

## Next Sunday

**November 12<sup>th</sup> , 2023, @ 10am**  
**Pentecost + 24 – Wholehearted**

Leader: Deok hee  
Preacher Deok Hee  
Holy Communion – Deok Hee

Joshua 24:1–3a, 14–25; Psalm 78:1–7

1 Thessalonians 4:13–18; Matthew 25:1–13

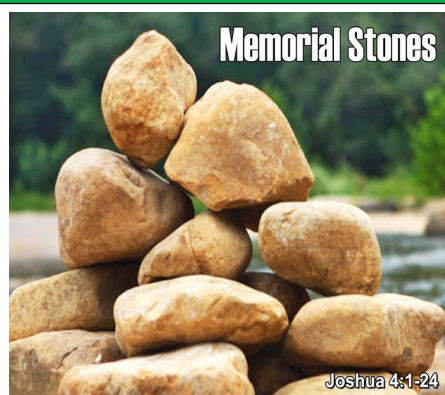
### Church Council

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

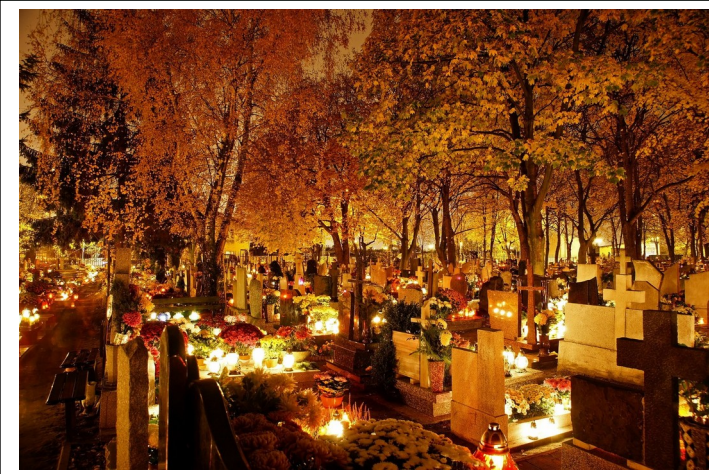
*We welcome people of all cultures and lifestyles,  
We create a safe place for the community  
We share the journey of life and faith.*

**November 5<sup>th</sup> , 2023, @ 10am**  
**Pentecost + 23 – All Saints**  
**Church Meeting at the end of the service**

Leader: Robert  
Preacher Deok Hee

Joshua 3:7–17 ; Psalm 107:1–7, 33–37;

1 Thessalonians 2:9–13; Matthew 23:1–12



All Saints  
Day  
Gdansk  
Poland

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,  
please contact Rev Deok Hee Cho  
on 0401 975 745

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. A new strain  
was detected last week.**

Masks are highly recommended given the vulnerability of  
some of our members. Please do not come in if you are feeling  
unwell.

**Watch this space for any changes.**

- **Planning Ahead**

1. 5<sup>th</sup> November Church Meeting after service to approve our budget
2. 16<sup>th</sup> December Possible Storehouse/Church Christmas celebration

Presbytery Events

- 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 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 Matagi Vilitama, Brian and Rhonda , Prema and Priya, Jim and Bobbie, Denis and Dolly, Jim Bird, Naghuia, health care workers in this time of COVID-19, including Richard, Millin and Roseline Goodman and Dorothy Makasa and Elin.*

*For others whom we name in our hearts.*

*Pray for the people of Türkiye, Syria, Ukraine, Russia, Niger, Sudan, Morocco. Libya. Israel and Palestine*

*We give thanks for Deok Hee, Ellin, Christopher and their family and their safe return to us, and especially Deok Hee who has made such an improvement after his sick leave.*

*Today, the people from Georges River Presbytery will be praying for Revesby UC.*

**All Souls Day**

Remembering and celebrating  
"those who walked with us"

For those  
who walked with us,  
this is a prayer.

For those  
who have gone ahead,  
this is a blessing.

For those  
who touched and tended us,  
who lingered with us

while they lived,  
this is a thanksgiving.

For those  
who journey still with us  
in the shadows of awareness,  
in the crevices of memory,  
in the landscape of our dreams,  
this is a benediction.

~ Jan Richardson

Posted by Jamberoo Abbey

## Learning Leaders

***Community-creating God, may we slow down enough to allow our actions to proclaim your teaching in our words and deeds. Amen.***

This week's scripture readings highlight leadership as a critical factor in the life of communities of faith. Leadership matters. Leadership is service. Leadership cultivates a loving community of equals. Disciples – learners and leaders together – grow as they love God and neighbour.

**Joshua 3:7–17** Following the death of Moses, the story of the people of Israel continues under the leadership of Joshua. Joshua's leadership becomes significant. For everyone to cross the water into a new land and life safely requires shared responsibility. There are some challenging questions concerning the inhabitants of the land. However, we have strong depictions of the presence of God with the people and of effective leadership.

**Psalms 107:1–7, 33–37** offers praise for the constant loving presence of God, even when the people turn away and forget the trust that resonates through this psalm.

**Matthew 23:1–12** begins the final major section of Matthew (23:1–25:46), which has the overarching theme of the present and coming judgment of God. It is addressed to Jesus' disciples and potential disciples rather than to Jesus' opponents. The scribes and Pharisees represent the Jewish leadership in the time of Matthew's community and not necessarily in Jesus' time. It indicates the growing tension between synagogue and church in the latter part of the first century.

Particular critical attention is directed to those who "sit on Moses' seat." M. Eugene Boring reminds us that "'Moses' seat' is a metaphorical expression representing the teaching and administrative authority of the synagogue leadership, scribes, and Pharisees." They are not criticized because they know the Torah and its importance in their lives but because

of their behaviours (*The New Interpreter's Bible: A Commentary in Twelve Volumes*, vol. VIII, p. 431).

The function of the priests ceased after the destruction of the Jerusalem temple. Still, Matthew suggests that demands placed on the people to live out their vocation as a priestly nation became focused in the wrong direction. Instead of being a blessing, the requirements of traditions and rituals became too hard for ordinary people to fulfill. Jesus' expectations turned people to the life-giving and liberating direction initially intended.

The final criticism concerns the motivation for actions rather than the actions themselves – the desire to do something to create a good impression, not because it is the right thing to do. For Jewish people living in a pluralist society, it became important to be recognizable, distinctive, and unique for survival as a faith community. The increasing tendency to favour those identifiable leaders risked overlooking the "little ones." This was particularly challenging for the emerging, egalitarian Matthean community.

After these criticisms, the attention turns to Jesus' followers in the Matthean community. Take heed that you do not adopt those practices and deceptions, which undermine the community of equals.

The Matthean community are leaders in the Christian community. They are servant leaders. They do not look for accolades, titles, public recognition, social advancement, or promotions. Family heritage is not relevant. In the Christian community, all are children of God and siblings of Jesus the Christ. Leadership is known in serving the community, in the way Christ leads.

**1 Thessalonians 2:9–13** offers a character reference of those who have shared the gospel with this community. This is not baseless boasting. The response of the Thessalonians confirms that their words and actions witness to God's work in and through them.

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This week's readings remind us of the countercultural nature of Christian leadership. To be a Christian leader is to attempt to be Christ-like in how we live. It is to be faithful to God alone. It is to live with integrity the way we proclaim when we teach. Who are the leaders we thank for their authenticity in living what they teach?

#### **November 1 – All Saints Day**

#### **November 2 – All Souls Day**

In many churches, All Saints Day (November 1) celebrates all people of faith, recalling how, in New Testament usage, the word *saints* refers to Christians collectively, as well as those people of special significance who have been set apart by the church or canonized. It is the recognition of the common bond of Christians, both living and dead, and the common bond of the church here on earth and the church triumphant in heaven. If November 1 falls on a weekday, All Saints Day is generally observed on the following Sunday.

For those traditions who use All Saints Day to commemorate canonized saints or those whose lives have been particularly Christ-like, All Souls Day on November 2 provides an opportunity to remember other Christians who have died.

The night before All Saints Day was originally known as All Hallows Eve and, over time, became shortened to Halloween. Tracing its roots to an ancient Celtic day of the dead known as Samhain, it was believed that souls and supernatural beings would wander the night. Various traditions have merged over time, ranging from praying for saints and "lost souls" to children dressing up in costumes and going from door to door in search of treats.

All Saints Day is a time to remember the saints who have gone before us and to give thanks for the blessings God has given us to

share with others. When we faithfully place ourselves in God's presence, new possibilities for life and service become visible. We have a role to play, along with the saints of old, in the story of God's saving work. What might we do, as individuals and as the church, to welcome all people to live in God's promise?

#### **Christmas is coming ...**

3<sup>rd</sup> December    Advent 1 @ 10am

10<sup>th</sup> December    Advent 2 @ 10 am

16<sup>th</sup> December    Kogarah UC & Storehouse

Community Christmas – Details to come.

17<sup>th</sup> December    Advent 3 @ 10am

19<sup>th</sup> December    Blue Christmas @ 7:30pm

24<sup>th</sup> December    Advent 4/Christmas Eve @10am

(No evening service. Bring lunch to share.)

25<sup>th</sup> December    Christmas Day @ 9am

31<sup>st</sup> December    News Year's Day 10am

Please plan to be there where possible.

**Advent Studies** – Fridays 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> 2 10am

(Check dates and times closer to the start of Advent. See Sue Baglin about purchasing the study book.)