

Next Sunday

August 20th, 2023, @ 10am
Pentecost +12 – Reach

Leader: Richard
Preacher Richard

Genesis 45:1–15 ; Psalm 133; Romans 11:1–2a, 29–32
Matthew 15: (10–20), 21–28

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.*

August 13th, 2023, @ 10am
Pentecost +11 – Dream

Leader: Young Dae Lee
Preacher Young Dae Lee
Holy Communion Young Dae Lee
Genesis 37:1–4, 12–28; Psalm 105:1–6, 16–22, 45b
Romans 10:5–15; Matthew 14:22–33

We welcome Young Dae to our service today and thank him for helping us in our time of need.



For details
Kogarah
kogarah.u

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

Planning Ahead

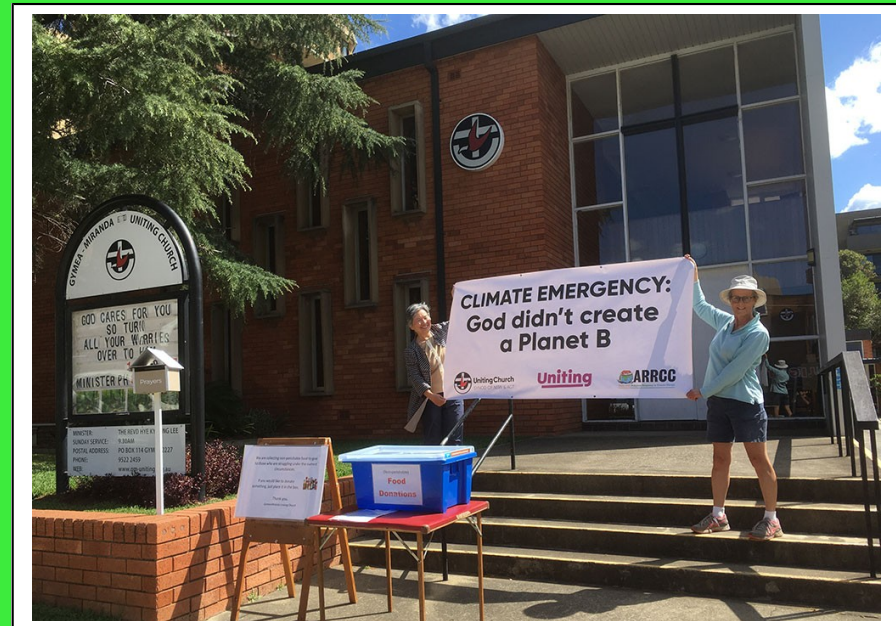
1. 8th August Church Council via Zoom @ 7pm
2. 22.08 Worship Task Group meeting @ 7pm via Zoom
3. 25.08 Community Lunch (Indonesian cuisine) + Service NSW booth, from 11:30
4. 31.08 Employment Expo + Oz Harvest lunch

Presbytery Events

- 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. Russell Foxe, 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 GyMEA-Miranda UC in our prayers. GyMEA-Miranda are seeking a new minister.



Dream

Are you in my story, God? Are you the principal actor in my drama? Are you the silent, saving character? Dream me into your story. Awaken me to your presence. Show me your saving grace. Lift me up, God. Call forth my praise. Accept my worship. Amen.

This week's scripture readings share a collection of stories about trial and tribulation; as a whole, these texts challenge us to ask what it means to live in the right relationship. We encounter the reality that sometimes we are not accepted for who we are, even by people who know us best. Through each of these readings, we have a chance to wonder where God is in all of this as we look to the future.

Genesis 37:1–4, 12–28 introduces Joseph, the oldest son of Jacob's beloved wife, Rachel. Recalling that Israel is Jacob's new name, we learn that "Israel loved Joseph more than any other of his children." One sign of favouritism is the gift of a "long robe with sleeves" (v. 3), a style that suggests royalty and means that Joseph would not have to work.

The story of Joseph, his dreams, and his robe are familiar to many of us. What is perhaps so striking about this story is that, in some way, we can all relate to it in our own lives and families. The family dynamics and brokenness of relationships are illustrated through this narrative.

The verses missing from this week's reading provide relevant background to the familial dynamics between Joseph and his brothers. They describe Joseph's dreams; without them, we only hear that Joseph is a dreamer (v. 19) and do not hear the details of the dreams themselves. These omitted verses also connect Joseph's dreams and his

brothers' hatred for him: "once Joseph had a dream, and when he told it to his brothers, they hated him even more" (v. 5).

Joseph's brothers, who undoubtedly have dreams of their own, conspire to kill Joseph. Instead, they find a less troubling and slightly profitable alternative by selling Joseph to Midianite traders, who, in turn, bring Joseph to Egypt. Joseph enters life as an enslaved person in Egypt, where his dreams will again guide his path.

Psalms 105:1–6, 16–22, 45b is a psalm of thanksgiving and praise that harbours images of God as a source of strength and redemption. Drawing on the story of Joseph, the writer reflects upon Joseph's experience of being enslaved and tested – until his dreams become a reality.

In **Romans 10:5–15**, Paul reminds readers of the importance of proclaiming the message of God's saving love, a word of hope for everyone. Paul echoes Isaiah 52:7: "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news."

Doubt, faith, fear, and accompaniment are all present in **Matthew 14:22–33**. As Joseph is rescued, so too are the disciples. Jesus is not disturbed by the chaos of the water, and the disciples grow in their certainty of Jesus' identity as God's anointed one.

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Through this week's readings, we are reminded of the possibility and potential of living into the unknown. This isn't always clear; it is often extremely difficult. Yet opportunities for new life have the potential to emerge from spaces of uncertainty. Where have you been encouraged to live into the unknown, even when it felt the most unnerving?

Special Day Commentary

August 15 – St. Mary the Mother of Jesus

Mary, the mother of Jesus, plays a significant role in history, even though there are few biblical references to her. She pronounces the prophetic words of the Magnificat (Luke 1:46–55), is present at the cross and, significantly, is present at a foundational meeting of the early church (Acts 1:14), suggesting an ongoing role in the ministry of the Christian church. Numerous traditions, legends, and doctrines have arisen about this young peasant woman who said simply, “I am God’s servant; let it be to me as you have said.” Some churches call this day by various names, such as the Feast of the Assumption.



Malcom Guite writes

On August 15th many churches across the world, Catholic, Orthodox and Anglican, keep a feast for the Blessed Virgin Mary, fulfilling the scripture that says “All generations will call me blessed”, remembering the one who bore our saviour for us, who was full of grace. It is true that some Christians have disagreed with one another bitterly about her, but equally, in every age and every church she has been, for many Christians, a sign of hope, an example of prayer, devotion and service, and an inspiration.

In a strange way, which I will write about one day, she was a sign of hope to me even before I was a Christian, and it was something numinous and beautiful in the paintings and poetry she has inspired that helped lead me to her Son.

Here is one of his Sonnets. You can find the other 4 at

<https://malcolmguite.wordpress.com/2021/08/15/a-quintet-of-sonnets-for-mary-2/>

[Jesus meets His Mother](#)

This darker path into the heart of pain
Was also hers whose love enfolded him
In flesh and wove him in her womb. Again
The sword is piercing. She, who cradled him
And gentled and protected her young son
Must stand and watch the cruelty that mars
Her maiden making. Waves of pain that stun
And sicken pass across his face and hers
As their eyes meet. Now she enfolds the world
He loves in prayer; the mothers of the disappeared
Who know her pain, all bodies bowed and curled
In desperation on this road of tears,
All the grief-stricken in their last despair,
Are folded in the mantle of her prayer.