 24.02.2023 every Friday @ 12noon Lenten Bible Study (6 sessions)

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:

We pray especially today for Brian and Rhonda and their wider family as they grieve for their son Malcolm who recently died.

And for 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.

Greatness of Heart

Light of the world, be our light today. Creator of life, preserve our life this day. Light of the world, we praise you with our hearts, songs, and minds. Amen.

This week, we, with a prophet and a psalmist, learn what it means to practise righteousness and restore beauty in community, and we hear Jesus teach that we are like salt and light as we seek to live as God's people.

Isaiah 58:1–12 describes the difference between words

and actions when seeking God. The prophet announces God's people by saying that they seek God and delight in God's ways as if they are a nation that practices righteousness, but the prophet reminds us that performing ritual or religious practices without changing our behaviour is not enough. The prophet reminds us that we cannot seek God without seeking justice and observing God's ordinances. When that happens, the light of God's love shines in the world.

Psalm 112:1–10 equates those who delight in God's commands with those who rise as a light. Our actions have consequences. The writer praises those whose acts are gracious, merciful, and righteous – those who act justly. They are not broken by adversity but secure in God. Righteousness endures.

1 Corinthians 2:1–16 reminds the church at Corinth that Paul did not use lofty words to explain God's power to them. God's spirit helps us understand how to live according to God's law and to understand the gifts bestowed on us by God.

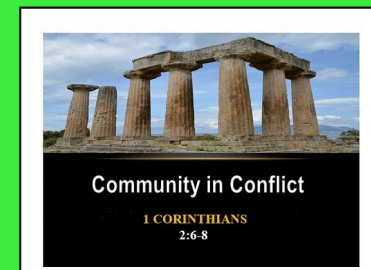
In **Matthew 5:13–20**, Jesus presents three images – salt, light, and a city on a hill – to help listeners understand their relationship with God and what it means to live according to the ways of God's realm. Salt and light are metaphors used in the Hebrew Scriptures to describe covenant and law. David and his descendants are called a lamp before God. Jesus expands the message. Jesus teaches his followers that they are salt (cleansing, preserving, adding flavour), and light (revealing what is hidden and enabling all to see). God's reign is not only a future promise; it also is a present reality. We participate

in that reign as we live in God's ways. Our light shines before others, not so they can applaud our piety but that our works can direct others to give thanks and praise to God. God, through us, gives light to everyone; to "all in the house." The word translated here as house is the word for "the established world" – it is a big house!

For Jews in Jesus' day, the law or Torah was understood as the full content of God's revelation to the people. It was contained in the Pentateuch, the first five books of the Hebrew scriptures. Torah included law codes such as the Ten Commandments and many other regulations that governed community life. Some scribes and Pharisees accuse Jesus of not keeping God's law. However, Jesus is faithful to the law's intent. He came not to abolish the law but to fulfill it. Jesus calls us to live righteous lives and to show justice and mercy to all. The concern of the scribes and Pharisees was obedience to God's law. Jesus' followers must be just as wholehearted in following the intent and the spirit of it.

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Jesus calls us to lives of righteousness, the ethical actions expected of those who believe in and follow Jesus the Christ. Where are the challenges in responding to the sermon on the mount? Where does the world need salt and light now? How might we be that salt and light?





Common Grace calls upon Christians to vote YES for VOICE and First Nations' Justice



Ballarat Cathedral where Cardinal George Pell once served and numerous children were abused. Survivors placed similar ribbons on the fence at St Mary's Cathedral to pay their respects to those who had suffered the abuse.