



**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 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**



**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 6:1–5, 12b–19**

With great celebration, King David brings the Ark of God into the City of David to be amongst the people.

### **Psalms 24**

The psalmist sings of God's majesty and sovereignty over all things.

### **Ephesians 1:3–14**

The letter to the Ephesians begins with praise to God for the blessings received in Christ.

### **Mark 6:14–29**

King Herod's wife, Herodias, requests that John the baptiser is beheaded.

## **Theme Focus**

Two stories of power, celebration, and dancing raise questions about the misuse of power and the injustice it causes

## **Word for the Day**

The installation of the Ark of God in Jerusalem was a pivotal moment for David in the establishment of his kingdom. Not only did it legitimise David's power and leadership, but it also set Jerusalem as the royal and religious capital. This occurred through liturgy, ritual, and a great dancing and feasting ceremony. We must not pretend that this display of power was not

at the expense of others. David obliterated the Philistine army to take Jerusalem in the preceding chapter.

In the reading from Mark, we find ourselves at a birthday feast. Herod's daughter dances for him, and he is so pleased that he offers her anything she pleases as a gift. Unsure of what to ask, she asks her mother for advice. John the baptiser is imprisoned, and Herod is sympathetic and interested in his message. John, however, is critical of Herod's taking his brother's wife. This does not please Herodias, so she takes the opportunity to manipulate the situation by having her daughter ask for John's head. Herod is distressed but cannot go back on his promise.

### **Ideas for Reflection**

A few themes could be followed from these readings:. One possibility is to explore the issues of power further. We cannot avoid power. It is natural that in many relationships, there will be imbalances in power. How we use this power is key. The characters in today's readings used and abused it in different ways.

- Where and when do we see power used to harm?
- When and where do we see power used for good?

Another possibility is to explore the position in which Herod found himself. It is not unusual to find ourselves caught between two people and needing to make good decisions. The poem 'Herod's dilemma' (next page) addresses how Herod may have felt. The poem might initiate discussion around difficult situations we find ourselves in and how to discern in those moments where we have power.

## **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.

## Herod's dilemma

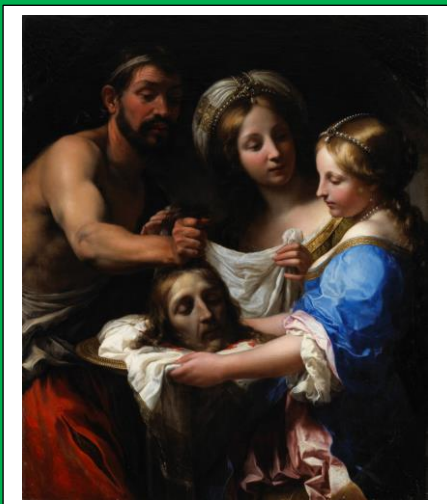
like a possum caught in headlights  
kangaroo stuck on a fence  
whale stranded at Farewell Spit  
koala in a bushfire  
pastry flattened by a rolling pin  
shirt put through the wringer  
driftwood bobbing in a tidal rip  
rubber band stretched to breaking



The hole he fell into was a trap –  
family versus whistle-blower  
Queen versus prophet  
sly versus courage

Could he turn the clock back?  
Renegotiate the deal?  
Can you break a promise if  
the unexpected consequence is murder?

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# Attend Events



# Pray



**HAPPY NAIDOC WEEK!**

# Learn More



# Support



# Take Action



**NAIDOC WEEK and  
BEYOND**

**Check out the Common  
Grace website**

**[www.commongrace.org.au](http://www.commongrace.org.au)**



## HEAR YE, HEAR YE! It's KIDSFEST 24!

We are just 1 WEEK AWAY from KIDSFEST 24:  
KINGDOM!!

The castle has been swept, the blacksmiths' forges are crackling, and the dragon egg is ready to hatch! Don't let your child miss out on this adventure back to medieval lands - register them today using the link below.

Come one day @ \$10/ day, or all 5 days for \$40!

Just like last year, we have:

5 days of crafts

5 days of games

5 days of inflatables

And 5 days of amazing fun lined up!

Your child can come 1, 2, 3, 4 or all 5 days, just select the tickets you want. They can also bring their friends to have even more fun. Spaces are filling up QUICKLY, so secure your child's spot today!

Register now using the link below  See you there!

<https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1192014?>

## 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 (emailed already; Hard copy available. Tell Richard
- 20<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; 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.

### Sad News

Kath Merrifield's father, David, died last Monday after a short illness. We hold Kath and her family in our prayers at this sad time.

**Next Sunday**  
**July 21<sup>st</sup> 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**



**Church Council 2024-2025**

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

**Elders**

**Richard Goodman**  
**Sue Baglin**  
**John Baglin**  
**Robert McAlpine (2026)**  
**Sue Baglin (2025)**  
**Dinah Roepers (2025)**  
**John Baglin (2025)**  
**Bobbie Miller (2025)**  
**Richard Goodman (2027)**

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