



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 18th 2024, @ 10am**

**Lent 1**

Leader: Robert  
Preacher Robert

Genesis 9:8–17; Psalm 25:1–10; 1 Peter 3:18–22; Mark 1:9–15  
(Today is Deok Hee's Rostered Day Off)



**For details and information about our church activities and The Kogarah Storehouse, check out the websites: [kogarah.uca.org.au](http://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**

**21<sup>st</sup> February Storehouse Management Committee @ 4pm @ Kogarah UC/Storehouse**

**6<sup>th</sup> March Worship Task Group 7pm via Zoom**

**7<sup>th</sup> 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.***

***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, John and Sue and especially John's mother and father; Peter and Sue; health care workers at this time, including Richard, Millin and Roseline Goodman and Dorothy Makasa and Elin.***

***Especially today continue to keep Craig and his family in your prayers. Joy, Craig's wife died recently in St George Hospital.***

***For others whom we name in our hearts.***

***Pray for the people of Türkiye, Syria, Iraq, Iran, Jordan, Ukraine, Russia, Israel and Palestine, especially the people of Gaza, Yemen.***



**Chinese New Year Celebration at the Storehouse  
Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February around 12 noon.**

## Word for the Day

*The Bible reading for the first week of Lent usually focuses on Jesus's time in the wilderness. This time is generally understood as a period of preparation for the ministry of healing and teaching that follows. Often, we think of this time as being solitary, except for the company of the one who is testing or tempting Jesus, which usually understood as a reflection on Jesus's intentional choice to accept his calling. These are important and helpful observations. However, the story recounted in the gospel of Mark also highlights the company that Jesus has in the wilderness place. The text describes him as accompanied by wild animals and with angels waiting upon him. In the wilderness, Jesus is not alone, but sometimes we skip over these other-than-human companions. What happens when we notice the presence of the wild beasts and the angels? How might this observation shift our understanding of who Jesus comes to proclaim God's presence and love to? How might we broaden our own understandings of living in God's ways to include the non-human around us?*

### Ideas for Reflection

- *What do you think it was like for Jesus to be in the wilderness?*
- *How might Jesus have responded to the presence of the wild beasts and angels?*
- *When, where, and how do you feel the companionship of the other-than-human?*
- *How might connecting to the other-than-human help us to walk in Christ's ways?*



Last Wednesday we burned our crosses from Palm Sunday 2023 to make ashes to mark us with the sign of the Cross.

### Ash Wednesday

"It is a strange anointing, this cross that comes to mark us as Lent begins. Ashes, dust, dirt: the stuff we walk upon, that we sweep away, that we work to get rid of, now comes to remind us who we are, where we are from, where we are bound.

How terrible. And how marvellous, that God should feel so tender toward the dust as to create us from it, and return us to it, breathing through us all the while. Even after releasing us from the blessed dust at the last, God continues to breathe us toward whatever it is we are becoming." Jan Richardson

## Scriptures

### Genesis 9:8–17

In the wake of the flood, God makes a covenant with Noah, Noah's family, and with every living creature. The promise is that God will not bring a great flood again. The sign of God's promise is the rainbow.

**Psalm 25:1–10** is attributed to David who asks for God's mercy and instruction. The psalmist identifies God's instruction in living well as an element of God's goodness and love.

### 1 Peter 3:18–22

This curious and challenging passage from among the earliest Christian communities links the grace experienced in baptism with the story of God saving Noah and his family from the waters of the flood.

### Mark 1:9–15

Jesus' ministry begins with baptism, followed immediately by time in the wilderness. After these rites of passage, Jesus proclaims the Good News of God's presence and calls on those who hear him to turn their lives around to live in God's ways.



(Referenced in the Reflection)

## Church Lunch after Church on 10<sup>th</sup> March 2024

We are planning to meet over lunch at the Railway Pde Restaurant in Kogarah RSL. This restaurant offers a range of food at reasonable prices, depending on what you order. Transport will be arranged for those who do not come to church by car.

"Railway Parade Kogarah is the new Kogarah Clubhouse restaurant, cafe, casual dining and coffee outlet. Breakfast, lunch and dinner we offer an Australian Seafood dining with daily specials and nightly specials."

You can check out their menu at the following site:

<https://mpkogarah.com.au/>

Let Sue B, John B, Sue de B, Robert or Robyn know of your interest.



# Next Sunday

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**February 25th 2024, @ 10am**  
**Lent 2**

**Leader: Deok Hee**

**Preacher Deok Hee**

**Holy Communion Deok Hee**

**Genesis 17:1–7, 15–16; Psalm 22:23–31; Romans 4:13–25;  
Mark 8:31–38**



## Church Council

Chair

Richard Goodman

Secretary

Sue Baglin

Treasurer

John Baglin

Councillors

Robert McAlpine (2024)

Sue Baglin (2025)

John Baglin (2025) Richard

Elders

Goodman (2024)

Dinah Roepers (2024)

Safe Church Contact Person

Richard Goodman

## Lent Bible Studies Going Deeper

The Assembly Circles of Interest will be sharing a Lenten Bible Study series over the 7 weeks leading up to Easter using the theme “Going Deeper”.

The studies will encourage us to ‘go deeper’ into our relationship with God, our community and our world.

Each week, a different Circle will share a reflection based on one of the Lectionary readings for the coming Sunday offered through the lens of that particular Circle.

The studies will include stories, images, prayers or songs that help us think more deeply and to find ways we might respond to God’s calling on our lives. Questions are also provided for further reflection or discussion.

**On 16<sup>th</sup> February** we went deeper into the Wilderness with the *Walking Together with First and Second Peoples Circle*.

**On 23<sup>rd</sup> February** we will go deeper into God’s promises with the *Seeking for Common Ground Circle*

**On 30<sup>th</sup> February** we will go deeper into God’s presence with the *Transforming Worship Circle*

## Community Lunches with the Kogarah Storehouse

These lunches will begin this month on a Thursday every 2 months beginning at around 12:00 noon. Watch for more details. Your help in setting up or meeting with the people who attend over lunch would be greatly appreciated.

**The first lunch is “booked” for 22nd February 2024 @ 12:30pm (Next Thursday) **Note change of date.****

**The cuisine will be Indonesian.**

**Come and welcome our guests.**