

## Next Sunday

**July 30th, 2023, @ 10am**  
**Pentecost +9 – Transform**

Leader: Robert  
Preacher Robert

Genesis 29:15–28; Psalm 105:1–11, 45b or Psalm 128  
Romans 8:26–39; Matthew 13:31–33, 44–52

### Church Council

Chair Richard Goodman  
Secretary Sue Baglin  
Treasurer John Baglin

Councillors Robert M°Alpine (2024) Sue Baglin (2025)

Elders John Baglin (2025) Richard Goodman (2024)  
Dinah Roepers (2024)

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.

**July 23rd, 2023, @ 10am**  
**Pentecost +8 – Blessed**

Leader: Sue B  
Preacher Matagi Vilitama

Genesis 28:10–19a Psalm 139: 1–12, 23–24 Romans 8:12–25  
Matthew 13:24–30, 36–43

*Marc Chagal*



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)

For pastoral concerns, while Deok Hee is away,  
please contact Dinah Roepers  
on 0407 104 858

## 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.**

**Watch this space for any changes.**

### 📅 Planning Ahead

1. 17, 18<sup>th</sup> July + 24, 25 July 9am till 5pm Seminar for practical skills in dealing with Domestic and Family Violence, conducted by Moving Forward in the church space.
  2. 8<sup>th</sup> August Church Council via Zoom @ 7pm
  3. 22.08 Worship Task Group meeting @ 7pm via Zoom
- Presbytery Events

### 📅 23.07 Ignite Youth Event at Bexley UC from 6pm

- 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 Deok Hee's absence. 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, Godfrey, Deok Hee Cho 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. (Deok Hee will be on extended leave until early October.)*

*Pray for Türkiye, Syria, Ukraine, Russia.*

*Today, from our Presbytery Prayer List, we hold Engadine UC and their minister, Rev Paul Bartlett.*



# Blessed

***God of compassion and mercy, we give thanks that you journey with us into the future. Open us to the gifts of your presence and increase our willingness to follow as you lead. Turn our hearts to find their way home in you. Amen.***

God is with us, even when we do not understand how or why. God continues to bless us to be a blessing to all Creation. Like Jacob, we are on an ongoing journey of grasping God's presence. Like the psalmist, we can celebrate how God knows us. With Paul and Jesus, we give thanks for our place in God's family.

**Genesis 28:10–19a** Jacob has proven to be self-interested and cunning, not a person for whom we would hold much affection. Once again, he has cheated Esau, this time out of their father's blessing (Genesis 27), the affirmation of Esau's inheritance. With the help of Rebekah, Jacob flees from home in order to avoid Esau's ire. He is en route to Haran, where he has family (Abraham and Sarah lived there before they set out on their journey), in the hope that he might find a wife and settle there. After putting as much distance as possible between himself and his brother, he settles down for the night. He rests his head on a stone and falls into a dream-filled sleep.

In the Hebrew scriptures, dreams were considered visions and messages from God. Jacob dreams of a ladder (or stairway or ramp) with angels ascending and descending between heaven and earth, a sign that this was a "thin place," a gateway between heaven and earth. While angels were often seen as God's messengers, these particular angels were not. They do not speak on God's behalf. God speaks directly to Jacob. God's promise to Abraham of land and a multitude of descendants is restated. Additionally, God promises to be with Jacob always and reassures him that he will return home one

day. The language used here is found elsewhere in Genesis (22:17; 26:2–3; 28:13) and identifies God as the same God who spoke with Isaac and Abraham, so Jacob inherits the promise given to his family. In contrast to how Jacob tricked Isaac into blessing him, God extends a generous gift of hope and blessing.

Waking up awestruck by the dream, Jacob takes the stone that has been his pillow, anoints it with oil, and forms an altar. He calls the place Bethel, House of God. He promises that as God is faithful to him, so he will be faithful to God.

The writer of **Psalms 139:1–12, 23–24** gives witness to God's hope and presence at all times. "You hem me in" (verse 5) uses a Hebrew verb that also can mean "protection" or "confinement." The psalmist rejoices that we are never beyond God's care.

Using words of hope and promise in **Romans 8:12–25**, Paul declares that God knows us and seeks us out to transform us into God's children. The trials and tribulations of all Creation will give birth to the time when all can recognize and claim this adoption.

One in a series of parables about the reign of God, Jesus' teaching in **Matthew 13:24–30, 36–43** invites hope-filled trust in God. There is mystery in how God plants, nurtures, and weeds to secure a harvest of promise.

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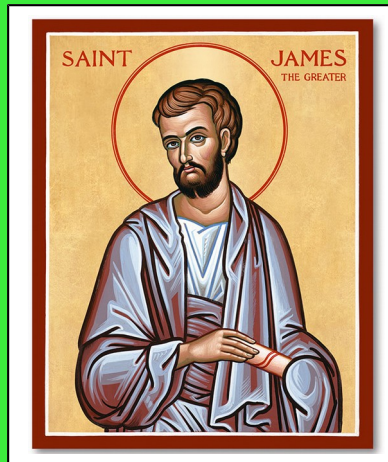
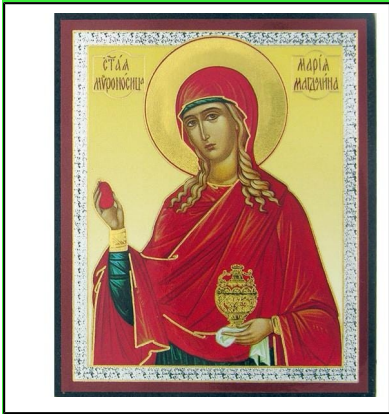
"I am with you," "I will keep you wherever you go," "I will not leave you" are the words that God speaks to Jacob in his dream. God speaks these same words to us. This week's texts ask us to consider what it means to know God and be known by God, as well as how this knowledge shapes how we live our lives. What other images do you have for your relationship with God?

## Special Days Commentary



### **July 22 – St. Mary Magdalene**

While the lists of which women first went to the tomb on Easter morning varies, in John's gospel, Mary Magdalene is commissioned as the first apostle of the risen Christ and is sent to tell the other disciples about the Resurrection. While the gospel of Luke tells us that Jesus healed her from an affliction, it is important to note that there is no evidence that she was a prostitute, as the church has too often portrayed.



### **July 25 – St. James the Apostle**

The brothers James and John were mending their nets beside the Sea of Galilee along with their father Zebedee when Jesus called them to become disciples. Along with Simon Peter, they seem to have formed an inner circle of disciples. James and John argued about who got to sit on Jesus' left and right when he "came into glory."

### **Further Update on Deok Hee**

*I spoke to Deok Hee on Tuesday and he is working hard on getting better (exercising three times a day; taking his medication regularly; going to his medical appointments).*

*As you are aware, we are indeed fortunate that we will receive a 50% supply minister for the last two months. Rev Young Dae Lee has been appointed by Presbytery to help us out. His first service with us will be on August 13<sup>th</sup>.*

*We ask you all to hold Deok Hee and his family in your prayers as he continues his treatment for his quite serious condition. Deok Hee may be able to worship with us from time to time over this period.*