



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.***

January 7th 2024, @ 10am
Epiphany/Baptism of Christ

Leader: Robert
Preacher Deok Hee

Genesis 1:1-5; Psalm 148; Mark 1:4-11 (Baptism)

Matthew 2:1-12 (Epiphany)



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**

**Face to face Services
Kogarah Uniting Church
At 10:00am**

Some COVID Conditions have changed

There is an increasing number of cases at the moment, so there is still a need to be careful. New strains have been detected recently.

Planning Ahead

7th January 2024 Epiphany/Baptism of Christ

10th January Worship Task Group via Zoom 7pm

1st February Kogarah Church Council @ 7pm via Zoom

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. The Storehouse will be closed till late January.

Dorothy and Godfrey (as they travel to Africa) 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, John and Sue and especially John's mother and father; health care workers at 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, Israel and Palestine.

***Baptism of Christ
Leonardo da Vinci***



Chalking the Door
EPIPHANY CHALK BLESSING

Person 1:

Since the Middle Ages there has been a tradition that on (or near) the feast of the Epiphany we pray for God's blessing on our homes and churches, marking the entrance with chalk (an incarnational image reminding us of the dust of the earth from which we were made). We mark the main door of our church or home with the initials of the Magi and the numerals of the new year, connected with crosses:

20 + C + M + B + 24

The initials remind us of the legendary names of the Magi:

Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar.

They also stand for the Latin motto:

*Christus mansionem benedicat,
"May Christ bless this house."*

Person 2:

Marking the doorway to home or church is rooted in the Old Testament. Holy Scripture reminds us that God has at times commanded his people to mark their doors. The Israelites marked their doors with the lamb's blood on the night of the Passover (Exodus 12:7).

Person 3:

A similar command was given with the Shema:

Hear, O Israel: The Lord is our God, the Lord alone. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might. Keep these words that I am commanding you today in your heart ... and write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates. (Deuteronomy 6:4-6, 9)

Person 4:

In this ritual today, we mark our doors with Texta as a sign that we have invited God's presence and blessing into our home and church. It

is an invitation for Jesus to be a daily guest with us, our comings and goings, our conversations, our work and play, our joys and sorrows.

Person 1 Our help is in the name of the Lord:

Congregation The maker of heaven and earth.

Person 1 The Lord shall watch over your going out and your coming in:

Congregation: From this time forth for evermore.

Person 2 holds the Texta and prays:

Loving God, bless this Texta, that it may be helpful to your people; and grant that through the invocation of your most Holy Name all who use it in faith to write upon the their doors the names of your saints, Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar, may receive peace and comfort for all who dwell in or visit our homes or church; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Person 4 marks lintel while Person 3 says:

The three Wise Men, Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar followed the star of God's Son who became human over two thousand years ago. May Christ bless our home and church and remain with us throughout the new year. Amen.

All Pray:

Visit, O God, this church with the gladness of your presence. Bless all who live or visit here with the gift of your love; and grant that we may manifest your love to each other and to all whose lives we touch. May we grow in grace and in the knowledge and love of you; guide, comfort, and strengthen us in peace, O Jesus Christ, now and forever. Amen.

Person 1:

"Chalking the door" is a way to celebrate and physically mark the occasion of the Epiphany and God's blessing of our lives and home. With time the Texta will fade. It is a reminder to let the meaning of the written symbols sink into the depths of our heart and be lived out in our words and actions.

**Sing: *We three kings* (We progress into the church)
*Epiphany***

***It might have been just someone else's story,
Some chosen people get a special king.
We leave them to their own peculiar glory,
We don't belong, it doesn't mean a thing.
But when these three arrive they bring us with them,
Gentiles like us, their wisdom might be ours;
A steady step that finds an inner rhythm,
A pilgrim's eye that sees beyond the stars.
They did not know his name but still they sought him,
They came from elsewhere but still they found;
In temples they found those who sold and bought him,
But in the filthy stable, hallowed ground.
Their courage gives our questing hearts a voice
To seek, to find, to worship, to rejoice.***

Malcolm Guite

A pilgrim's eye that sees beyond the stars ...



Next Sunday

January 14th 2024, @ 10am Second Sunday after Epiphany

Leader: Deok Hee

Preacher Deok Hee

Holy Communion Deok Hee

1 Samuel 3:1-10, (11-20); Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18; 1 Corinthians 6:12-20;
John 1:43-51

Church Council

Chair

Richard Goodman

Secretary

Sue Baglin

Treasurer

John Baglin

Councillors Robert M^cAlpine (2024) Sue Baglin (2025)

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

Safe Church Contact Person Richard Goodman

