

## Next Sunday

**May 7th, 2023, @ 10am**  
**Easter 5**  
**Emboldened to Proclaim**

**Leader:** Richard  
**Preacher** Deok Hee

**Acts 7:55–60; Psalm 31:1–5, 15–16; 1 Peter 2:2–10**  
**John 14:1–14**

### Church Council

**Chair**  
**Secretary**  
**Treasurer**

Dinah Roepers  
Richard Goodman  
John Baglin

### **Councillors**

Dorothy Makasa (2023) Robert M<sup>c</sup>Alpine (2023)  
Sue Baglin (2025)

### **Elders**

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

**Safe Church Contact Person** Richard Goodman

**What Kind Of Church Do  
We Want To Be?**

**Acts 2:42-47**



**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.**

**April 30th, 2023, @ 10am**  
**Easter 4**  
**Sensing Awe**

**Leader:** Dinah  
**Preacher** Dinah

**Acts 2:42–47; Psalm 23; 1 Peter 2:19–25; John 10:1–10**



*(Mount Olive Lutheran Church)*

For details and information about our church activities and The Kogarah Storehouse, check out the websites: [kogarah.uca.org.au](http://kogarah.uca.org.au) and [www.kogarahstorehouse.org.au](http://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 continuing 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. 30.04.2023 NextGen Workshop 2-4pm (See ad later)
2. 3.05.2023 Kogarah Church Council meeting 7pm via Zoom (next Wednesday)
3. 5.05.2023 Storehouse Community Lunch 11:30am -1.00pm
4. 23.05.2023 Storehouse Management Committee 7:00pm
5. 25.05.2023 Worship Committee 7pm via ZOOM
6. 4.06.2023 Storehouse Sunday 10am

### 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 , Prema, Jim and Bobbie, 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.*

*Pray for Türkiye, Syria, Ukraine, Russia, New Zealand, and the newly elected government in NSW.*

*Today, from our Presbytery Prayer List, we hold President of UCA Assembly, Dr Deidre Palmer*



# Sensing Awe

God, in whom we find shepherding love, may we feel, hear, and see this love in our lives. May words and actions joyfully testify to the abundance of your faithful love for us and for all. Amen.

The joy-filled celebration of resurrection on Easter is quickly overshadowed, for most, by ordinary day-by-day life. Or worse, it can feel like the joy of Easter is quickly replaced by the horror of Good Friday in times of war and dis-ease. This year, we might learn to shepherd each other into a sense of awe and wonder in our day-to-day existence.

In **Acts 2:42–47**, we glimpse the early church before internal conflicts, persecution, and inter-faith tensions present the fledgling community with the challenges that will define and refine it.

“They” in 2:42 refers to those who responded in faith to Peter’s Pentecost address, being baptized and joining the early Christian community. “They” were eagerly awaiting Christ’s return in glory with the passion of recent converts embracing a new way of life. The focus on Peter’s preaching, and this week’s reading from the letter bearing his name, remind us that Peter was the first leader of the early church before the conversion and subsequent influence of Paul.

A sense of awe and reverence characterized the mood of the moment (2:43). Often, we associate these feelings with our response to the mystery and otherness of a God far beyond us; here, however, these come about through the immediacy of “wonders and signs”; tangible, practical changes to daily life that made a difference.

The church’s unity is emphasized. However, the description of having all things in common is acknowledged as past rather than an ongoing practice. Still, these early Jesus followers enjoyed the “goodwill of all the people” (Acts 2:47). “Goodwill” is a translation of a Greek word that also means “grace.” Perhaps such feelings of goodwill made it easier for the Body of Christ in that place to make God’s grace known to their neighbours. Their words of praise and deeds of mercy testify to the abundance and wholeness found in their shared devotion.

As the abundance of growth in the Acts community follows the earlier terror and tragedy of the crucifixion of Jesus, **Psalms 23** follows the lament and anguish found in Psalm 22. In these familiar words, we see a bold proclamation of how God – our shepherd – provides an overflowing abundance of what is needed for life: sustenance, water, safety, and direction. God’s people can move with trust and faith into such abundant life.

**1 Peter 2:19–25** was written during a time of suffering and persecution as part of a “household code” that instructs its readers how to live. Typically, they addressed the head of the household, but here the enslaved people are addressed directly to uphold vicarious suffering. It should come with a trigger warning. Enduring unjust suffering and abuse is not a virtue, and human rights groups work hard to end both within homes, the church, and wider society. There is a clash between hurt borne unjustly and the nurture that should be within our communities.

Like the psalm, **John 10:1–10** centres on the Middle Eastern shepherd, often a subsistence farmer whose livelihood depends upon the diligent care of their animals, just as the survival of the animals depends on the shepherd’s watchful eye and guiding voice.

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*These texts testify to God’s diverse, abundant provision and guidance. The “overflowing cup” in the presence of enemies and the sharing of time – our lives and possessions – run counter to our cultural norms. What helps us know our shepherd’s voice and follow in those ways of abundant living?*

## Special Days Commentary

May 3 – St. Philip and St. James

In the gospel of John, Philip is the third disciple to be called by Jesus. It is recorded that Philip then brought his friend Nathaniel to Jesus. Philip is also named in the story of the feeding of the 5000 (John 6) and in John’s account of the Last Supper. Philip’s

request to Jesus, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied” (14:8), leads to Jesus’ farewell discourse.

The James referred to this day is James, the son of Alphaeus (Matthew 10:3). Some scholars believe this is also the person referred to by Jerome as “James the Less” and “James the Younger,” who, in Mark’s gospel, is a witness at the crucifixion. Some believe that James, the author of the epistle, is most likely the brother of Jesus, who is mentioned by name in Matthew 13:55 and elsewhere.

Both Philip and James are celebrated on the same day because the church in Rome, where their relics rest, was dedicated on this day in the year 560 CE.



May 6 – St. John the Evangelist

Some churches commemorate John the apostle and evangelist on this day. (Other churches observe St. John’s Day on December 27.) Traditionally, John is thought to have been the youngest of the apostles. Jesus called him as he sat fishing in a boat with his father, Zebedee, and his brother, James. Known in scripture as “the one whom Jesus loved” and the disciple who

Jesus entrusted with the care of his mother as he hung on the cross, John was with Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane and was a witness to the empty tomb.



### **Building Your NextGen Ministry**

A Workshop for Ministries with Purpose and Focus

**TODAY** April 30 from 2pm – 4pm

At Hurstville City Uniting Church

The Avenue

HURSTVILLE

Call the Georges River Presbytery office on 9579 4682  
to register.



## Lala's Investiture

Last week Lala received her Medal of Australia at an impressive ceremony held at Government House (NSW). We can all be very proud of her achievements and the kudos she has brought to the Kogarah Storehouse.

Congratulations once again, Lala!



## Proud Family



***“Walking on Country” (Information provided by Jim Vickery  
(Truth telling)***

In 1998, invited by Aunty Sue Blacklock, descendant of a massacre survivor, the Uniting Church National Assembly hosted a ‘Covenanting’ event, coordinated by Rev John Brown, at Myall Creek. At the conclusion of the event, also attended by many local Aboriginal and non-Indigenous people, it was agreed to erect a Memorial which was dedicated in 2000. For more information on the Friends of Myall Creek Memorial: <https://myallcreek.org/>

Since then, each year hundreds of people from across the country gather on the Sunday of the June long weekend at the National and State heritage listed Memorial to commemorate the unprovoked massacre of at least twenty-eight Wirrayaraay women, children and old men by a group of stockmen on Myall Creek Station in 1838. In 2023 you can also attend the annual gathering on Gomeroi Country (Northern Tablelands NSW) as members of a ‘Walking on Country’ tour group coordinated through Riverina Presbytery (Paul Creek) and Canberra Region Presbytery (Ivan Roberts) of the Uniting Church. This year’s guest speaker is Richard Trudgen, author of ‘Why Warriors lie down and die’, a member of the Nhulunbuy Uniting Church, and long-time friend and colleague of Rev Dr Djiniyini Gondarra. For more information or expression of interest regarding the Walking on Country tour experience go to: <https://murraydarlingbasintours.com.au/walking-on-country> or Ivan iroberts2505@yahoo.com.au or Paul pcreek7@gmail.com

Walking on Country 2023 is a bus tour to Myall Creek over the June long weekend.

The bus will leave Canberra on Friday morning June 9th and visit UAICC in Wellington before an overnight stay in Dubbo.

People traveling from Sydney would be better to join and depart the tour at Dubbo, although anyone traveling by XPT could join the bus in Wellington where the bus will be visiting UAICC.

On Saturday the tour will visit Myall Creek before going on to Moree for an overnight stay. On Sunday we will attend the Myall Creek Massacre Memorial Gathering and on Monday the bus will travel back to Canberra. The bus will be back in Dubbo by lunch time so people can catch early afternoon flights or the XPT back to Sydney.

If you are unable to attend this year but know of someone who may be interested feel free to forward this email to them. You might like to promote this weekend in your local church.

To receive a registration email you can contact me by or expressing interest on the website.

<https://murraydarlingbasintours.com.au/walking-on-country>

