



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.*

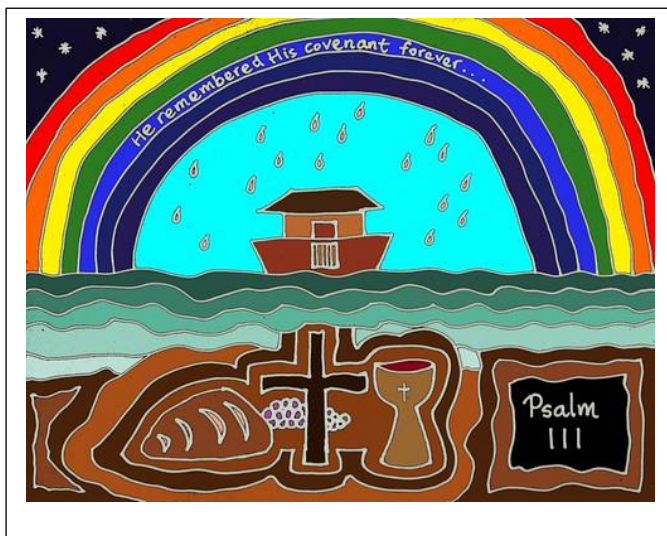
January 28th 2024, @ 10am
Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

Leader: Deok Hee

Preacher Deok Hee

Holy Communion Deok Hee

Deuteronomy 18:15–20; Psalm 111; 1 Corinthians 8:1-13; Mark 1:21-28



For details and information about our church activities and The Kogarah Storehouse, check out the websites: kogarah.uca.org.au and <https://www.kogarahstorehouse.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

22nd January Storehouse reopens

1st February Kogarah Church Council @ 7pm via Zoom

14th February Ash Wednesday – our Lenten journey to Easter begins

6th March Worship Task Group 7pm via Zoom

7th March 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 as The Storehouse opens again this week.

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, Yemen

CORINTH



Word for the Day

There is a lot of discussion about food in this week's section of Paul's letter to the Corinthians, but the Spirit of the passage isn't about food. Rather, food becomes a clear, everyday practice that can demonstrate a spiritual practice. Paul reminds his readers that they are free to eat what they want; no foods are forbidden. However, they also have a responsibility to take care of their neighbours who might be hurt if certain choices are flaunted before them.

In contemporary society, discussions about food often take on a moral tone. There is talk of good food and bad food, clean eating, which implies dirty eating, fasting and the Daniel diet, and discussions about what is natural. For some people, this will not be a problem. For others, it may lead to disordered eating, shame over body shapes and medical conditions, or a reminder that their diet makes them outsiders. How might we talk about these sorts of issues without hurting those in our community?

Ideas for Reflection

- ***There is an old saying which notes, 'You are what you eat.' What might our food choices say about us? About our culture? Our financial position? Our health requirements? Our nationality? Our proclivities?***
- ***It is common to poke fun at vegans, to decide that there are people who are justified in being gluten-free, and to make judgements about food that fat-shame people. What are some ways we could interrupt this judgement? What practices might help us remember to be respectful of others' eating choices?***
- ***In what other areas may our own choices, behaviour, and freedom to act in a certain way increase vulnerability and marginalisation? How does privilege play a part in this discussion? How might this impact how we vote?***

Deuteronomy 18:15–20

The Israelites are reminded that when they enter the land, a prophet will be raised up to speak God's words. The prophet will be held accountable to speak the truth, and the people will be held accountable to listen.

Psalms 111 reminds us that God is full of honour, is faithful, just, and trustworthy. Wise people will fear God and seek to understand God's ways.

1 Corinthians 8:1–13

Not all people have the same level of knowledge. However, those with more knowledge must be careful to avoid being prideful and beware of wounding those who are weaker.

Mark 1:21–28

Jesus becomes famous for his teaching and his actions. He teaches with authority – an authority that extends to the sending out of demons.

.

.

Prayers for Australia Day (from the Mass for Australia Day)

Collect

**Grant, we pray, O Lord our God,
that as the Cross shines in our southern skies,
so may Christ bring light to our nation, to its peoples old and new,
and by saving grace, transform our lives.**

Prayer over Offerings

**As we come before you with the fruits of the earth,
tended by our hands, O Lord,
we pray that these offerings may bring a blessing on our land
and peace to all who dwell here.**

Prayer after Communion

**May our partaking of this sacrificial meal, O Lord,
grant us strength to walk together in the ways of justice,
and behold one day the new heavens and new earth
you prepare for us in Christ your Son.**

Preface

For from ancient times you made this land a home for many peoples,

and became their rock of strength;
when they were hungry, you gave them food,
and when thirsty, water even in the desert.
To all, your providence has proclaimed the Good News
of Jesus Christ, your Son,
sent by you to be the Saviour of all the world,
who has brought peace by his sacrifice on the Cross.

(And from a previous version ...)

The fierce flood of your grace sweeps away all barriers,
and soaks deep into our being,
so that the desert blooms with the life that lies in wait.

Solemn Blessing

May God who formed our southern land be for you a rock of strength.
May God who rules the great seas keep you safe in every storm.
May God who made the skies above turn your darkness into light.

(and previously ...)

*May the God of truth and love
make you eager to share your gifts with others.
May God who has shown his justice to the nations
make you tireless messengers in his service.*

*May God who has shown you his salvation
guide you swiftly to the inheritance he has promised.*



Next Sunday

February 4th 2024, @ 10am
Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

Leader: Dinah

Preacher Deok Hee

Isaiah 40:21–31; Psalm 147:1–11, 20c; 1 Corinthians 9:16–23;
Mark 1:29–39



Church Council

Chair

Richard Goodman

Secretary

Sue Baglin

Treasurer

John Baglin

Councillors

Robert McAlpine (2024) Sue Baglin (2025)

Elders

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

Safe Church Contact Person

Richard Goodman