



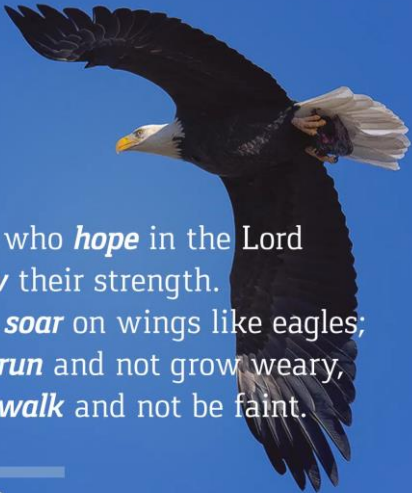
The Uniting Church in Australia
KOGARAH UNITING CHURCH

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

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



But those who *hope* in the Lord
will *renew* their strength.
They will *soar* on wings like eagles;
they will *run* and not grow weary,
they will *walk* and not be faint.

Isaiah 40:31

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 on 0401 975 745

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

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

18th February – first Sunday in Lent @ 10am

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 back from 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, Craig and his wife Joy; health care workers at this time, including Richard, Millin and Roseline Goodman and Dorothy Makasa and Elin.

Especially today hold Craig and his family in your prayers. Joy, Craig's wife died in St George Hospital last Sunday.

For others whom we name in our hearts.

Pray for the people of Türkiye, Syria, Ukraine, Russia, Israel and Palestine, Yemen

Word for the Day

It can be disheartening to see our churches getting smaller and older and fewer in number. We can take encouragement from Paul's letter here that this is not all our fault. This doesn't let us off the hook entirely. Paul still encourages his readers to spread the message, to be bearers of light. The way that this can be done is when our lives are filled with light. We may do this by practising gratitude for the good things we have, doing good deeds for those around us, and being a community of love that welcomes all different sorts of people.

It is important at this time to be sensitive to those among who might struggle with their mental and physical health or those who are grieving and who may not feel as if their lives are filled with light. Their feelings and experiences are valid parts of life.

Ideas for Reflection

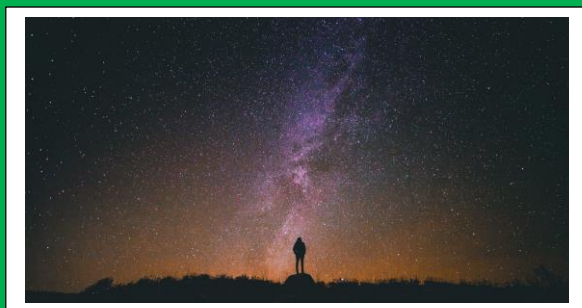
- ***What are we grateful for today?***
- ***How does it feel when the sun is shining down on us? Are there times when we avoid the sun? Are there people in our lives who make us feel like the sun is shining on us? What are the things they do that make us feel like that?***
- ***How might we shine a light in our community? How can we serve each other? How can we serve others outside of our faith community? How might we let people know that God loves them?***

Today's Scriptures

Isaiah 40:21–31

The writer reminds the Israelites that the wonders of creation are far beyond the understanding of mere humans. God's power uplifts those who meditate on God.

Psalms 147:1–11, 20c encourages the hearer to remember that Creator God takes care of Creation, including people who are broken-hearted, outcast and downtrodden.



1 Corinthians 9:16–23

Paul writes that he makes sure he fits in with the communities he visits in order to proclaim the gospel.

Mark 1:29–39

Jesus heals many people, including Simon's mother-in-law, who is not named, and says to his followers, 'This is why I've come.'

Preparing for Transfiguration Sunday

Transfiguration (Malcolm Guite)

***For that one moment, 'in and out of time',
On that one mountain where all moments meet,
The daily veil that covers the sublime
In darkling glass fell dazzled at his feet.
There were no angels full of eyes and wings
Just living glory full of truth and grace.
The Love that dances at the heart of things
Shone out upon us from a human face
And to that light the light in us leaped up,
We felt it quicken somewhere deep within,
A sudden blaze of long-extinguished hope
Trembled and tingled through the tender skin.
Nor can this blackened sky, this darkened scar
Eclipse that glimpse of how things really are.***

This sonnet is drawn from my collection *Sounding the Seasons*, published by Canterbury Press here in England. The book is now back in stock on both Amazon UK and USA The book is now also out on Kindle. Please feel free to make use of these sonnets in church services and to copy and share them.



Photo by Margot Krebs Neale.

As a person and as a photographer I so wish I could catch “the Love that dances at the heart of things”, and to have seen it not its reflection but the very Love in a human face...Imagine. Well it was immediately clear I could not count on my work. But then, the light in us that leaps to that light, that trembles and tingles through the tender skin, I believe I witness that. I am not sure what brought this smile on my friend's face but I believe it had to do with her being seen, valued, loved. A camera is a light-box, and if I concentrate on them some people feel that it is their light and the light which I try to crystallise and they let them shine together.

Next Sunday

February 11th 2024, @ 10am Sixth Sunday after Epiphany The Transfiguration

Leader: Deok Hee

Preacher Deok Hee

Holy Communion Deok Hee

2 Kings 2:1–12; Psalm 50:1–6; 2 Corinthians 4:3–6; Mark 9:2–9



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