

## Next Sunday

### September 10th, 2023, @ 10am Season of Creation 2 - Land

Leader: Young-Dae  
Preacher Young-Dae  
Holy Communion Young-Dae

Genesis 3:14–19; 4:8–16; Psalm 139:7-12;  
Romans 5:12–17; Matthew 12:38–40

#### Church Council

Chair Richard Goodman  
Secretary Sue Baglin  
Treasurer John Baglin

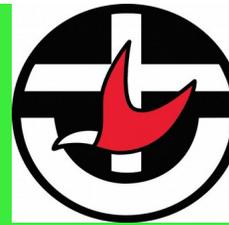
Councillors Robert M<sup>c</sup>Alpine (2024) Sue Baglin (2025)

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

Safe Church Contact Person Richard Goodman



Garden Of Gethsemane – Ancient Olive Trees



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.*

### September 3rd, 2023, @ 10am Season of Creation 1 - Forest

Leader: Robert  
Preacher Robert

Genesis 2:4b–22; Psalm 139:13–16; Acts 17:22–28.  
John 7:37-39; (John 3:1–16)



Destruction of Old Growth Trees - Tasmania

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**

**There are fewer cases at the  
moment, but there is still a need to  
be careful.**

### • Planning Ahead

- 1.. 7.09 Exploring First nations' Culture through Indigenous Arts, Crafts and Culture. From 10am till 1pm Morning Tea and Lunch provided.

#### Presbytery Events

- 11 November - Safe Church Workshop – Caringbah UC
- 9 December – Christmas Event for whole of Presbytery

#### Season of Creation

- 17<sup>th</sup> September      3. Wilderness/Outback (Sue)  
24<sup>th</sup> September      4. River (Young-Dae)

Happy Father's Day!

#### Please pray for ...

*The mission and ministry of our congregation and for our Minister, Deok Hee.*

*Worship leaders; helpers, leaders, followers as we work together in Deok Hee's absence. For Youn-Dae Lee as he guides us during 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 and Priya, Jim and Bobbie, Denis and Dolly, Jim Bird, Naghuia, 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 the people of Türkiye, Syria, Ukraine, Russia, Niger, Sudan.*

*Today, from our Presbytery Prayer List, we hold Kingsgrove-West Bexley Uniting Church and their minister Rev Tevita Siuhengalu.*



# Forest Sunday

**I am Forest. Come, my kin, and pray with me to our Creator. Give thanks for breath; give thanks for life! Give thanks for love from which creation flows. Give thanks for Earth from which each living being rose!**

In this Season of Creation, we will spend time with creation and the beings that live here. We, people, participate in creation with all that has been given life by Creator. Over the coming weeks, we meet with Land, Wilderness, and River. Today, we meet and hear the voice of Forest, also known as Garden.

**Genesis 2:4b–22** is the second creation story found in the opening chapters of Genesis and is supported by Paul’s sermon in Acts 17:22–28. Note that the human comes from Earth, as does Forest, known in this story as Garden. Indeed, every plant and animal may be considered an Earth child. Here, we have a clear example of humankind’s strong and direct link to Forest, with their trees that are “pleasant to the sight and good for food.”

The expression in **Psalms 139:13–16** of God knowing us when we were still in or of Earth resonates with the creation story of Genesis 2. The psalm presents the complexity of our human existence and God’s role as we are intricately woven in – or of – the depths of Earth. How close and intimate is God’s relationship to us (the breath of Spirit); and us to the trees (Forest) and the other animals, all coming from Earth!

The story of Jesus’ encounter with Nicodemus in **John 3:1–16** also links to the ancient creation stories through God’s new work of re-creation and the gift of the Spirit. Although the given text culminates with the familiar words of Jesus in John 3:16, these words are better understood with the inclusion of v. 17.

**Acts 17:22–28** The book of Acts traces, in part, Paul’s missionary journeys as he proclaimed the gospel to the Jewish Diaspora and

further afield into the region’s philosophical homeland, Greece. This week’s reading is the first six verses of Paul’s sermon on how God will judge the world by Jesus the Christ. In the preceding verses (vv. 16–22), Paul challenges the Jewish population and Greek thinkers with the message of the Christian gospel by raising issues in the synagogue and the marketplace. This approach gains the attention of a number of local philosophers, and Paul is invited/ taken to the Areopagus (Mars Hill).

In this opening to his address, Paul confirms the Greeks as religious people and links his message to an existing Greek altar dedicated to “an unknown god.” He then proceeds to deliver his message, referring to “God who made Earth and everything in it.” Paul asserts all humans have a common ancestor; we are all Earth children, and God breathes life into everything. This echoes the creation in Genesis 1 of animals (including humans) and vegetation (including forests), all of Earth. Further, it echoes the breath of Spirit and the role of each being in Creation, particularly Forest (or Garden), in sustaining the planet’s atmosphere – the life-sustaining air we breathe. Paul’s statement, “we live and move and have our being,” provides another connection to this week’s readings from Genesis and the Psalms.



We are kin with all that lives in Creation. This week’s texts open us to our inherent interconnection with all creation, from the air we breathe to the food we eat to the ground on which we stand. All are born of Earth; all are born of love; all have beauty in their being. How do we hear Forest invite us to remember we are kin, God’s creation, God’s beloved?

Through story, conversation, and proclamation, this week’s texts invite us to consider our place in creation, the physical environment of which we are part, and our relationship with Forest. Is the link only in the physical realm, or has the spiritual also emerged as part of our relationship to Forest? God is the one in whom all creation lives and moves and has its being. When have you experienced the sacred in companionship with Forest, Garden, Creation?

**Here are 10 things to know about the mycelial network:**

**(To be mentioned in the Reflection)**

**Mycelium are the unseen parts of mushrooms, long threads hidden beneath the forest floor that serve as “roots” for mushrooms. Think of them as the telephone wires of nature’s communication network. Through this network, plants and trees work with fungi in a symbiotic relationship.**

**The network is made of individual hyphae that are truly invisible to the naked eye. They can range from 2 to 20 micrometres in diameter (for reference, the finest human hair is 17 micrometres). A micrometre is one-thousandth of a millimetre!**

**Mycelium grows one cell at a time, but they keep branching in all directions – and the mycelial network has more connections than our brain’s neural pathways! The network actually works much like our brains, by using electrical impulses and electrolytes.**

**Mycelium can extend for hundreds or even thousands of miles if they are stretched end to end. But since they are so compactly connected, you might find 200 kilometres or more in a single kilogram (2.2 pounds) of soil!**

**The mycelial network is a shared economy, where ecosystems flourish without greed. The mycelium underfoot ensures their close-by neighbours have the resources (nutrients, water, etc.) they need to flourish. But they also have formed ways to**

**distribute nutrients across their entire network. (Read more about The Feminine Side of the Mycelium Network.)**

**These fungal colonies even have a “biomass recycling” program in place. Mushrooms are nature’s cleaners, breaking down what’s left behind by humans and other organisms – and doing their best to leave the earth better than they found it.**

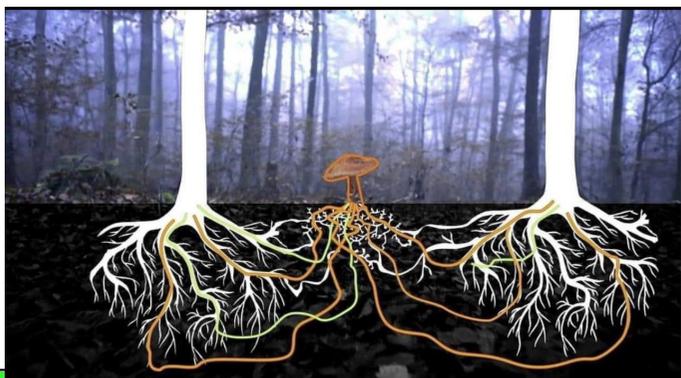
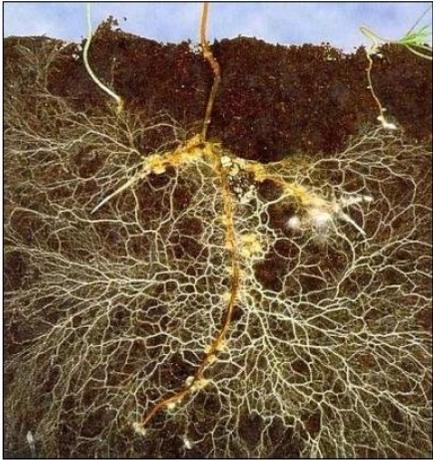
**German forest ranger Peter Wohlleben, author of The Hidden Life of Trees: What They Feel, How They Communicate – Discoveries From a Secret World, coined the term “the Wood Wide Web” since mycelium is how trees communicate with each other. By sending electrical signals through the fungal network underground, trees can learn, remember, nurse one another and even keep long-dead stumps alive.**

**According to research, the mycelial network “has a primitive intelligence with decision-making ability and memory” – and scientists are working to understand how and why they forage, share resources and relocate when necessary.**

**The world’s largest organism is a honey mushroom network in Oregon’s Blue Mountains. These mushrooms would stretch to almost four square miles if laid flat – and they cover more than 2,300 acres. How can so many mushrooms all be part of the same organism? You guessed it: the mycelial network.**

**This is only the beginning. What we know about fungi and the mycelial network is a small part of their infinite wisdom. As we’ve learned from our partners at the Fungi Foundation, fungi will save us – and we can all learn from them.**

*The next time you're out on a hike or even taking a walk in your neighbourhood, pause and look down. While you might not be able to see what's happening, the mycelial network is always underneath. Whether you're foraging for mushrooms or rewatching the film, let those feelings of awe and wonder inspire you to slow down enough to be present and get curious.*



## EXPLORING FIRST NATIONS CULTURE

through Indigenous Arts, Crafts & Culture



Come and join Worimi Man, **Aaron Taylor** - a traditional Cultural Heritage & Australian history teacher as we learn all about Weapon Making, Boomerang throwing, Spear & Woomera throwing and the Didgeridoo

Lunch provided

**7 SEPTEMBER 2023**

**10am - 1pm**

at **The Kogarah Storehouse**

16-18 Gray St, KOGARAH

For more information:

Contact **9587 5761** or TEXT **0476 868 283**

Supported by:  
Georges River Council's  
Community Grants Program



***It's the "Season of Creation"! The beginning and the end date of Season of Creation are linked with the concern for creation in the Eastern and the Western traditions of Christianity, respectively. September 1st was proclaimed as a day of prayer for the environment by the late Ecumenical Patriarch Dimitrios I in 1989.***

***What is the key message of the creation story?***

***The first creation account was never meant to be a scientific treatise. It is rather a primary witness to the profound truth of God who created the universe, who created each one of us, who loves and cares for us, and presents God's challenge to us to be responsible stewards of the gift of life that we have been given.***



Giant satinay trees exist on K'Gari (Fraser Island) only because fungi allow them to draw nutrients from the sand in which they grow. Destroy the trees, the soil is worthless.