

## Next Sunday

**May 21st, 2023, @ 10am**

**Easter 7**

**Sensory Glory**

Leader: Robert  
Preacher Deok Hee

Acts 1:6–14; Psalm 68:1–10, 32–35; 1 Peter 4:12–14, 5:6–11  
John 17:1–11

### 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.

**May 14th, 2023, @ 10am**

**Easter 6**

**To See is to Love**  
**Happy Mother's Day**

Leader: Deok Hee  
Preacher Deok Hee  
Holy Communion Deok Hee

Acts 17:22–31; Psalm 66:8–20 ; 1 Peter 3:13–22  
John 14:15–21



**In God**

**we live and move  
and have our being.**

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. 24.05.2023 Storehouse Management Committee 4:00pm
2. 25.05.2023 Worship Committee 7pm via ZOOM
3. 28.05.2023 Pentecost
4. 4.06.2023 Storehouse Sunday 10am
5. 6.06.2023 Bayview Morning Tea at Kogarah RSL @ 10:30am
6. 7.06.2023 Kogarah UC Church Council via Zoom 7pm
7. 17.06.2023 Bayview Service @ Kogarah from 2pm
8. 18.06.2023 Church Council/Elders elections in service

### 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, Denis and Dolly, 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 the Associate Secretary of UCA Assembly, Mr Rob Floyd, in our prayers. However, according to the latest Frontier Services magazine, Rob Floyd is now their national director. Maybe he has both roles.*



# To See Is to Love

Holy God, lift our gaze and open our hearts, that we might see your love all around. May your abiding presence encourage us to love more. Amen.

Urban Dictionary defines the phrase “I see you” as “what someone says to you when they understand where you are coming from or are impressed with you.” We are reminded that the indwelling love of God and the Spirit’s enduring presence is with us. We are never alone and never abandoned.

**Acts 17:22–31** Paul addresses the Athenians with striking graciousness and thoughtfulness. No stern words about pagans or heathen idols. Only respect for the Athenians’ skills and their statues. Paul looks beyond the externals to the essentials. He meets the Athenians where they are and asserts why there is no need for statues to unknown gods. “We are God’s offspring,” made in God’s image, who knows us and loves us.

The author of **Psalms 66:8–10** reminds us that God’s love remains constant whatever we go through. The psalmist is overwhelmed by the need to tell others about God’s action and presence. God’s love overflows.

**1 Peter 3:13–22** reassures us that we do not need to be afraid, whatever the journey of faith entails. Whatever we go through, we are not abandoned; we are not alone. The perfect indwelling love of God casts out fear. The reference to the historic flood and God’s redemption of sin echoes the psalmist’s journey through water and fire.

**John 14:15–21** continues Jesus’ farewell speech to his disciples from the upper room at the Last Supper. There is a tenderness, as we can imagine he meets each disciple’s gaze and offers a

summary of his ministry and instructions for theirs and ours. He explains the indwelling of God by introducing the concept of God’s Spirit. It is the first of four teachings in the gospel of John. The Spirit is described as “advocate” from the Greek *parakletos*. “Paraclete” has a range of meanings that communicate who the Spirit is by what the Spirit does. Among other things, Paraclete can mean to encourage, help, or comfort. The use of “advocate” here comes from the way the word is used in other settings to convey the equivalent of a defence attorney. The Spirit comes as a gift from God, just as John earlier portrayed Jesus as God’s gift (3:16).

The emphasis in this passage is not so much belief in Jesus as it is love for Jesus. The importance of the Paraclete as “advocate” is one who supports and helps us as we seek to love. Such love is revealed in this passage through action. All five occurrences of *love* in this passage are verbs. Each exercise of love is connected with keeping Jesus’ commandments. Jesus had announced a new commandment in John 13:34: “love one another.”

As much as our faith may lead us to feel abandoned when our insistence on love and justice puts us at odds with the world – even with those closest to us – we have the assurance that we will be accompanied. Without faith, Jesus is not seen or heard.

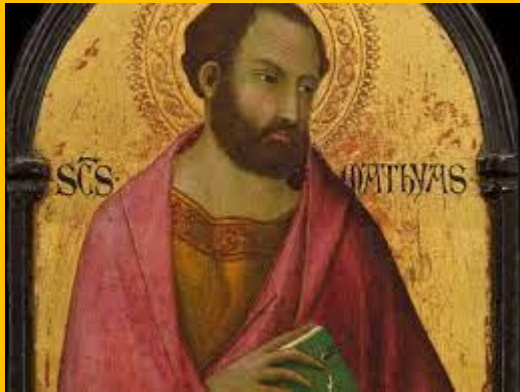


*What is it that we worship, and what keeps us from the love that Jesus preached? Where do we need to be reminded of the abiding presence of the Spirit and reassured that in choosing to love, we will find the spaciousness and comfort of God?*

## Special Days Commentary

### May 14 – St. Matthias

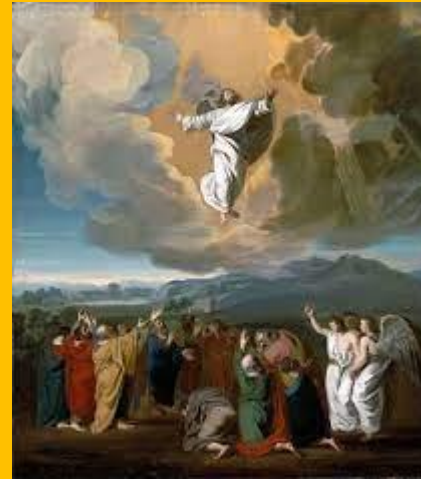
Not one of the original 12 apostles, Matthias, was chosen by the other disciples after Jesus had ascended into heaven. Matthias replaced Judas Iscariot, who had betrayed Jesus and later killed himself. Acts 1:15–16 records how the disciples chose Matthias by casting lots.



### May 18 – Ascension Day

The feast of the Ascension is observed on the 40th day after Easter, always falling on Thursday.

The story of Jesus ascending to heaven is mentioned briefly in Luke 24:50–51 and more completely in Acts 1:6–11. Some scholars believe that the earliest commemorations of the Ascension were tied to the celebration of Easter or Pentecost. Today, the Ascension is not a major celebration in many Protestant churches, though some churches hold special Ascension Day services. Ascension Day is a legal holiday in parts of Europe, and businesses are closed.



### Congregational Elections Elders and Church Councillors

Elders – 2 required. Richard Goodman is continuing. Dinah Roepers and John Baglin are coming to the end of their current term.

Councillors - 2 required - Sue Baglin continuing. Robert McAlpine, Dorothy Makasa are coming to the end of their current term.

Elections will be held on **June 18**, with nominees advertised during the service on June 4 and 11.

Nomination forms are now available in May, and will be due to Sue Baglin by the last Sunday in May.



**May 14 - Happy Mothers' Day!**

**For Mothers' Day**

God,  
Both mother and father for humankind and creation,  
We are grateful and thankful today for mothering,  
For the feminine touch of parenting,  
For the special connection of mother and child,  
And thankful for all the women in our lives,  
Who offer care, comfort, encouragement and support.  
We are grateful for the self-sacrifice of love that is given,  
And we offer our love in return.  
We remember the mothers who are.  
We remember the mothers who have been and are gone.  
We remember the mothers who can't be.  
We acknowledge that mothering is hard,  
And not all are able to do so as they would like.  
We acknowledge that we all fall short in life and love,  
And that mothers are no exception in this.  
However, today, we honour mothering,  
Especially those who give of their best.  
We pray for mothers all  
And those who offer mothering beyond the circle of bloodlines and  
family.  
For mothers and motherers we pray.  
Amen.

*(Source: Jon Humphries, Prayers that Unite)*



**The Areopagos where Paul addressed the Athenians. Acts 17:19**

