



**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.*

**June 2nd 2024 at 10am**

**Storehouse Sunday – The God Who Enters  
Our Experience**

**Leader: Robert**

**Reflection: The Kogarah Storehouse**

**1 Samuel 3:1–10, (11–20); Psalm 139:1–6, 13–18;  
2 Corinthians 4:5–12; Mark 2:23–3:6**



**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**

## **Scriptures**

### **1 Samuel 3:1–10, (11–20)**

The priest Eli helps the young prophet Samuel to recognise God's voice in his life.

### **Psalms 139:1–6, 13–18**

There is no hiddenness before God, only intimate knowing and presence.

### **2 Corinthians 4:5–12**

There is a divine brilliance and a radiance that shines in and through human struggle.

### **Mark 2:23—3:6**

Jesus hears the cries and tends to the wounds of those who would make up an alternative community of hope.

## **Theme Focus**

Through a healing on the Sabbath, we encounter the God who enters into our experience in order to bring freedom and healing.

## Word for the Day

In Mark 2:23–3:6, we are struck by the gulf between the way of Jesus and the way of the Pharisees. The Pharisees are defined by their *distance*, whereas Jesus embodies a *spirituality of engagement*. Jesus enters the synagogue on the Sabbath and sees the man with the withered hand. But he doesn't just observe, sit back, judge, and accuse as the Pharisees do. Jesus is touched by the suffering of the man. He feels anger about the whole situation – the freedom of the sabbath has been turned into a kind of slavery. The whole matter becomes personal through this encounter with the man with the withered hand.

Jesus doesn't just speak about the man; he speaks to him and invites him to come forward. Jesus invites him to stretch out his hand. The man's hand is restored, and in the same moment the whole Sabbath is restored also. It becomes once more about freedom and healing. Jesus, like David before him, becomes a rallying point for all the marginalised and hurting (see 1 Sam 22:2). Just like the fugitive king David, Jesus' presence provokes hostility from the authorities who begin plotting to destroy him. If we listen carefully, we hear all the same echoes of a true king drawing to himself all kinds of hurting people, an emerging community of misfits and hopefuls who pledge their loyalty to the one who hears their cries and tends to their wounds. Jesus is the great threat, the supreme hope. Once again, there is a true leader with a target on his back, a leader to unite all those who dare to dream that another world is possible.

### Ideas for Reflection

- Consider the difference between a spirituality of engagement and a spirituality of distance. What would characterise each? What fruit would each produce?
- When did a matter of freedom or justice become personal for you? What did you encounter? How did it impact you? Was there something you felt like doing as a response? Who would have opposed this response?
- What makes for a safe place? Where do we observe rallying points for the marginalised and hurting? Are our own churches rallying points like this?
- How does practising sabbath bring freedom into our lives?

# Poetry as a contemplative practice

## Instructions

1. Try to let your mind drop into your heart as you quietly read or listen to the poem. You might like to start by centring on your breath.
2. Read or listen to the poem through more than one time.
3. Notice what arises in you each time.

This activity is a way of entering into the scriptural themes in a contemplative way – not unlike how one might engage in a *lectio divina* process.

## Love

Love is like the colour of the vase  
kiln-fired to glaze its porous texture.  
The vase is like the sigh of a song  
arranged in a key to hold you spellbound.  
The song is a kiss of the reed between your lips,  
a mellow woodwind tingling your skin.  
The warm sound is like a breeze  
murmuring in light above the water.

Love seeks to refresh the water  
the vase holds for flowers to drink,  
to lift their colours from fading, with  
the smell of fresh rain,  
petals perfuming the sunlight,  
beyond the container.

John Howell



## National Sorry Day & National Reconciliation Week -26 May-

3 June



Every year on 26 May, National Sorry Day remembers and acknowledges the mistreatment of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who were forcibly removed from their families and communities, which we now know as 'The Stolen Generations'.

This year the theme of Reconciliation Week is "Now More Than Ever".

National Reconciliation Week (NRW) is a time for all Australians to learn about our shared histories, cultures, and achievements, and to explore how each of us can contribute to achieving reconciliation in Australia.

### **From the UCA NSW/ACT**

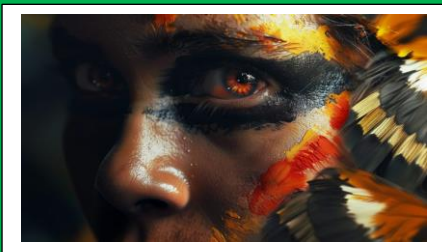
Recognising, respecting and reconciling

The Uniting Church hopes for a nation that acknowledges the rights of Australia's First Peoples, respects the unceded sovereignty of our First Nations, and recognises the right of First Peoples to self-determination.

A key component of our justice work is to bring Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians together and to support the self-determined aspirations of Aboriginal communities. We do this in collaboration with the [Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress](#) (UAICC).

We also recognise the pain and damage caused to our country's First Peoples as a result of colonisation, racism and discrimination. In 1997 we made a formal apology to the Stolen Generation and participate each year in National Sorry Day.

We also acknowledge that there is still significant work to be done to address issues of socio-economic disparity, and to "close the gap". We will continue to advocate for Governments and Service providers to listen to the voices of Aboriginal communities, Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations, and Aboriginal subject matter experts, to ensure services and programs are culturally informed, genuinely co-designed, and effective.



## Planning Ahead

- 9<sup>th</sup> June CC Lunch meeting at the Baglins to discuss/review our Mission Plan.
- 11<sup>th</sup> June Worship Task Group @ 7:00pm via Zoom
- 20<sup>th</sup> June Church Council meeting via Zoom @ 7pm - major topic: proposal for a Chinese worker to promote our congregation among the Chinese community

### Preparing for our AGM and Election of Church Councillors and Elders

- o Dates for advertising nominees for Church Council: **June 2 and 9**
- o Date of Elections and 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 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, Craig, Denis and Dolly, Jim Bird, Naghua, John and Sue and especially John's mother and father; Peter and Sue; Dinah; the family of Dennis Gates in their grief; 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 Syria, Iraq, Iran, Jordan, Ukraine, Russia, Israel and Palestine, especially the people of Gaza. The people of PNG.

# Next Sunday

June 9<sup>th</sup> 2024 at 10am

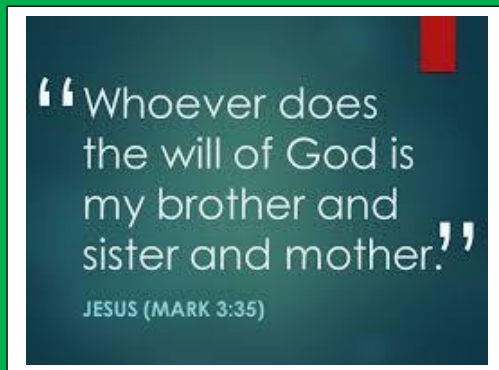
## The God Who Liberates Pentecost + 3

Leader: Deok Hee

Reflection: Deok Hee

Holy Communion: Deok Hee

1 Samuel 8:4–11, (12–15), 16–20, (11:14–15); Psalm 138  
2 Corinthians 4:13–5:1; Mark 3:20–35



### Church Council

Chair  
Secretary  
Treasurer  
Councillors

Richard Goodman  
Sue Baglin  
John Baglin  
Robert M<sup>c</sup>Alpine (2024)  
Sue Baglin (2025)  
John Baglin (2025) Richard

Elders

Goodman (2024)  
Dinah Roepers (2024)

Safe Church Contact Person

Richard Goodman