



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 23rd 2024 at 10am

**The God Who Enters Our Fears
Pentecost + 5**

**Commissioning of Elders and Church
Councillors**

Leader: Deok Hee

Reflection: Deok Hee

Holy Communion: Deok Hee

1 Samuel 17:(1a, 4–11, 19–23), 32–49; Psalm 9:9–20;

2 Corinthians 6:1–13; Mark 4:35–41



Peace. Be still!

(He, Qi)

**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

1 Samuel 17:(1a, 4–11, 19–23), 32–49

David trusts the same God who delivered him from the teeth of the lion and the claws of the bear to deliver him from Goliath.

Psalms 9:9–20

God is a safe house, sanctuary, and stronghold for the vulnerable and oppressed.

2 Corinthians 6:1–13

The grace of God extends an invitation for followers of Christ to live generous, expansive, servant-hearted lives.

Mark 4:35–41

Jesus stills the great storms that arise.

Theme Focus

We encounter the God who enters into our fear and indifference and leads us into greater love.

Election Results

Congratulations to the newly elected Elders and Church Councillors

Bobbie Miller (1 year) – Elder

Richard Goodman (3 years) – Elder

Dinah Roepers (1 year) – Church Councillor

Robert McAlpine (2 years) – Church Councillor

Word for the Day

Jesus wants to take the disciples somewhere they've never been before – to '*go across to the other side*' (Mark 4:35). In the process, Jesus is asking his followers to leave behind what is comfortable and safe. They're heading over to 'the other side' into gentile territory, a journey into the unknown. Perhaps then, it shouldn't surprise us to learn that as they set out, they are immediately confronted by a great windstorm that whips up. The waves start beating into the boat. They feel as if the danger and threat are rising beyond manageable limits. We know this experience. We know what it's like to feel swamped on every side when we launch into new things. At this point in Mark's story, fear takes over. Anxiety is now calling the shots. And yet, in the midst of the storm, Jesus sleeps (v. 38).

Seas and storms and terrified seamen are not foreign to the biblical imagination. This story drags us into Jonah territory – another Hebrew asleep in the hull while storms rage from every side (Jonah 1:4–6). In this older story, Jonah is the biblical anti-hero, immature and asleep at the wheel, fleeing from God's call on his life. Jonah is tragically given to attitudes and agendas at odds with God's heart for all people. He harbours only parochial interests; his world is far too small to include outsiders. And yet, despite his reluctance to act, he remains the one who holds the fate of his seafaring companions in his hands.

We are drawn into this ancient tension as the storm rises among Jesus' company. Jonah is asleep, indifferent to outsiders. Is Israel asleep, indifferent to outsiders? Jesus' own disciples are subject to this age-old Jonah-condition. Jonah encapsulates the disciples' fear and mistrust of outsiders. Can Jonah, and by extension Jesus' disciples, discover a heart that beats for those beyond their own small world of relationships?

In the midst of this storm and in the heart of this tension lies Jesus. Jesus is the one who is already with them in the midst of the chaos, danger and threat. Jesus is right there with us in our experience, tending to our own Jonah-condition. Jesus enters into our indifference and fear to lead us into greater love. It's in this place that Christ can calm the storms, creating peace and stillness where our fears used to live (v. 39). This Jesus can teach us how to be at ease in the chaos. He can help us to find rest even

while heading out into newness. He is always expanding the smallness of our worlds. He mentors us in the way of engagement, the life of faith, a way that transforms us so that we can have a transforming presence in the world.

Ideas for Reflection

- What are the biggest adventures you have embarked on and experienced?
- What would it look like to *'go across to the other side'* (to leave behind what is comfortable and safe)?
- Reflect on an experience that once made you feel anxious but have now learned to be at ease in. How did this happen?
- What gifts might be birthed out of the storms of life? What might we learn about God and about ourselves in this?
- Reflect on how pearls are formed – something precious and beautiful that begins as an irritant within an oyster.



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.

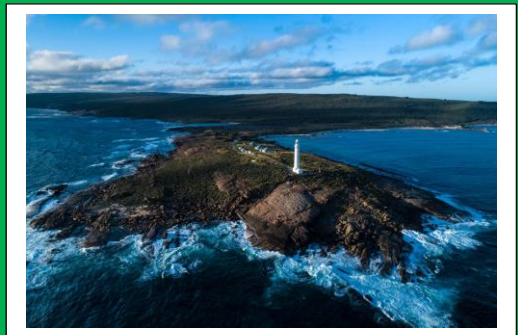
Walking lighthouse to lighthouse

Yinta is... living water
wrecks at Cape Leeuwin
wrecks at Cape Naturaliste

waves catch surfers
poised for balance
crest to crest
then to plunge
when surf is over

a man whose life fell apart
on a crest
died with regrets and nothing
to his name

light at Cape Leeuwin
then at Cape Naturaliste



Cape Leeuwin Lighthouse WA

@John Howell

*Yinta means waterhole in Western Desert Language (a dialect cluster of Australian Aboriginal languages in the Pama–Nyungan family.)

Can you help...?



**uniting
church**

Kogarah

**the
STOREHOUSE**

Sharing God's love with our local community



Thursday 27th June 2024

12pm -1:30pm

Free Community Lunch

At the Kogarah Storehouse

Ukrainian Cuisine



Friday 28th June 2024

The Storehouse Community Connections Festival

10am to 3pm

**Includes: Charity Market and Bazaar;
Performances; Fashion Parade; Bargains Galore!**

**(Supported by Georges River Council's Community Grants
Program)**

We hope to see you there!

Planning Ahead

- 27th June Church Council meeting re Chinese project via Zoom 7pm
- 27th June Storehouse Community Lunch 12-1:30pm
- 28th June Storehouse Community Market and Festival 10am till 3pm
- 18th July next KUC Church Council regular meeting via Zoom
- 28th July after worship Congregational Meeting re Chinese project
- 13th August Worship Task Group @ 7pm via Zoom

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, Naghuia, John and Sue and especially John's mother and father; Peter and Sue; Dinah; Ern Edwards; Godfrey; 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.

In 2024 Refugee Week is falling at a time of great grief and uncertainty around escalating global conflicts, including the heartbreaking crisis in Gaza. Continue to pray for peace.

Next Sunday

June 30th 2024 at 10am

**The God Who Listens
Pentecost + 6**

Leader: Richard

Reflection: Richard

Deok Hee's Rostered Sunday off

2 Samuel 1:1, 17-27, Psalm 130; 2 Corinthians 8:7-15; Mark 5:21-43



Church Council 2024-2025

Chair

Secretary

Treasurer

Councillors

Elders

Richard Goodman

Sue Baglin

John Baglin

Robert M^cAlpine (2026)

Sue Baglin (2025)

Dinah Roepers (2025)

John Baglin (2025)

Bobbie Miller (2025)

Richard Goodman (2027)

Safe Church Contact Person

Richard Goodman