



**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 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024, @ 10am  
Lent 5**

## **The Journey in the Midst of Real Life**

**Leader: Dinah  
Preacher Deok Hee**

**Jeremiah 31:31–34; Psalm 119:9–16; Hebrews 5:5–10;  
John 12:20–33**



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.**

## Word for the Day

The short passage from Jeremiah 30 is well-known and popular. It is beautiful, with hope-filled promises of God's presence and God's teaching engraved not in a scroll or book but in the hearts of the people. This passage is also often extracted from its context. These words attributed to God through Jeremiah are spoken to Israel in exile when their home and their way of life have been destroyed and after chapters of judgement have been set forth. These words of comfort are offered to a people deeply traumatised. In the midst of this trauma and Jeremiah's laments, in their real experiences of life, in grappling with judgement and with devastation, in this place, these words emerge. But these words are not easy words. They do not offer an escape from the present suffering of the people. Rather, they are a tether to the God that the Hebrew Scriptures describe again and again as faithful to God's people, as merciful, present, and loyal.

### Ideas for Reflection

- Many of us will be familiar with reading Jeremiah 30 as though we are the ones to whom God utters the promise. What happens if we place ourselves differently in this text, either as those who have caused the context of destruction in which this community lives or as observers (rather than receivers) of this promise made to the people of Israel?
- Early Christians, many of whom were people of Jewish life and faith, identified the idea of a new covenant in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. They used the language and ideas of their familiar tradition to explain their experience of God in Jesus. This idea of new and old has not always been used well by Christians, fostering anti-Jewish ideologies and fostering a sense of Christian superiority in relation to other groups. Is the idea of a new covenant still helpful? Can we articulate our understanding and experience of God in Christ without denigrating others? Does the story recounted in John 12 help us to grapple with these challenges?

## Scriptures

### Jeremiah 31:31–34

The prophet Jeremiah has spoken words of harsh judgement upon the people, attributed to their disregard for their covenant relationship with God. However, the break in this relationship and the destruction they experience is not the end. This passage reaffirms God's promise to be with and among the people. God will write God's good ways on their hearts.

### Psalms 119:9–16

Psalms 119 is a celebration of God's instruction to the people. This psalmist praises God's teachings and asks that God's commandments would be close to the psalmist's heart.

Hebrews 5:5–10 uses the image of the High Priest to describe the role of Jesus. It describes Jesus as humble, prayerful, and responsive to God who heard his cries and appointed him a high priest. Melchizedek is a king and priest who blesses Abram and Sarai in Genesis 14:18–20.

John 12:20–33 is set in Jerusalem at the time of the festival. Jesus again teaches his disciples about his imminent death.

## Theme Focus

The time is coming, declares the Lord... ~ Jeremiah 31: 31a.

Christians live in-between times, marked by the story of Jesus, aware that work for love and justice remains. This week, we focus on how our walking after Jesus takes place when and where we live, right in the midst of our real lives.

## Planning Ahead

- 2nd April Worship Task Group 7pm via Zoom
- 11<sup>th</sup> (?) April Church Council Meeting 7pm via Zoom
- 17th March Concert for Refugees at Miranda UC 3 -4:30pm
- 22<sup>nd</sup> March Final Lenten Bible study @ 10am
- 24<sup>th</sup> March Palm/Passion Sunday @ 10am

Want to know what the Storehouse is doing? Here is a link. Type it into your search engine.

<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; Dinah; Robyn; Craig; 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, Iraq, Iran, Jordan, Ukraine, Russia, Israel and Palestine, especially the people of Gaza, Yemen.

# Next Sunday

---

March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2024, @ 10am

Lent 6

**Palm/Passion Sunday - Love on the Journey**

Leader: Richard  
Preacher: Deok Hee

(Palm) Psalm 118:1–2, 19–29; Mark 11:1–11

(Passion) Isaiah 50:4–9a; Psalm 31:9–16; Philippians 2:5–11; Mark  
14:1–15:47



## Church Council

Chair

Richard Goodman

Secretary

Sue Baglin

Treasurer

John Baglin

Councillors

Robert M<sup>o</sup>Alpine (2024)

Sue Baglin (2025)

John Baglin (2025) Richard

Elders

Goodman (2024)

Dinah Roepers (2024)

Safe Church Contact Person

Richard Goodman



