



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.*

March 3 2024, @ 10am

Lent 3

Leader: Richard
Preacher Deok Hee

Exodus 20:1–17; Psalm 19; 1 Corinthians 1:18–25; John 2:13–22



Jesus cleanses the temple

Seeing and acting on things that need attention.

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

6th March Worship Task Group 7pm via Zoom

7th March Kogarah Church Council @ 7pm via Zoom

10th March Lunch at Railway Pde (Kogarah RSL) around 12.

17th March Concert for Refugees at Miranda UC 3 -4:30pm

Want to know what the Storehouse is doing? Here is a link. Type it into your search engine. (See top of next page)

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1pZl6yzaFvx9q4t3gxOfMieJCh69BDSSH0y4o8-QB-wc/edit?usp=sharing>

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.

Word for the Day

Jesus causes a ruckus in the temple. While this event occurs towards the end of Matthew, Mark, and Luke, it is found at the beginning of Jesus' ministry here in John. Jesus will confront and create conflict. This might be experienced as concerning, exciting, hopeful, discomfoting... depending on where those who encounter him are already located. Interestingly, this passage demonstrates how the community of disciples made sense of their time with Jesus. As they looked back on what he did and said, they drew meaning from the scriptures they knew to make sense of the things that Jesus said and did, creating new ways to interpret. We might

add to our discussion the words of Paul to the church in Corinth. Paul argues that the cross is a strange place to locate the activity of God, a place that he sees as being counter to the expectations of both the Greek and Jewish communities he is familiar with. Paul's words suggest that we shouldn't get too comfortable with what we think we know about where we will encounter God. If God is at work in the places that are seen as not good enough, this might challenge us to think about where the gospel is being embodied today. Professor Anne Pattel-Gray is a descendant of the Bidjara / Kari Kari people. She calls out the ongoing racism and colonialism that she sees in the church in Australia (which is similarly offered by Indigenous theologians in other places around the world). Her sharp critique is of the kinds of theology that many may be accustomed to, the 'wisdom' that has come from traditional Western biblical interpretation and that positions itself as superior to other thinking about God. She suggests that God is presented by much Western theology 'as a disembodied deity uninterested in earthly affairs, inherently stripping the earth and nature of any spiritual significance or meaning.' She notes that this disembodiment of God, the separation of God from creation is unthinkable for First Nations peoples.¹

The passages we read today both point to God being present in places and ways that surprised the writers. Are we willing to be surprised, even if it challenges the things we assume that we already know about God? How will this lead us to follow Jesus in his movement towards a more just community?

Ideas for Reflection

What surprises or shocks you in today's readings? How do you respond to Professor Anne Pattel-Gray's insights? Where today might Jesus' disciples learn the kind of wisdom that Paul alludes to in his letter to the Corinthians?

¹ <https://www.austlii.edu.au/au/other/dfat/special/indigenous/indigenous-theology/anne-pattel-gray.html>

Church Lunch after Church on 10th March 2024

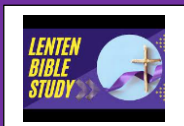
We are planning to meet over lunch at the Railway Pde Restaurant in Kogarah RSL. This restaurant offers a range of food at reasonable prices, depending on what you order. Transport will be arranged for those who do not come to church by car.

"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."

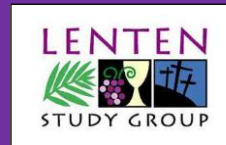
You can check out their menu at the following site:

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

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



Lent Bible Studies
Going Deeper



On 1st March we went deeper into God's presence with the Transforming Worship Circle. We also looked into God's forgiveness with the Growing in Faith Circle

On 8th March we go deeper into Generosity with the Working for Justice Circle

On 15th March we go deeper into New Humanity with the Being a Multicultural Church Circle

On 22nd We go deeper into New Hope with the New Generations Circle.

Next Sunday

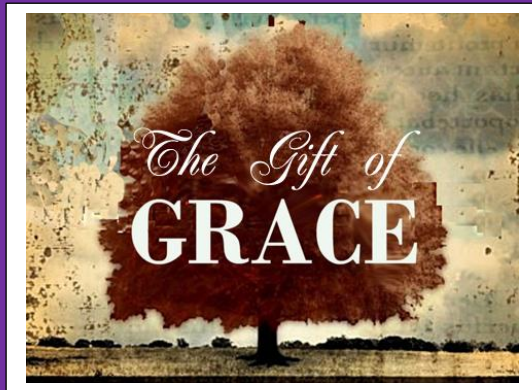
March 10th, 2024, @ 10am
Lent 4

Leader: Deok Hee

Preacher Deok Hee

Holy Communion Deok Hee

**Numbers 21:4–9; Psalm 107:1–3, 17–22; Ephesians 2:1–10;
John 3:14–21**



Church Council

Chair

Richard Goodman

Secretary

Sue Baglin

Treasurer

John Baglin

Councillors

Robert M^cAlpine (2024)

Sue Baglin (2025)

John Baglin (2025) Richard

Elders

Goodman (2024)

Dinah Roepers (2024)

Safe Church Contact Person

Richard Goodman

“God’s breath in man returning to his birth” (George Herbert)

Breathe in and in that breathing be created,
Wake from the dust, be conscious, and inhale,
Fresh from the Word and Light of God, delighted,
You find you have become a living soul.
But soon you must breathe out. What’s to be done?
Who will be with you then? And will you dare
To trust the breath of life back to the one
Who breathed it into you? Christ comes to share
Your letting go; you hear him sigh and say
Father into your hands receive my spirit
And find that he has opened up the way
For you as well. He takes your breath to bear it
Deep into heaven with him in his death,
That you might be reborn with every breath.

Malcolm Guite in *After Prayers*

Contained in the pattern of our breathing is the whole story of our salvation. For a Christian in prayer, the very act of breathing can become a return to our birth, a receiving of original life from the breath of God, as we breathe in with Adam in the garden of our beginnings, an offering of all that needs letting go and redeeming, as we breathe out with Christ on the cross; a glad acceptance of new life in the Holy spirit as we breathe in again receiving our life and commission afresh from the risen Lord

Miranda Community Gathering – All are Welcome

-Concert for Refugees-

Sunday 17 March 2024

3.00pm – 4.30pm

Lent Bible Studies
Going Deeper

Come and join us for an afternoon's entertainment
on the theme of "Welcome".

Afternoon tea is available in the hall from 2.00pm.



Where?

Gymea-Miranda
Uniting Church

15-17 Central Road
MIRANDA

There is no charge to attend this event but any donations received will be given to

Sutherland Shire Refugee Connection

ssrc.org.au



Further info from Gillian: Ph 0490 797 517. E: mintos4@optusnet.com.au