



**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 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**



**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**

### **2 Samuel 1:1, 17–27**

David sings a song of lament over Saul and his son Jonathan, teaching the song to all.

### **Psalm 130**

The coming of God brings love and redemption.

### **2 Corinthians 8:7–15**

Paul appeals to the generous nature of Christ in others.

### **Mark 5:21–43**

Jesus brings healing and life from death.

## **Theme Focus**

We meet the God who listens and draws us into life-giving community.

## **Word for the Day**

Jesus is on the way to be with Jairus' family on the worst day of their life. On the way, Jesus is touched by a woman within a large crowd. We learn that she has been suffering from haemorrhages for twelve years. The healthcare system had failed her badly, and she is desperate. On top of this, she is held captive by a single story that says that she is dangerous to others. Human connection would render anyone she touches unclean. There's something wrong with her. She's

right at the bottom of society. Hopeless. Invisible. Kept at arms-length. But she had heard about Jesus. She knew he made people whole.

With this hope, she reached out and touched his cloak. She risked connection with another, and it brought healing to her suffering body – momentary relief that must have quickly turned to terror as the charismatic rabbi stops in his tracks. He's got somewhere important to be, but he knows that power had gone forth from him. 'Who touched my clothes?' he asks, even though he is surrounded by people all around him.

One among them knows the truth. And she knows how dangerous this situation is. Her own experience of community is crushing. She knows all too well the pain of a community that determines to exclude those who are broken or unworthy. So, she falls down before him in naked vulnerability, in fear and trembling. She comes before Jesus, before the crowd, and the text says that she told him the *whole truth* (v.33).

To be given the opportunity to tell the whole truth of our lives is a sacred act requiring an atmosphere of safety and grace. It's what allows our lives to transcend the danger of the single story.\* In this woman's encounter with Jesus, there is a double-healing: the restoration of her troubled body alongside and the remaking of a person within community.

Jesus knows that who we are is who we are in relationships. In his listening and validating among the crowd, he restores the woman into the community. He is saying, 'Child, you are welcome here. You are valuable. You are important, precious in my sight'. At the same time, Jesus is demanding that the community gathered around to take up their own responsibility to honour her, to include her. Unless we are restored to loving community, human beings can never experience full healing.

When whole communities decide to meet people in their vulnerability, to listen and to affirm their sacred dignity, it offers all of us the opportunity to own our stories, to bring our unfinished stories into the light and love of relationships that can bring profound healing and joy to our lives. This is our sacred responsibility in our shared lives together. We are to be mirrors that reflect back to everyone in our midst that each of us is made in the image of God – full of beauty and wonder,

compelling stories that God is helping us to write new endings to stories shaped in community, in relationship.

\* See Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie's TED Talk on the danger of a single story: [https://www.ted.com/talks/chimamanda\\_ngozi\\_adichie\\_the\\_danger\\_of\\_a\\_single\\_story?language=en](https://www.ted.com/talks/chimamanda_ngozi_adichie_the_danger_of_a_single_story?language=en)

### Ideas for Reflection

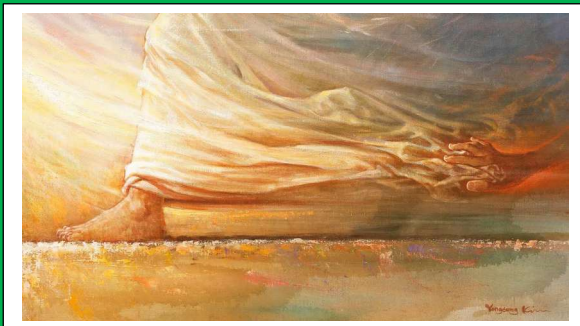
👤 Crowds are significant in Mark's gospel. Whenever mentioned, they tend to represent a particular way of being human – a way disengaged from passivity and a way of safety. You can hide in the crowd, watch what's going on from a distance, risk very little. You can be moved and even amazed without ever having to move beyond the role of spectator (Mark 1:27; 2:12; 5:20). Contrast the way of the crowd with the way of risky connection embodied by the woman.

👤 In what way do our lives reflect one way more than the other?

👤 We don't know exactly what the text means when it says she told him the whole truth. Did she tell Jesus her whole story? Did she, through this very process, become a multi-storied person once more before the crowd of onlookers? What did she notice when she looked into Jesus' eyes?

👤 Who in your own journey have been those who have been able to genuinely hear your story? What have those experiences meant for you? Try to listen to someone else's story this week.

👤 Imagine you are with Jesus, and he has all the time in the world just for you. You feel incredibly safe and familiar in his presence and even sense he knows the details of your life better than you do. Nevertheless, he asks you to tell him which events in your life have shaped you the most. What stories do you tell him?



## 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.

### Short fuse

**Air heavy with bad breath  
hungry for surplus café buns  
free coffee to warm up  
they crowd around the urn.**



**He stands determined, unjustled  
trim in casual clothes  
eyes unsettled, a chest like bully beef  
harsh hands, fighter fists.**

**From the kitchen I bring a jug  
to refill the urn.  
I put my hand on his shoulder  
he snarls 'Don't you touch me'.**

**© John Howell**

From my book: *Homeless* 2017 p19.

The poem came from an experience at a drop-in centre for homeless people. It is likely the person had been in prison, where he would be pushed around.

## Planning Ahead

- 📅 18<sup>th</sup> July next KUC Church Council regular meeting via Zoom
- 📅 28<sup>th</sup> July after worship Congregational Meeting re Mission Plan 2024-2025
- 📅 13<sup>th</sup> 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.

Following, two poems by Malcolm Guite ....

### **LXXXVIII Domine Deus**

My saviour's words of welcome 'all is well'!

Was that just some false dream I used to have?

I tremble once more on the brink of hell,

Soon I'll be weeping in its lowest pit.  
The grave

Would be a kinder place than this. The dead

Forget, but I remember and I grieve

For all that I have lost: the green leaves shed

And stripped from me, my lovers and my friends

All torn away. Just emptiness and dread

Are my companions now. No one defends

Or speaks for me. Lord I have cried to you

And you say nothing. Empty silence rends

My heart in pieces. There is no one who

Can find me now, for who could ever know

This agony unless they felt it too?

### **LXXXIX Misericordias Domini**

Who knows this agony unless they feel it too?

You answer me in darkness from your cross,

It is your pain that draws my heart to you

As deep calls unto deep and loss to loss.

Your covenant was sealed in your heart's blood

When it is pierced with mine. And our cries cross

In flesh and blood as I encounter God,

Not on the heights, but in the pit of hell.

Then I can sing the triumph of the good

Then I can truly know all will be well.

I recognise my saviour's mighty arm

Because it has been pierced. The bloody nail

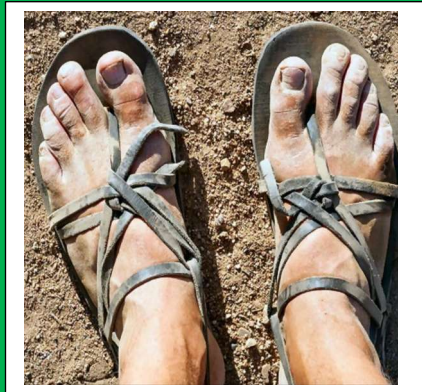
Means more to me than those who see no harm /and keep God as a talisman, a spell

A cosy comforter, a lucky charm.

**Next Sunday**  
**July 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at 10am**  
**The God Who Listens**  
**Pentecost + 7**

**Leader: Robert**  
**Reflection: Deok Hee**  
**NAIDOC Week begins**

**2 Samuel 5:1-5, 9-10, Psalm 48; 2 Corinthians 12:2-10; Mark 6:1-13**



**Church Council 2024-2025**

**Chair**  
**Secretary**  
**Treasurer**  
**Councillors**

**Richard Goodman**  
**Sue Baglin**  
**John Baglin**  
**Robert M<sup>c</sup>Alpine (2026)**  
**Sue Baglin (2025)**  
**Dinah Roepers (2025)**  
**John Baglin (2025)**  
**Bobbie Miller (2025)**  
**Richard Goodman (2027)**

**Elders**

**Safe Church Contact Person**    **Richard Goodman**