

Next Sunday

February 26, 2023, @ 10am
Lent 1 – Into the Wilderness

Leader: Matagi Vilitama
Preacher Matagi Vilitama
Holy Communion Matagi Vilitama

Genesis 2:15–17, 3:1–7; Psalm 32; Romans 5:12–19;
Matthew 4:1–11

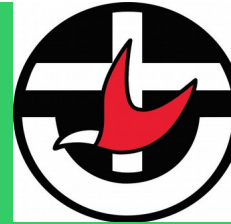
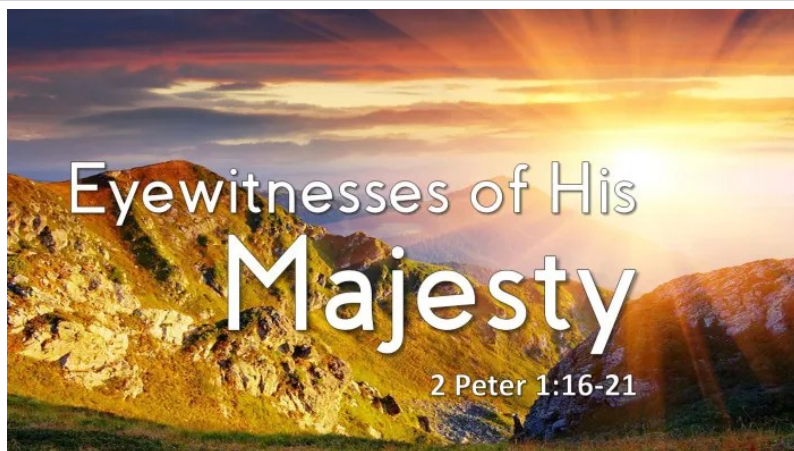
Church Council

Chair Dinah Roepers
Secretary Richard Goodman
Treasurer 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

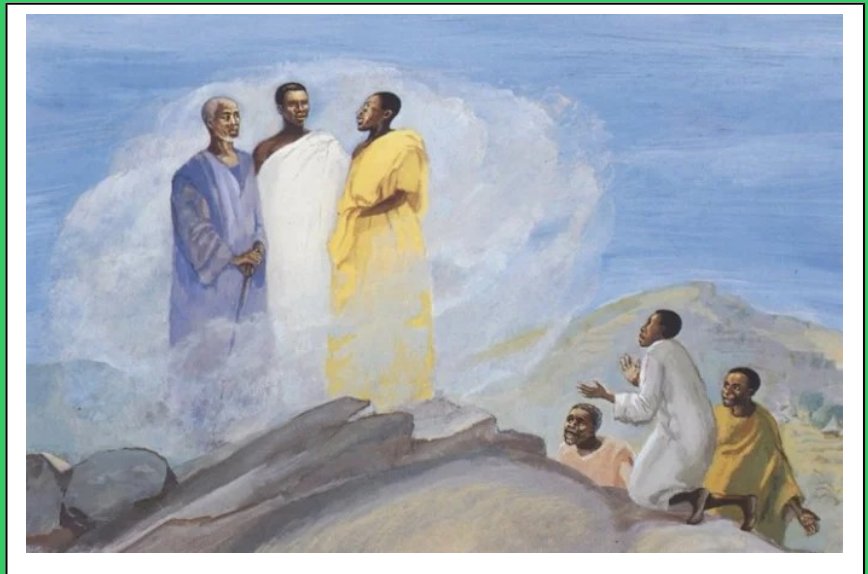
We welcome people of all cultures and lifestyles,
We create a safe place for the community
We share the journey of life and faith.

February 19, 2023, @ 10am
Epiphany +7 Sacred Encounters

Leader: Deok Hee
Preacher Deok Hee

Exodus 24:12–18 Psalm 2 or Psalm 99 2 Peter 1:16–21

Matthew 17:1–9



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. 8.03.2023 Worship Task Group 7pm via Zoom
2. 21.03.2023 Church Council via Zoom @ 7:00pm

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.

We pray this Sunday for the people of Türkiye and Syria who are suffering after the devastation caused by the earthquake in their region. May help soon arrive and the grieving people who survived the disaster receive God's comfort.

Presbytery Prayer Roster

Today we hold in our prayers Rev Simon Lee, Presbytery Chairperson.



Sacred Encounters

O Sacred Love, you encounter us in places where we seek you and in places where we flee from you. Ease our fears. Open our ears and eyes to you, wherever and in whomever you reveal yourself to us. Prepare us to journey as you call. Amen.

The Season after the Epiphany closes on a holy mountain where God may be found. It is a place of sacred mystery, where shining and shadow convey holy presence. It is a place of community across time, where God's people past and present meet. It is a place of silence and witness, where visions are kept quiet, and God says of Jesus, "Listen to him."

Exodus 24:12–18 A cloud and mountain mark a new accessibility of God, as well as a time of secrecy and anticipation. Moses ascends Mount Sinai, and Joshua accompanies him partway. A cloud covers the peak for six days, and on the seventh day Moses is invited to enter the cloud. God's glory meets Moses in shadow and light.

The words of **Psalms 99** balance God's holiness with an affirmation of God's justice. The "holy mountain" of the temple on Mount Zion continues to offer a place of resting in God's presence.

The messianic poem of **Psalms 2** distinguishes between the kings that disregard God and the one whom God sends to change the world. God's coronation words: "You are my son; today I have begotten you" mark the authentic claim of this messianic ruler. These words are echoed throughout Matthew's account of the life of Jesus and in the author's account of the Transfiguration in **2 Peter 1:16–21**. Second Peter is presented as the final testimony of Peter and recalls his witness of this

moment in the life of Jesus as a pivotal point in his life and to the lives of those who will attend to its prophetic nature.

Matthew 17:1–9 The word transfigured in verse 2 translates the Greek verb *metamorphoo*. Elsewhere in the New Testament, that verb suggests changes deep within a person. The story of Jesus' transfiguration uses outward details to hint at the deeper mystery of metamorphosis. The report of how three of Jesus' friends react to it reveals the tension between the desire humans have for illuminated truth and empirically demonstrative truth. Peter tries to contain the surprise and delight he feels at the shining Jesus before him by building three dwellings for the apparitions that are loosening his tight grasp of truth.

In the Season after the Epiphany, we celebrate revelations big and small. We call out the need to be present in the moment to catch them, and we track how memory, contemplation, and reflection on them change us. Epiphany culminates in the dazzling vision of Jesus on a mountaintop in which heaven and Earth, history and future, all come together with sun, cloud, past prophets, and a voice from above to reveal the unique and beloved nature of Jesus as God's son.

Epiphany began with the revelation of the promise of the change a child's life will bring to the magi and ends with the secret of the freedom that Christ's death and resurrection will bring. Throughout, we are reminded of how extraordinary the ordinary can be. In this season and at all times, we must live in the potential of the mundane to become sacred through revelation and reflection and in the challenge to make perfect love more real through action and devotion. To do this, we are

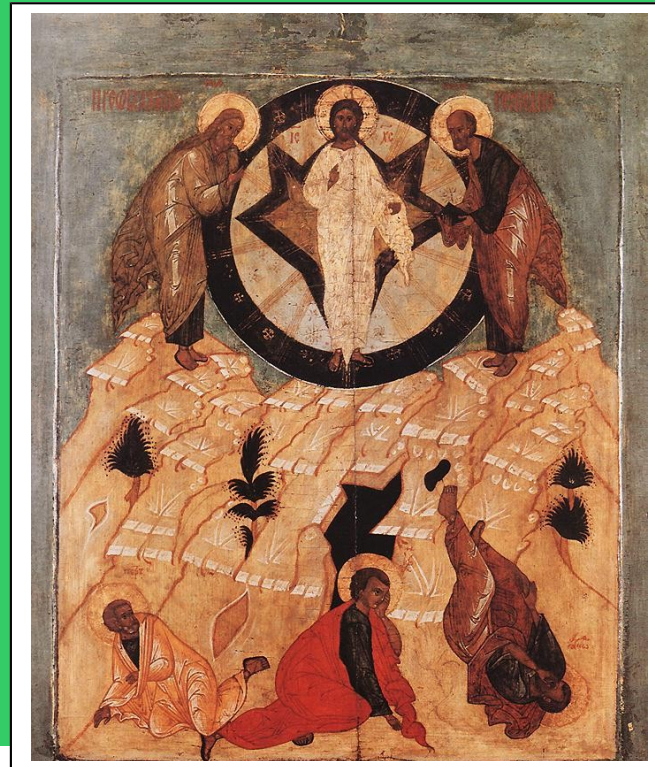
called to be present and open ourselves to the numinous experience at any time and in any place.

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Epiphany began with light as the magi followed a star to find Jesus. Indeed, the whole season is about revealing the light – a light of God's love made manifest as Jesus is revealed in new ways. In the story of Jesus' transfiguration, the light is brighter than ever before, but it doesn't last long; the moment passes all too quickly. When have you felt like that, reaching a moment of revelation or sacred encounter, only to have the moment pass and you have to move on? As we enter the Season of Lent, when the light of Epiphany diminishes, what echo of God's glory and God's mystery do you carry with you?

Transfiguration by Malcolm Guite

*For that one moment, 'in and out of time',
On that one mountain where all moments meet,
The daily veil that covers the sublime
In darkling glass fell dazzled at his feet.
There were no angels full of eyes and wings
Just living glory full of truth and grace.
The Love that dances at the heart of things
Shone out upon us from a human face
And to that light the light in us leaped up,
We felt it quicken somewhere deep within,
A sudden blaze of long-extinguished hope
Trembled and tingled through the tender skin.
Nor can this blackened sky, this darkened scar
Eclipse that glimpse of how things really are.*





Begin the journey to Easter with us
on Ash Wednesday, 22nd February 2023 at
7:30pm

Bring the palm crosses you made on Palm Sunday last
year. If you don't have one, we have plenty to go
around. They are burned to make the ashes.

AN IMPORTANT DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

A SPECIAL LUNCHTIME MEETING

SUNDAY APRIL 16TH 2023

Last year, as a result of two workshops, those involved put together a Mission Plan for KUC. Church Council has reviewed that plan; there are some objectives which have already been achieved or are in the pipeline. However, the objectives outlined in the Mission Plan are not the sole responsibility of Church Council but of the members of our congregation.

Church Council has determined which objectives are a priority and achievable but we need your help. With this in view, we plan to meet over lunch after worship on SUNDAY, APRIL 16 – bring your own sandwich. Please plan to be there; your input is most important.

