



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.*

July 7th 2024 at 10am

Communities of Trust and Hope Pentecost + 7

NAIDOC Week Begins

Leader: Robert
Reflection: Deok Hee

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

NAIDOC WEEK
KEEP THE FIRE BURNING! BLAK, LOUD AND PROUD
7-14 JULY 2024

#NAIDOC2024
#BLAKLOUDPROUD

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Unggun Muly by Deb Salyoo

NAIDOCWEEK **THREE YEAR**

NAIDOC Week is the national celebration of the life, strength and resilience of the First Nations people of Australia. It is a time to celebrate the rich and diverse cultures, languages and traditions of the First Nations people and to acknowledge their ongoing contributions to the nation.

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naidoc.org.au

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

2 Samuel 5:1–5, 9–10

David makes a covenant with the elders of Israel, who anoint him king over Israel.

Psalm 48

God, an undefeatable guide, evokes wonder and praise from human hearts.

2 Corinthians 12:2–10

God's strength comes into its own in human weakness.

Mark 6:1–13

Those in Jesus' hometown take offence at him. Jesus forms an alternative community of trust and hope.

Theme Focus

Jesus summons us to become alternative communities of trust and hope.

Word for the Day

Jesus returns to Nazareth, his hometown, and begins to teach in the synagogue. Many were astounded by his wisdom and deeds. But then the posturing starts. Questions are raised. Words uttered are infused with

hints of slander and insult. People feel the need to bring up Jesus' questionable upbringing (Mark 6:3). In Nazareth, where Jesus grew up, a village with approximately 200-400 people, they would have rather he stunk it up than spoke like a prophet. They would rather he had kept to working with stone and wood rather than healing broken lives. Is it true that nothing good is supposed to come from Nazareth? Is shame and the great fear we don't belong part of the fabric of Nazareth? Jesus won't be dismissed. He names what's going on (v.4) and gets on with what he knows he's supposed to be doing. Ultimately, it is Nazareth that misses out. Those Jesus encounters here limit the possibility of what might happen in this place (v.5). In the end, Jesus is amazed at what people are giving up for so very little (v.6). Shame and negativity can so easily live inside you. It can become you. And the prophets who come to us will have no choice but to walk away.

Jesus goes on to build an alternative community of hope that brings expansive, life-changing stories and healing to human lives. He sends his followers out two by two (v.7). We need others with us. It takes a community to reach a community. The twelve were also sent out by Jesus with authority over destructive and dysfunctional forces (v.7). We share what Christ has given us. Becoming an alternative community of hope involves drawing on God for guidance and for the kind of presence that can be a force for good in this world.

Jesus also orders his followers to take nothing for their journey except a staff and sandals. No bread, no bag, no money in their belts, no spare tunics – only the bare essentials are required (vv. 8–10). The disciples are to travel lightly, trusting not only each other and God but even those they have been sent to. An alternative presence of hope is patterned around trusting in God as well as the hospitality of others. We must go beyond our own resources. We go with faith, and real faith is a handing over of control.

Jesus gives some final instructions that involve honouring whoever receives them, and sinking their roots deep wherever they are welcomed (v.10). The pairs are to ensure they do not intrude where they are not welcomed. Jesus asks them to be okay with not being wanted or valued by those they go to. There seems to be a practice here that allows them to name and resist the shame and negativity that could so easily live inside of

any of us. Jesus tells them to shake the dust (v.11). Shake off the negative. Shake off the false. Shake off the dismissing, the demeaning, the degrading. Those things will only weigh you down for the rest of the work, which is ultimately about joining in with Jesus in all the ways that lives are changed in beautiful ways (vv.12–13).

Ideas for Reflection

Reflect on your experiences of communities of shame and judgment in contrast to communities of hope and trust.

Jesus could do no deed of power in Nazareth. And yet he shows up and does what is important anyway. Of course, we all want to be productive, successful, and fruitful. But somehow our lives of faith run deeper than this. Read this alongside the Ezekiel passage (**Ezekiel 2:1–5**) and reflect on the summons to faithfulness over fruitfulness.

Reflect on the life, hope, and energy you draw from others in your life (friends, family, church community), from your spiritual practices and connection with God, and from those you serve as part of work or broader community involvement. Reflect on how God invites us to move beyond self-sufficiency into a world of trust and connectedness.

- How might faith be an exercise in handing over control? What is attractive and hopeful about this? What is confronting and difficult about it? Read this in conversation with the passage from **2 Corinthians 12:2–10** that speaks of the God who loves to be our strength in our vulnerability and weakness.
- It is likely that all of us have had experiences that are *degrading*. What might it look like or involve to have an experience that is *regrading*?

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.

The jetty is below water

Just out of prison
his confidence is fifty-fifty.

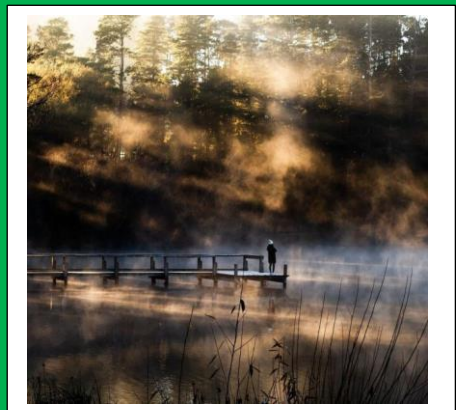
Soup kitchen vegies settle his stomach,
the night shelter bed is short stay.

He wants to avoid the booze and begging,
but a record impedes his job search.

He is standing on a jetty, waiting for the day to break.
His survival skill is fighting, not swimming.

Fifty percent of him says
No place in the canoe
head for the shore
throw away the paddle
live in the raw.

Fifty percent of him sings
Pick up the paddle
sit in the canoe
work into the current
at one with the crew.



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From Homeless 2017 p63.

NAIDOC WEEK 2024

This year's theme celebrates the unyielding spirit of our communities and invites all to stand in solidarity, amplifying the voices that have long been silenced.

The fire represents the enduring strength and vitality of Indigenous cultures, passed down through generations despite the challenges faced. It is a symbol of connection to the land, to each other, and to the rich tapestry of traditions that define Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. As we honour this flame, we kindle the sparks of pride and unity, igniting a renewed commitment to acknowledging, preserving, and sharing the cultural heritage that enriches our nation.

"Blak, Loud and Proud" encapsulates the unapologetic celebration of Indigenous identity, empowering us to stand tall in our heritage and assert our place in the modern world. This theme calls for a reclamation of narratives, an amplification of voices, and an unwavering commitment to justice and equality. It invites all Australians to listen, learn, and engage in meaningful dialogue, fostering a society where the wisdom and contributions of Indigenous peoples are fully valued and respected.

Through our collective efforts, we can forge a future where the stories, traditions, and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities are cherished and celebrated, enriching the fabric of the nation with the oldest living culture in the world.



Planning Ahead

- 18th July next KUC Church Council regular meeting via Zoom
- 28th July after worship Congregational Meeting re Mission Plan 2024-2025
- 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, Naghuaia, John and Sue and especially John's mother and father; Peter and Sue; Dinah; Ern Edwards; Godfrey; Pat Nankivell who died last week, 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 USA.

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

NAIDOC WEEK CELEBRATION at the STOREHOUSE

Don't miss out on this enriching experience—bring your family and friends! 📅 Date: Tuesday, 9th July 2024 🕒 Time: 10.30am - 1pm

📍 Location: The Kogarah Storehouse We look forward to seeing you there!

Next Sunday

July 14th, 2024, at 10am

Pentecost + 8

Dancing with Power

Leader: Deok Hee

Reflection: Deok Hee

Holy Communion: Deok Hee

2 Samuel 6:1–5, 12b–19; Psalm 24; Ephesians 1:3–14; Mark 6:14–29



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