

Next Sunday

June 4th, 2023, @ 10am Pentecost 1 – Trinity Sunday Storehouse Sunday

Leader: Richard

Preacher Deok Hee et al.

Genesis 1:1-2:4; Psalm 8; 2 Corinthians 13:11-13;
Matthew 28:16-20

Church Council

Chair

Dinah Roepers

Secretary

Richard Goodman

Treasurer

John Baglin

Councillors

Dorothy Makasa (2023) Robert M^cAlpine (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 28th, 2023, @ 10am

Pentecost Life-Giving Spirit

Leader: Deok Hee

Preacher Deok Hee

Holy Communion Deok Hee

Acts 2:1–21 or Numbers 11:24–30; Psalm 104:24–34, 35b
1 Corinthians 12:3b–13; John 20:19–23 or John 7:37–39



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

• **Planning Ahead**

1. 4.06.2023 Storehouse Sunday 10am
2. 6.06.2023 Bayview Morning Tea at Kogarah RSL @ 10:30am
3. 7.06.2023 Kogarah UC Church Council via Zoom 7pm
4. 17.06.2023 Bayview Service @ Kogarah from 2pm
5. 18.06.2023 Church Council/Elders elections in service

Presbytery Events

- 24 June - Mission Possible 2 – Church Planting
- 25 July - Safe Church Workshop – Kingsgrove UC
- 11 November - Safe Church Workshop – Caringbah UC
- 9 December – Christmas Event for whole of Presbytery

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, Jim Bird. 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, and the newly elected government in NSW.

Today, from our Presbytery Prayer List, we hold Bardwell Park Uniting Church and their minister, Rev Junmo Koo in our prayers.



Breathe upon us, Holy Spirit of God, with gifts of new life, new inspiration, and fresh energy to witness to your saving love. Breathe upon us, Holy Spirit of God, and fit us for serving in your realm. Amen.

Life-Giving Spirit

This Pentecost Sunday, we celebrate God's life-giving spirit poured out abundantly on the community of disciples. Rich images of wind and fire frame the proclamation of God's power in words that all can understand. The Spirit's blessing extends community through diverse persons and gifts for the common good.

Acts 2:1–21 captures the complexity of the activity of the Spirit in its arrival and commentators continue to discuss what might have happened at Pentecost: Did people hear their own language in a society where nearly everyone understood the languages of Aramaic or Greek? Was it the phenomenon of glossolalia? Or was it that people came together and understood the good news in a vital and Spirit-inspired way?

This account connects with the Hebrew scriptures and links the events of Pentecost with the Hebrew "Feast of Weeks," 50 days after the Passover that commemorates the giving of the Law to Moses. The Christian church celebrates this day for the giving of the Spirit. Pentecost also came to be linked with the completion of the harvest. The Christian church celebrates the gifts and fruits of the Spirit. There is also a connection with the start of the gospel of Luke, where we read of the overshadowing of Mary by the power of the Spirit, which brought about the birth of Jesus (Luke 1:35). Here in Acts, the Spirit is instrumental in the birth of the church, the continuing Body of Christ on Earth. As well as connecting with the Law and Hebrew practice, Peter quotes from Joel, validating this Pentecost experience by relating it to an event foretold by the prophet, when God's activity in the world would be vindicated (Joel 2:28–32a). Pentecost can also be seen as a reversal of the Tower of Babel story, where people were

divided by language differences and the inability to understand each other (Genesis 11:1–9).

How do we interpret the details of this vibrant account of the Spirit's coming? For any new experience, words elude us. How can we describe something new and unexpected yet totally real and life-changing?

On that day of Pentecost after Jesus' resurrection, all hear about God's deeds of power. Some wonder what the words of testimony mean. Others wonder if the disciples are drunk. Even the Spirit does not guarantee agreement. In Hebrew, the word for "hear" also means "obey." The gift of the Spirit at Pentecost unleashes the Spirit's power in the disciples, power that strengthens faithful living and witness. The conclusion to the story of Pentecost is yet to be written.

In **Numbers 11:24–30**, we read another account of God pouring out Spirit in ways that do not follow human convention. Joshua complains against the prophesying of two "unauthorized" persons. Joshua's complaint is not unlike that of later disciples who whine about someone who is "not with us" casting out demons in Jesus' name (Luke 9:49–50). Moses, as does Jesus, turns aside the murmuring. God's Spirit will be given to whomever God chooses.

Singing of God's Spirit, **Psalms 104:24–34, 35b** feels the Spirit breathing life upon all creatures, not human beings alone. God's Spirit renews the face of the ground.

The nature of God's Spirit is the focus of the additional texts. The Spirit comes not only as a gift from God, according to **1 Corinthians 12:3b–13**, but with gifts for the Body of Christ. With the Spirit's gifts come responsibilities to employ them for the common good. John's gospel provides its own "Pentecost" event in **John 20:19–23**, telling how Jesus breathes upon the disciples. In Greek, as in Hebrew, "spirit," "breath," and "wind" are expressed by the same word. In **John 7:37–39**, Jesus links the promised gift of Spirit with "living water." In the arid Near East, water served as a powerful image of life. God's Spirit flows, not settles.

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On this Pentecost Sunday, celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit that blesses each child of God and all Creation. This Spirit, which sustained Jesus in the wilderness as the Season of Lent began,

makes possible our journey as disciples. The Spirit forms community from a variety of God's gifts. What signs of God's Spirit are growing more visible in your own life and in the life of your church?

(Art by John Coburn)



Pentecost (Malcolm Guite)

*Today we feel the wind beneath our wings
Today the hidden fountain flows and plays
Today the church draws breath at last and sings
As every flame becomes a Tongue of praise.
This is the feast of fire, air, and water
Poured out and breathed and kindled into earth.
The earth herself awakens to her maker
And is translated out of death to birth.
The right words come today in their right order
And every word spells freedom and release
Today the gospel crosses every border
All tongues are loosened by the Prince of Peace
Today the lost are found in His translation.*

Whose mother tongue is Love in every nation

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 and will be due to Sue Baglin by TODAY.



For church leaders and other interested parties ...

GRP Mission Possible 2: Church Planting and Revitalisation

Date Saturday 24th June

Time 9am - 9.30am - Meet and greet

9.30am - 12noon Sessions

Where? TBA

Who for? Ministers, Leaders & Church Councils

Expected Outcomes?

- 1. Encouragement for congregations with limited resources***
- 2. Understanding the need for an 'blended ecology' approach for the future of the church (i.e. a variety of forms of church – interconnected and mutually strengthening each other).***
- 3. Revitalisation: basic information on nurturing churches towards vitality and health***
- 4. Information, processes and initial steps towards fresh expressions of being church***
- 5. Missional strategies to grow new disciples/members***

And something else

We're excited to confirm that Leaders to Go Conference at Collaroy Centre is going ahead on Thurs 7 – Sun 10 Sept, 2023.

Thanks to those who responded last week (whether yes, no or maybe) and to those who have now purchased tickets.

We are also excited to share that the early bird discount has been extended until June 14 to enable those still working through permissions and financial support to access this price.

As we haven't gathered in person for four years, there will be children's and family ministry leaders who haven't heard of Leaders to go so could you please consider:

- who you could be inviting to come with you and share with them the rego link <https://leaderstogo.org.au/conference-2023/> and promo flier (see attached).



National Reconciliation Week (NRW) is a time for all Australians to learn about our shared histories, cultures, and achievements, and to explore how each of us can contribute to achieving reconciliation in Australia.

The dates for NRW are the same each year; 27 May to 3 June. These dates commemorate two significant milestones in the reconciliation journey— the successful 1967 referendum, and the High Court Mabo decision respectively.

27 May 1967 On this day, Australia's most successful referendum saw more than 90 per cent of Australians vote to give the Australian Government power to make laws for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and recognise them in the Census.

3 June 1992 On this day, the Australian High Court delivered the Mabo decision, the culmination of Eddie Koiki Mabo's challenge to the legal fiction of 'terra nullius' (land belonging to no one) and leading to the legal recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the Traditional Owners and Custodians of lands. This decision paved the way for Native Title.

Reconciliation must live in the hearts, minds, and actions of all Australians as we move forward, creating a nation strengthened by respectful relationships between the wider Australian community, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

