



**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 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**



**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.**

**Sun, 7 Apr 2024**

**Daylight Saving Ends  
Put clocks back 1 hour**

## Word for the Day

In our narrative today, we see a powerful weaving together of both love in action and the pursuit of fairness. Jesus' story illustrates love in its purest form. Across the story, Jesus is confronted with the flaws of his human companions, yet Jesus shows unwavering love and a commitment to his truth to his purpose. His actions reveal a selfless love that persists even when faced with betrayal, unfair judgment, and suffering.

At the same time, we read of the ongoing call for justice. Jesus, though innocent, faces an unfair trial marked by injustice and bias. His commitment to truth and what's right stands out against flawed human systems of fairness. His crucifixion by those meant to ensure justice exposes the flaws in our earthly systems. This story challenges us to seek and promote fairness even when the systems around us fall short. It's a reminder to uphold what's right, even when the structures meant to do so fail us.

### Ideas for Reflection

- As we witness the way Jesus continues to practise the way of love in this reading, what is the invitation for each of us to learn and grow in our own practices of the way? Is there someone we might need to lean into to help us grow in this way?
- As we reread the Palm and Passion stories, what has changed in our understanding of who Jesus is and what it means to be a follower of the Way?

### Scriptures

#### Liturgy of the Palms

##### Psalm 118:1–2, 19–29

A song of thanks to God for always loving us, helping us through tough times, winning over our troubles, and reminding us to be happy and grateful for God's never-ending kindness and care.

**Mark 11:1–11** tells the story of Jesus entering Jerusalem on a donkey, where crowds welcomed him joyfully, laying down cloaks and palm branches while shouting praises, and acknowledging him as the blessed one who ‘comes in the name of the Lord.’

### Liturgy of the Passion

**Isaiah 50:4–9a** talks about how God helps people who are hurt and how, even when mistreated, they trust God to help them speak and stand strong.

**Psalms 31:9–16** reminds us that even in tough times, God is a safe place, one with whom we can share our troubles, and a reminder that God helps, protects, and gives strength to those who trust in God.

**Philippians 2:5–11** talks about how we should think like Jesus did, being kind and humble, and how everyone will honour and respect Jesus because of his love and goodness.

**Mark 14:1—15:47** tells the story of Jesus’ last days, including his betrayal, trial, and crucifixion. Despite facing injustice and suffering, Jesus shows immense love and forgiveness, ultimately sacrificing himself to bring hope and redemption to everyone, offering a message of compassion and salvation for all.

## Theme Focus

By the time this day is over, we will have seen the crowds revel with Jesus as they enter Jerusalem, and we will be witness to the cruel torment of those railing against Jesus’ call for a new way of living, of loving, and of seeking justice for all. We witness more profoundly in these moments how Jesus practises love.

Practising love and working for justice in the world can be difficult and confronting. Jesus offers us a way to take steps into bleak places in the world while remaining a beacon of light.

## A Sonnet for Palm Sunday

Now to the gate of my Jerusalem,  
The seething holy city of my heart,  
The saviour comes. But will I welcome him?  
Oh crowds of easy feelings make a start;  
They raise their hands, get caught up in the singing,  
And think the battle won. Too soon they'll find  
The challenge, the reversal he is bringing  
Changes their tune. I know what lies behind  
The surface flourish that so quickly fades;  
Self-interest, and fearful guardedness,  
The hardness of the heart, its barricades,  
And at the core, the dreadful emptiness  
Of a perverted temple. Jesus come  
Break my resistance and make me your home.

*A sonnet by Macolm Guite 2013*

*From his collection Sounding the Seasons, published by Canterbury Press*

*Available on Kindle*

On Palm Sunday, as Christians remember Jesus' entry into Jerusalem, people from all walks of life will call for justice and dignity for refugees and people seeking asylum in Australia.

Palm Sunday marches and rallies will take place in capital cities and regional towns across the country as part of a long tradition begun by Christian Churches in the 1970s. In 2024, actions will be calling for justice and permanent protection for refugees.

Uniting Church in Australia President Rev Sharon Hollis encouraged Uniting Church members to pray for refugees across the world, and where possible to join in actions calling for a more just and compassionate approach to those seeking safety.

"On Palm Sunday we remember Jesus' entrance into Jerusalem, riding on a donkey, determined to tread the path of peace. In marching for peace and justice we join his parade, following the one in whose Kingdom the marginalised find hope and home."

"We act, march and pray that we might become a more compassionate nation where every person who seeks refuge finds safety and welcome."

Find more information on how you can take action on the [Australian Refugee Action Network](#) webpage.

Sydney  
Sunday 24 March, 2pm  
*Permanent Visas for All Refugees*  
Belmore Park, near Central Station



## Planning Ahead

- 2nd April Worship Task Group 7pm via Zoom
- 11<sup>th</sup> April Church Council Meeting 7pm via Zoom
- 24<sup>th</sup> March Palm/Passion Sunday @ 10am
- 28<sup>th</sup> March Maundy Thursday @ 7:30pm (Holy Communion)
- 29<sup>th</sup> March Good Friday @ 10am + hot cross buns
- 31<sup>st</sup> March Easter Day @ 10am (Holy Communion)
- 7th April DAYLIGHT SAVING ENDS – clocks 1hr back

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

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March 31st, 2024, @ 10am

Lent 6

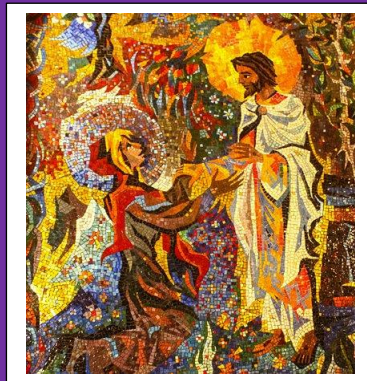
**Easter Sunday – Resurrection Hope**

Leader: Deok Hee

Preacher Deok Hee

Holy Communion Deok Hee

Acts 10:34–43; Psalm 118:1–2, 14–24; 1 Corinthians 15:1–11;  
John 20:1–18



## 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