

Next Sunday

June 18th, 2023, @ 10am Pentecost 3 – Responding in Community Church Council Elections Today

Leader: Robert
Preacher Deok Hee

Genesis 18:1–15, (21:1–7) ;Psalm 116: 1–2, 12–19 ;
Romans 5:1–8; Matthew 9:35—10:8, (9–23)

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.

June 11th, 2023, @ 10am Pentecost 2 - Community of Grace

Leader: Deok Hee
Preacher Deok Hee et al.
Holy Communion Deok Hee

Genesis 12:1–9; Psalm 33:1–12; Romans 4:13–25
Matthew 9:9–13, 18–26



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. 15.06.2023 Storehouse Community Lunch from 11:30am
2. 17.06.2023 Bayview Service @ Kogarah from 1:30pm
3. 18.06.2023 Church Council/Elders elections in service
4. 5.07.2023 Church Council Meeting 7pm via Zoom
5. 11.07 2023 Worship Task Group meeting 7pm via Zoom

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 Bexley Uniting Church and their Church Council (Chair: Mikall Chong; Secretary/Treasurer: Warren Plummer; Councillors: Janette Wilson, Carole Pearse, Lai Ken Lin and Carla Latorre) in our prayers. A Korean Congregation also meets here with Kyounghee Cho as their minister.



Responding in Community

God of compassion and mercy, strengthen our resolve to say yes to your call to love as you have loved us. Send us from relationships of care and compassion to all who live in need, following the example of Jesus the Christ. Amen.

Compassion, hope, and hospitality are threads that weave through this week's scripture passages. Where hope seems laughable, God bestows new life. When compassion perceives human need, God's call names us for service. Abraham and Sarah listen to incredulous news delivered by unexpected messengers, and the disciples listen and are sent. The journey for Abraham, Sarah, and disciples may lead through precarious places, but God's presence promises a hope that will not disappoint.

Genesis 18:1–15, (21:1–7) While Abraham hosts unexpected guests, Sarah finds the guest's tale unbelievable and laughable. As the story unfolds and Sarah and Abraham welcome a son (21:1–7), the laughter of cynicism becomes the laughter of joy, hope and fulfillment.

A thankful voice of those who have cried out and been heard by God rings out in **Psalms 116:1–2, 12–19**. It serves as a reminder that those persecuted are those who God stands with and supports. Even though they might meet death, God does not abandon them.

In great compassion, God creates and sustains hope. In **Romans 5:1–8**, Paul asserts that suffering need not end in despair because God's love continues to pour into our hearts.

Matthew's gospel draws attention to Jesus' life and ministry as it sits within the tradition of the Hebrew scriptures. **Matthew 9:35 —10:8, (9–23)** is this example. The report that Jesus saw the crowds and had compassion for them because they are "like sheep without a shepherd" echoes Moses' thoughts regarding the people of Israel just before his death (Numbers 27:15–19). Moses commissions Joshua to carry on the work; similarly, Jesus, seeing the "shepherd-less," sends out his disciples to carry on his ministry.

With urgency, Jesus speaks of the "harvest," the coming of God's reign. Having seen how many are in need of the liberating compassion of God, all other work seems superfluous to that of proclaiming the good news to "the lost sheep of Israel." Twelve disciples (recalling the twelve tribes of Israel, whose foundation we recall later in the season) are named as apostles and are sent. Still, it is important to note they weren't the only disciples and followers of Jesus, and we are invited to add our own names as those whom Jesus calls and sends.

The extension of compassion to others was considered a serious flaw in one's character in the Greco-Roman world. Greek culture thought compassion to be an unenlightened human weakness. The Romans believed it destroyed one's dignity, so Jesus' revelation that God's realm is one of generosity and grace was dangerous on many levels. The apostles entrusted to this task are asked to risk their safety and minister boldly. They must depend entirely on God for all their needs. Many whom the disciples encounter will be unreceptive, and Jesus' instructions regarding these people seem harsh. However, this was seen as urgent work and the disciples were urged to go where the likelihood of acceptance was greatest.

Being a disciple does not insulate people and communities of faith from hard times, and the gospel writer reassures the reader that God is a guiding and sustaining presence even in those times.



God calls the church to carry on Jesus' work of bringing God's love into the world, looking on all people with compassion and care. We may encounter suffering as we follow God's leading, but we are assured that we can trust in God to sustain us on the way. God keeps God's promises, sometimes in wildly unexpected and unknowable ways.

Special Day Commentary

June 24 – St. John the Baptizer

John the baptizer looms rather large at the beginning of the gospel stories as the one who foretells the coming of the Messiah. Luke's gospel begins with the anticipation of John's birth prior to the birth of Jesus. John is also a prophet who challenged those in authority. Some of John's disciples left him to follow Jesus.

Voice To Parliament

"The Voice to Parliament is an opportunity to listen deeply to the wisdom of the many voices that sit on and around Country."

Alison Overeem, UAICC National Executive member, said, "The UAICC is proud to stand with the Uniting Church and

UnitingCare Australia in advocating for the full implementation of the Uluru Statement."

"The Voice to Parliament is an opportunity to listen deeply to the dark history of this nation and the injustices First Peoples experience every day and to hear the wisdom of the many voices that sit on and around Country."

Rev Sharon Hollis, President of the Uniting Church in Australia, said, "The Uluru Statement from the Heart is a powerful call for justice and reconciliation. Our support for the Bill represents our commitment to walk with First Nations People in the journey towards self-determination and healing."

Claerwen Little, National Director of UnitingCare Australia, added, "As the largest network of community service providers in Australia, we see firsthand the urgent need to address the disparities faced by First Nations People."

"A constitutionally enshrined Voice is a critical step towards ensuring that the solutions and supports provided are culturally appropriate and effective."

The submission emphasises the importance of understanding and celebrating First Nations People and their culture, acknowledging their sovereignty, and recognising Australia's true history and the ongoing impacts of trauma on First Nations families and communities. The submission reflects the Church's Covenant with the UAICC, which commits the Church to work in solidarity with First Nations people towards a more just Church and nation.

And here is the submission ...

Contacts

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About the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress

The Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress (UAICC) is Aboriginal and Islander Christians from all over Australia who have come together to form a National Congress, the result of a vision developed through a series of gatherings in the early 1980's. The aim of the UAICC, in collaboration with other people, is to bring to an end the injustices which hold Aboriginal and Islander People at the fringes of Australian society and to help Aboriginal and Islander People achieve spiritual, economic, social and cultural independence.

Acknowledging the difficult history of this nation, and our part in the colonisation of First Nations People, the Uniting Church formally entered into a Covenant relationship with the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress in 1994, an ever deepening commitment to seek a fuller expression our reconciliation in Jesus Christ.

About UnitingCare Australia

UnitingCare Australia is the national body for the Uniting Church's community services network and is an agency of the Assembly of the Uniting Church in Australia. We give voice to the Uniting Church's commitment to social justice through advocacy and by strengthening community service provisions.

We are the largest network of social service providers in Australia, supporting 1.4 million people very year across urban, rural, and remote communities.

We focus on articulating and meeting the needs of people at all stages of life and those that are most vulnerable.

The Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress (UAICC), the Uniting Church in Australia and UnitingCare Australia welcome the opportunity to contribute to the Joint Select Committee's Inquiry into the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice Referendum. Our collaboration reflects the Church's Covenant with the UAICC which articulates its desire to work in solidarity towards national policy changes and build relationships that respect the rights of First Nations People to self-determination.

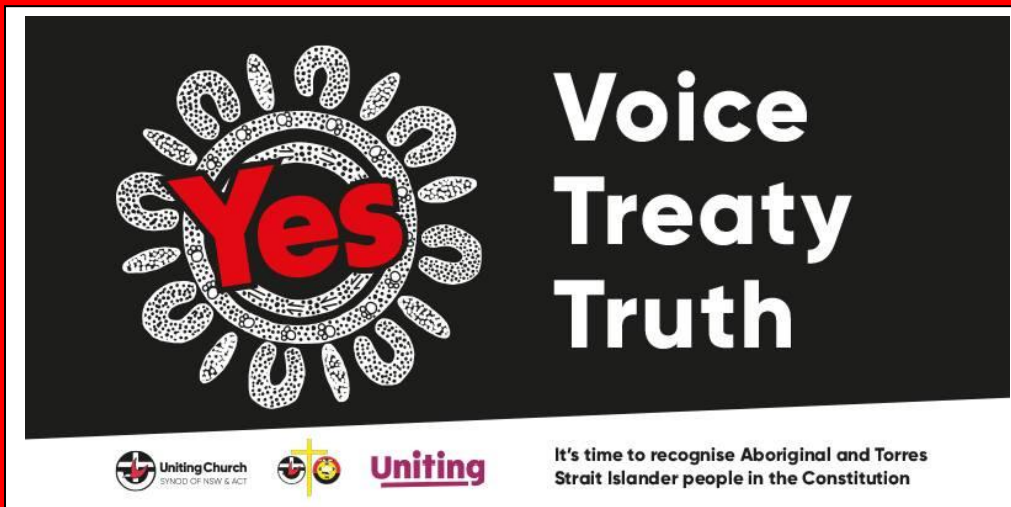
We support the wording in the proposed Constitutional Alteration (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice) Bill 2023 and recognise it as a first step towards the full implementation of the Uluru Statement from the Heart (Uluru Statement) which called for three components: Voice, Treaty, Truth. We commend the Federal Government for committing to the full implementation of the Uluru Statement.

The Uniting Church Assembly Standing Committee (ASC) resolved at its recent meeting to declare the support of the Uniting Church in Australia for the proposed change in the Australian Constitution to recognise an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice to Parliament. The ASC noted this decision was informed by the Uniting Church's commitment to the Covenant between the Uniting Church and the UAICC2.

The UAICC, the Uniting Church and UnitingCare Australia support the full implementation of the Uluru Statement because:

- First Nations People and their culture need to be understood and celebrated by all people in Australia,
- First Nations People have given us the Uluru Statement as the basis for reconciliation,

- It calls for the acknowledgement of the sovereignty of First Nations People in Australia,
 - It highlights the need for self-determination which gives First Nations People an opportunity to shape decisions impacting their lives, communities, Country and cultural sites,
 - It seeks a constitutionally enshrined First Nations Voice, as well as systemic changes, that will significantly affect positive life outcomes for First Nations People, and
 - It seeks recognition of Australia's true history and the ongoing impacts of trauma on First Nations families and communities.
- As the largest network of community service providers in the country, the UnitingCare network sees the overrepresentation of First Nations People accessing support services and recognises the poor outcomes being achieved against the Closing the Gap measures. Providing First Nations People with a Voice in the solutions that work on the ground will be key to improving the lives of First Nations People in Australia.
- We urge the Committee to recommend the Bill be passed in its entirety.



Yes

**Voice
Treaty
Truth**

Uniting Church
SYNOD OF NSW & ACT

Uniting

It's time to recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the Constitution

Can you help?

The next

**Kogarah Uniting Church – Kogarah Storehouse
Community Lunch will be held on
THURSDAY 15TH JUNE 2023
FROM 11:30AM**

**Church members are needed to serve and mingle.
Food will be prepared by the Arabic Women's Group**

We at Kogarah Uniting Church are hosting a gathering of the Bayview churches.

**Next Saturday 17th June
@ 1:30 for a 2pm start.**

Each church will be presenting an item. We are hoping to have Jim Vickery tell us about his participation in the remembering of the Myall Creek Massacre of 28 Indigenous Australians by 12 colonists in 1838.

Please come and bring a plate to share at afternoon tea time.

