



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 21st 2024, at 10am

Pentecost + 9

Resting and Dwelling in God

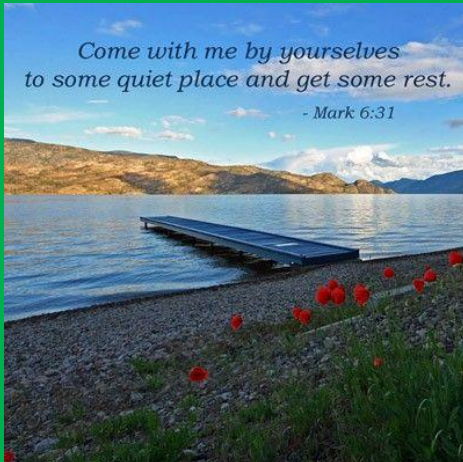
Leader: Richard

Reflection: Deok Hee

**2 Samuel 7:1–14a; Psalm 89:20–37; Ephesians 2:11–22;
Mark 6:30–34, 53–56**

*Come with me by yourselves
to some quiet place and get some rest.*

- Mark 6:31



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 7:1–14a

David desires to build God a house, but Nathan brings a message from God, saying that a 'house' would be built for David and his descendants.

Psalms 89:20–37

The psalmist recalls the promises made to David when he was anointed as King.

Ephesians 2:11–22

Paul describes how, through Christ, both Jew and Gentile have been reconciled to one another.

Mark 6:30–34, 53–56

Jesus takes his disciples to a solitary place to rest; however, the crowds continued to gather.

Theme Focus

In David's wish to build a house for God and in Jesus' pursuit of solitude, we contemplate what it means to rest in God and how we find our own sacred space when the world around us is fast-paced and frantic.

Word for the Day

The reading from 2 Samuel 7 is seen as a turning point in David's relationship with God. David's kingdom is now secure, and he has built a fine house for himself. He realises that God still dwells in a tent, the Tabernacle. David expresses his desire to build a house for God. The prophet, Nathan, receives a message from God during the night, saying that God does not need a house and will instead establish a 'house' for David. This may seem strange as David already has a house. In Hebrew, the noun *bayit* has many meanings including house, temple, dwelling place, palace or dynasty. This play on words invites the reader to consider what is most important here. David has a house, but God will now give him a dynasty based on relationships. God has no need for a house but dwells in all places.

The reading from Mark skips over large sections of active ministry to highlight Jesus' act of taking the disciples to a place to rest. It is important to consider the context of these verses. As we read last week, this passage follows immediately after the death of John the baptiser. Grief and exhaustion often go hand in hand before even considering the constant pressure of people seeking out Jesus for healing and teaching. Times of rest and spaces of peace would have been essential for Jesus and his disciples. The passage highlights Jesus' compassion for the people gathering around him while also recognising the need to rest and find stillness.

Ideas for Reflection

The reading from Samuel challenges us to reflect on the times we have been eager to build God a 'house'.

- Have there been times when our community has put limits on God?
- Does having a building in which to worship God limit how we experience God in other places?
- Do we limit God to particular times and places in our lives?
- What would it mean for God to create a 'house' for us instead?

Mark 6:30–34, 53–56 invites us to reflect on our own lives and busyness.

- How cluttered are our lives with doing, achieving and producing?
- How do we, as individuals and communities, create more time for space, stillness and quiet?

- How can we be more intentional in our worship, service, and daily lives to find time to rest in God?

The poem 'The rock, the water' (following), recalls an experience of resting in God in creation. People often experience God's rest most fully in nature: by the ocean, in a forest, or by a river. You are invited to read the poem and to reflect on your own times of rest in nature.

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 rock, the water

Fading light reaches over the valley ridge,
the heat of the day lowers in shallow rapids.

Feet on rolled stones,
I let the swishing water quiet me,

float with ducklings who know
when not to paddle against the current,

then edge into the pool
hedged with moss and fern.

As bush hides into shadows,
my evening is on a cusp.

In front of the rock-
immovable, impenetrable –

the wind stills, the water mirrors.
For a moment I see two worlds.

John Howell ©

Presbytery Events and Courses (Prepared by Steve Aynsley)

Here is a short and sharp communication about a number of matters, dates and opportunities. More details will follow, as needed- keep any eye out for our Presbytery monthly newsletter!

1. New Culture of Safety Workshop

Saturday 17 August, 9.30am-1.30pm at Lugarno-Peakhurst church. Followed by optional Implementation Workshop run by Presbytery. The Synod website will have the registrations open soon.

2. The Synod's Presbytery Project consultation morning and BBQ

lunch with Rev Dr Rob McFarlane:
Saturday 27 July, 11.00am-12.30 with an optional lunch to follow.
Lakemba Uniting Church
69 Haldon St, Lakemba NSW 2195

From the 17th Assembly of the UCA

Opening Statement

We open ourselves to the gift of the Spirit, given in order that we may not lose the way. With thanksgiving for the past 47 years of our life, and after taking a long, loving look at the reality of our present, and with hope in God's faithfulness for our future, we commit to continue our journey together. We believe now is the time to reshape our life so we may better live into God's call in our time and place. By centring life-giving communities of discipleship and mission, cultivating a flourishing theological culture and deeply sharing in our common life and wealth we will treasure Christ's gift of abundant grace, share this gift with our world and pass it to future generations.

A vision for local Uniting Church communities:

Communities of faith will sustain a life of worship, build one another up in love, grow disciples of Jesus and participate in God's mission. These diverse communities of faith will shape their life in response to God's call in their context and deepen their relationship with God, one another, the wider church and the world.

It adopted a **second vision for a National Network for Theology, Formation and Leadership**

A visible and accessible network of intentional communities engaged in life-long learning to equip people to courageously follow Jesus and participate in God's mission in contemporary Australia.

A third vision for the ordering and resourcing of the whole Church:

A network of deeply connected councils responding to God's call to enter more fully into mission through healthy oversight of ministry and mission, celebrating our diverse and shared identity and being faithful stewards of our common life and wealth.

Further details @: <https://www.insights.uca.org.au/17th-assembly-resolved-on-act2/>

Commissioning of Wynne Chen on Sunday July 28 @ 10am

Here is what Wynne and Deok Hee decided at a meeting last Friday.

Key Responsibilities (19 hours)

- Attending Sunday service and Table Tennis (3 Sundays: 1st, 3rd, 4th Sunday of every month)
- Monday Chinese Group gathering (Fortnightly)
- Wednesday Kogarah Storehouse (Every week)
- Regular meeting with the minister (Once every 2 weeks for the first 3 month, once a month after 3 months)
- Participating in the Worship Task Group and the Church Council (when needed)
- Written report to the church council
- Orientation (Wednesday 7 August)

In addition, she will use her time to build effective relationships with Chinese people.

She is happy for her contact details to be listed on the news sheet for Chinese people.

Planning Ahead

- 28th July – Commissioning of Wynne Chen by Steve Aynsley in service
- 4th August – Education Week service with the Long Day Care (UELK)
- 11th August after worship Congregational Meeting re Mission Plan 2024-2025 (Emailed already. Hard copy available. Tell Richard)
- 20th 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; Kath Merrifield 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.

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Next Sunday

July 28th 2024, at 10am

Pentecost + 10

Jesus: The Bread of Life

Leader: Deok Hee

Reflection: Deok Hee

Holy Communion: Deok Hee

Commissioning of Wynne Chen – Steve Aynsley

**2 Samuel 11:1–15; Psalm 14; Ephesians 3:14-21;
John 6:1–21**



Church Council 2024-2025

Chair
Secretary
Treasurer
Councillors

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)

Elders

Safe Church Contact Person **Richard Goodman**