

Next Sunday

November 19th , 2023, @ 10am
Pentecost + 25 – Attitude of Abundance

Leader: Dinah
Preacher Deok Hee

Judges 4:1–7; Psalm 123; I Thessalonians 5:1–11

Matthew 25:14–30

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

Yesterday was Remembrance Day.



The Uniting Church in Australia

KOGARAH UNITING CHURCH

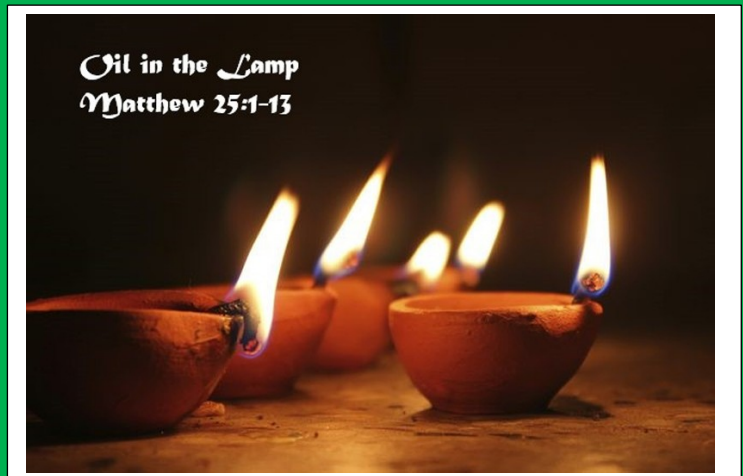
*We welcome people of all cultures and lifestyles,
We create a safe place for the community
We share the journey of life and faith.*

November 12th , 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



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 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. 16th December Storehouse/Church Christmas celebration
Christmas is coming ...
3rd December Advent 1 @ 10am
10th December Advent 2 @ 10 am
16th December Kogarah UC & Storehouse Community Christmas –
@ 5pm followed by dinner.
17th December Advent 3 @ 10am
19th December Blue Christmas @ 7:30pm
24th December Advent 4/Christmas Eve @10am + HC

(No evening service. Bring lunch to share.)

25th December Christmas Day @ 9am

31st December News Year's Day 10am

Please plan to be there where possible.

Advent Studies – Fridays 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd 23 @ 10am

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, Brian and Rhonda , Prema and Priya, Jim and Bobbie, Denis and Dolly, Jim Bird, Naghuia, health care workers in this time, 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

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



Wholehearted

Holy One, we come into your presence with our whole selves, ready to trust in you wholeheartedly. May it be so.

What do we do with the liberation we receive from God? Congratulate ourselves for becoming insiders? Or challenge the holders of the keys to open the doors to those who have been excluded? How does what we know of the realm of God shape our response to the stories we hear today?

Note the internal tensions in **Joshua 24:1–3a, 14–25**: the embrace of an imperial theology of domination and a divinely sanctioned elimination of the people who presently reside in the land, with the call for communities of liberation to be faithful witnesses to a God whose liberation and justice are for all. Each person and community must discern the nature of the God they choose to follow with their whole selves, and the type of world for which they are preparing. **Psalms 78:1–7** in particular, and the breadth of the psalms together, reminds us of our commitment, as God’s people, to tell our stories wholeheartedly and honestly, including the hard stories of times we turned from God, of times we experienced pain. **1 Thessalonians 4:13–18** reminds us that there is no place, including death, where hope no longer resides. The promise of God’s liberation, justice, and love unite us in life and death.

Matthew 25:1–13 This picture of the “kingdom of heaven” appears in a series of confronting passages in which preparedness for the coming age seems to be an urgent matter of

life and death. We are reminded of Noah’s story and God’s devastating response to the people’s ways of wickedness. Thieves coming to steal us away give rise to images of “the rapture.” On either side of the parable of ten bridesmaids there is “weeping and gnashing of teeth” (24:51; 25:30). Some translations use the term “virgins” in this passage. The risks of naming women for their sexual status include reducing women to sexual objects and consequent cultural ideas of “purity” and devaluing women as whole human beings. Characterizing these women as “wise” or “foolish” may make a pertinent point about paying attention. However, “foolish virgins” may dismiss and diminish women if the parable is taken to tell us about women, bridesmaids, or virgins; it does not. We honour women with the care we take engaging with this parable.

The war in Rome and the destruction of the temple in Jerusalem may be raw memories for the community for whom this gospel account was composed. For this community, there is an urgency to keep in good stead with the Roman authorities in a volatile situation (22:15–22). Reeling from the losses through war, the people find comfort in the hope of resurrection with Christ. We might feel the grief of the Matthean community as they lament the fractures and bruises of broken relationships as they establish a distinct identity as followers of the Christ.

Strikingly and urgently, this parable and the passages around it tell of a need to prepare a light, to pay attention for Christ’s coming. Look for the realm of God. The message for every Christian in every age is the transformative moment for the

realm-of-God change. Half-hearted or half-prepared, will never do it. If we fail in a wholehearted response, we will miss the opportunity when it arrives. Christ is coming, now, and we will miss it if we are not prepared and not watchful.

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Wholeheartedness is a feature of the people of God: honest in telling our whole story, raw and vulnerable in the aftermath of war, bold as we strive to embody the liberation and justice we have experienced with God, and careful with the story and one another.



A poem for these times of unbelievable cruelty and madness in the Middle East...peace, peace, may we learn her ways...

The Peace of Wild Things

When despair for the world grows in me
and I wake in the night at the least sound
in fear of what my life and my children's lives may be,
I go and lie down where the wood drake
rests in his beauty on the water, and the great heron feeds.
I come into the peace of wild things
who do not tax their lives with forethought
of grief. I come into the presence of still water.
And I feel above me the day-blind stars
waiting with their light. For a time
I rest in the grace of the world, and am free.

~Wendell Berry

(Posted by Jamberoo Abbey)