

Next Sunday

November 26th , 2023, @ 10am Pentecost + 26 – Reigning Christ

Leader: Deok Hee
Preacher Deok Hee
Holy Communion Deok Hee

Ezekiel 34:11–16, 20–24; Psalm 100; Ephesians 1:15–23

Matthew 25:31–46

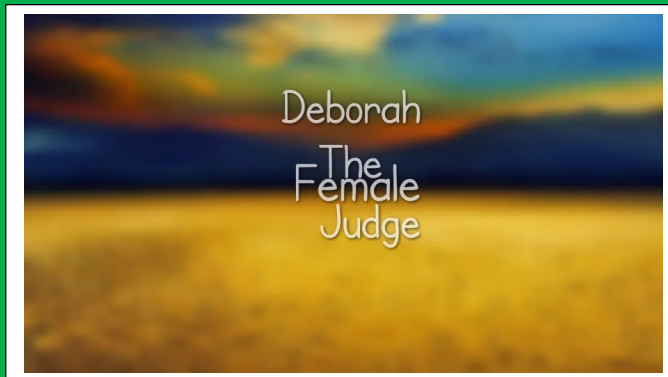
Church Council

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

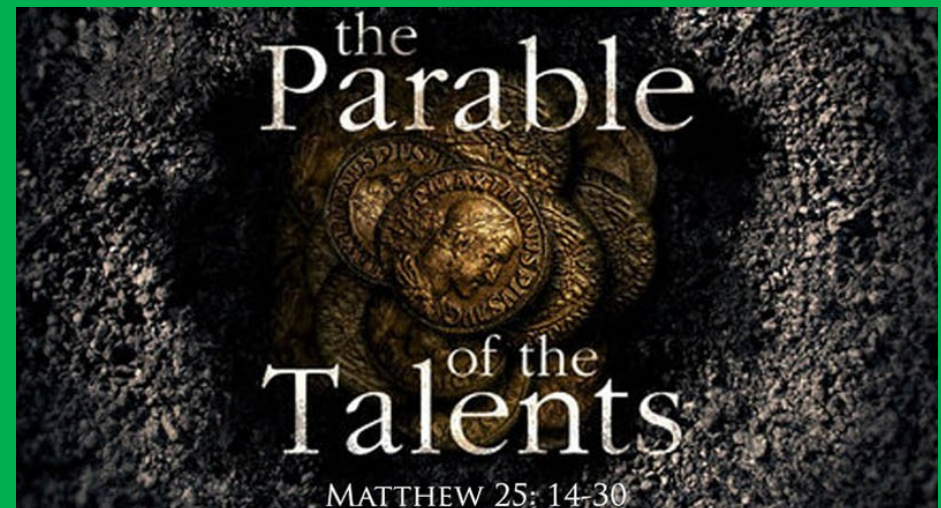
*We welcome people of all cultures and lifestyles,
We create a safe place for the community
We share the journey of life and faith.*

November 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



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 Hope
10th December Advent 2 @ 10 am Peace
16th December Kogarah UC & Storehouse Community Christmas –
@ 5pm followed by dinner.
17th December Advent 3 @ 10am Joy
19th December Blue Christmas @ 7:30pm
24th December Advent 4/Christmas Eve @10am + HC Love

(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 Sefton UC and their minister Rev Gaby Kobrossi. .



Attitude of Abundance

That there is enough for all to live and flourish, Holy One, we thank you. We confess that we do not enact this reality. Help us live in an attitude of abundance, so all may have enough. Amen.

When we live with an attitude of abundance, we are liberated from the tyranny of greed into hope. We are empowered to divest some of what we have beyond “enough,” so no one has less than “enough.” That is God’s way of mercy and justice.

Judges 4:1–7 God works where God will work. When the situation seemed hopeless, God was already at work to provide a leader and deliverance. God judges, and also sees and saves. In the context of God’s power for mercy, the psalmist of **Psalms 123** brings together the interests of a master and a servant.

In **1 Thessalonians 5:1–11**, Paul imagines Christians clothed with the virtues of faith, hope, and love as they resist pressure to conform to society. Living and working as though the fulfillment of God’s reign is imminent, disciples bring the abundant possibilities of God’s grace and compassion to all.

Matthew 25:14–30 The first-century church in Antioch was striving to forge a united community of Jewish and Gentile members. First addressed to this community, the gospel of Matthew portrays Jesus as a new Moses, providing Torah-like wisdom. Matthew includes five main sections of Jesus’ teaching. Today’s focus verses are from the final section (Matthew 24–25) and Jesus’ response to the disciples’ questions about the “end of the age.”

In Jesus’ day, owners of large family enterprises often travelled to protect their business interests and increase their wealth. Carefully

selected inner circles of servants managed affairs in their absence. To such trusted servants, the master in Matthew 25:14–30 entrusts large sums of money. For the first hearers, this money metaphor to describe God’s reign likely would have been surprising and controversial.

By the time of Jesus, money coined by governments was the accepted form of payment for goods, services, and taxes. Banks served the business community by exchanging currencies and lending money. Banks paid interest on funds deposited with them. Most citizens had little money to save and probably hid what they had for safekeeping.

The exact value of “a talent” is not clear. In ancient Israel, one talent was equivalent to 3,000 shekels – about 34 kg/75 lb of gold or silver. In ancient Greece, a talent was the amount of silver needed to pay a crew of 200 rowers for one month.

As with any parable, Jesus’ teaching is open to multiple interpretations. The reference to “after a long time” in verse 19 can refer to the time when God’s reign will come in its fullness. So, for some, this parable is a mandate to take risks for the sake of following Jesus’ mission. For some, it is a warning against living one’s life of discipleship in a maintenance manner, waiting for the fulfillment of God’s reign and not making the most of the gifts that God gives.

Some scholars, notably William Herzog, suggest that the third servant is a hero. This servant stood up to a demanding boss who encouraged his employees to increase their wealth and bank accounts by making loans or investments that charged exorbitant interest rates. Burying the funds kept them from being used for such corrupt purposes. The third servant embraces God’s reign of justice and equity by refusing to take action that would have oppressed others.

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The realm of God is here, in part, and we are signs of that radical, upside-down way of life. Taking the third servant as our example, how might we resist the pull of greed and enact God’s radical, abundant generosity this week?

Together we serve,
united by love,
inviting God's world to the glorious feast.
We work and we pray
through sorrow and joy,
extending your love to the last and the least.

We seek to become
a beacon of hope,
a lamp for the heart and a light for the feet.
We learn, year by year,
to let love shine through
until we see Christ in each person we meet.

We welcome the scarred,
the wealthy, the poor,
the busy, the lonely, and all who need care.
We offer a home
to those who will come,
our hands quick to help, our hearts ready to dare.

Together, by grace,
we witness and work,
remembering Jesus, in whom we grow strong.
Together we serve
in Spirit and truth,
remembering love is the strength of our song.

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Kogarah Uniting Church the Kogarah STOREHOUSE
Sharing God's love with our local community

THE STOREHOUSE COMMUNITY CONNECTION FESTIVAL

FREE ENTRY

Christmas CHARITY MARKET

**1st & 2nd December
10.30am to 2.30pm**

THE KOGARAH STOREHOUSE
16-18 Gray St, Kogarah

**BARGAINS GALORE
CHILDREN ART & CRAFT
LEGO CORNER
LIGHT REFRESHMENTS**

Friday LIVE MUSIC by: Theresia Tomahu
Saturday FIRST NATIONS PERFORMANCE
URBAN FUSION
The Multicultural Drumming Group

Proudly supported by:
Georges River Council's Community Grants Program

GEORGES RIVER COUNCIL