



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.*

Next Sunday

May 12th 2024 at 10am

Easter 7 – Leading and Following

Happy Mother's Day

Leader: Deok Hee

Preacher – Deok Hee

Holy Communion – Deok Hee

; Psalm 1

Acts 1:15–17, 21–26; 1 John 5:9–13; John 17:6–19



**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**

Scriptures

Acts 1:15–17, 21–26

Matthias is chosen as a replacement for Judas.

Psalm 1 talks about the believer who delights in the teaching of God and meditates on them continually. In this, we discover true happiness.

1 John 5:9–13

God testifies about Jesus, who brings eternal life. The emphasis is on the quality of life now, and we have the choice in every moment to choose life in God.

John 17:6–19

Jesus prays for the safety of his followers.

Theme Focus

Some people are chosen to be leaders; some people are followers. Some people lead for a short time, while others seem to lead their whole lives. This week's readings invite us to consider how we choose leaders and how we respond when they disappoint us.

Word for the Day

Today's reading from the gospel of John is a prayer that Jesus prayed before he was betrayed. We don't know if Jesus knew what would happen afterwards.

In this passage, the apostles are described as followers. Reading the two passages together reminds us that Christian leaders are first required to follow God. Holding positions of leadership can be challenging. Some people fail to live up to the responsibility. Jesus prays they would be kept safe, knowing this will not happen for everyone. Jesus is well aware of the traps of leadership.

Today, we are invited to pray for our leaders, to consider how we choose leaders, and to think about the relationship between leading and following – particularly for Christian leaders.

Ideas for Reflection

- How much do you think Jesus knew about what lay ahead? Would he have changed his prayer if he knew Judas would betray him?
- The reading from Acts says that Judas 'got what he deserved. How do we react when leaders fail? How do we process the feelings of grief, betrayal, anger? How do we resist putting people into binary categories like good and evil? Why is it important to resist these binaries? How do we move forward afterwards?
- How do we prepare and support leaders for the difficult roles they face? How do we train people? Do we have effective mentoring to develop new leaders? How do we identify those who have leadership gifts? How do we resist biases toward men, white people and highly educated people when thinking about leadership?
- Sometimes, in the church, leadership is understood as synonymous with explicit ministry roles, such as clergy, chaplains, children, and family workers. How might it change to think about leadership from a wider perspective? This might include asking the questions: Who has authority here? Whose voice is always listened to? Who influences decisions? (This might be someone who doesn't hold any formal roles).

- The counter to these questions might be: Who has no authority, power or influence here? Whose voice is unheard? Whose needs are not met?

Mother's Day

Mother's Day is celebrated in different countries across the world on different days. While many countries observe this day in the month of May, there are others that celebrate the day in the month of March. International Mother's Day is celebrated and observed on the second Sunday in the month of May.

Mother's Day, holiday in honour of mothers that is celebrated in countries throughout the world. In its modern form the holiday originated in the [United States](#), where it is observed on the second Sunday in May. Many other countries also celebrate the holiday on this date, while some mark the observance at other times of the year. During the [Middle Ages](#) the custom developed of allowing those who had moved away to visit their home parishes and their mothers on [Laetare Sunday](#), the fourth Sunday of [Lent](#). This became Mothering Sunday in [Britain](#), where it continued into modern times, although it has largely been replaced by Mother's Day.

Who created Mother's Day?

[Anna Jarvis](#) of [Philadelphia](#), whose mother had organized women's groups to promote friendship and health, originated Mother's Day. On May 12, 1907, she held a memorial service at her late mother's church in [Grafton, West Virginia](#). Within five years virtually every state was observing the day, and in 1914 U.S. Pres. [Woodrow Wilson](#) made it a national holiday. Although Jarvis had promoted the wearing of a white [carnation](#) as a [tribute](#) to one's mother, the custom developed of wearing a red or pink carnation to represent a living mother or a white carnation for a mother who was deceased. Over time the day was expanded to include others, such as grandmothers and aunts, who played mothering roles. What had originally been primarily a day of honour became associated with the sending of cards and the giving of gifts, however, and, in protest

against its commercialization, Jarvis spent the last years of her life trying to abolish the holiday she had brought into being.

Festivals honouring mothers and mother goddesses date to ancient times. The Phrygians held a festival for Cybele, the [Great Mother of the Gods](#), as did the [Greeks](#) for the goddess [Rhea](#). Likewise, the Romans adapted the practice to their own [pantheon](#). Some countries have continued to observe ancient festivals; for example, Durga-puja, honouring the goddess [Durga](#), remains an important festival in [India](#).

[*The Editors of Encyclopaedia Britannica*](#)

Malcolm Guite writes: We had our Mothering Sunday in Lent this year. but I understand May 12th is Mother's day in America so I am reposting this poem today for all my American friends and readers.. It's a thanksgiving for all parents, especially for those who bore the fruitful pain of labour, and more particularly in this poem I have singled out for praise those heroic single parents who, for whatever reason, have found themselves bearing alone the burdens, and sharing with no-one the joys of their parenthood.

[**Mothering Sunday**](#)

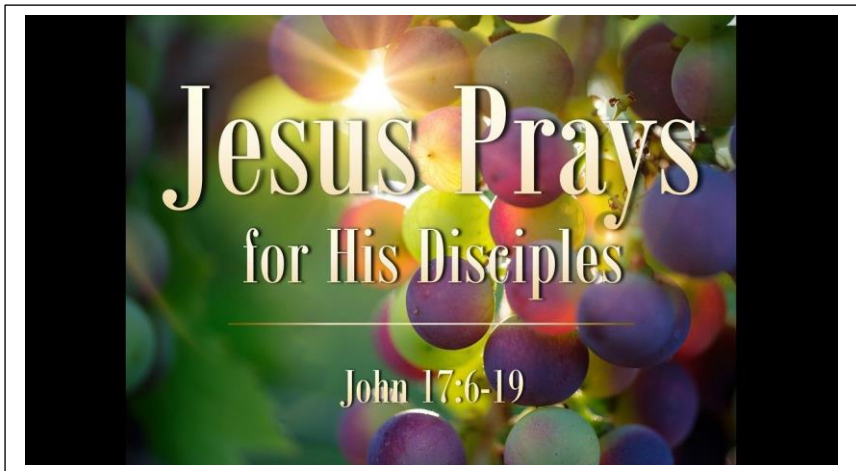
At last, in spite of all, a recognition,
For those who loved and laboured for so long,
Who brought us, through that labour, to fruition
To flourish in the place where we belong.
A thanks to those who stayed and did the raising,
Who buckled down and did the work of two,
Whom governments have mocked instead of praising,
Who hid their heart-break and still struggled through,
The single mothers forced onto the edge
Whose work the world has overlooked, neglected,
Invisible to wealth and privilege,

But in whose lives the kingdom is reflected.

Now into Christ our mother church we bring them,

Who shares with them the birth-pangs of His Kingdom.

From: *Sounding the Seasons* published by Canterbury Press



Like
trees
planted
by
streams
of water

Psalm
1

Planning Ahead

- **2nd June Storehouse Sunday @ 10am**
- **11th June Worship Task Group @ 7:00pm via Zoom**

Preparing for our AGM and Election of Church Councillors and Elders

- o Dates for receiving nominations for Church Council: **May 19 and 26**
- o Dates for advertising nominees for Church Council: **June 2 and 9**
- o Date of AGM: **June 16**
- o Date of Commissioning of new Church Council: **June 23**

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 Hades 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, Deok Hee and Elin (COVID) Brian and Rhonda , Prema and Priya, Jim and Bobbie, Craig, Denis and Dolly, Jim Bird, Naghuia, John and Sue and especially John's mother and father; Peter and Sue; Dinah; Robyn; Pat Nankivell and her family; 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

Next Sunday
May 19th 2024 at 10am
Pentecost – Faith on Fire!

Leader: Dinah

Preacher – Deok Hee

Acts 2:1–21

**or Ezekiel 37:1–14; Psalm 104:24–34, 35b; Romans
8:22–27; John 15:26–27; 16:4b–15**



Church Council

Chair

Richard Goodman

Secretary

Sue Baglin

Treasurer

John Baglin

Councillors

Robert M^oAlpine (2024)

Sue Baglin (2025)

John Baglin (2025) Richard

Elders

Goodman (2024)

Dinah Roepers (2024)

Safe Church Contact Person

Richard Goodman