



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 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**



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 11:1–15

David commits adultery with Bathsheba while her husband is in battle. He then arranges for him to be killed in battle to save face.

Psalm 14

The psalmist makes it clear that humans are foolish and can do no good without God.

Ephesians 3:14–21

Paul prays for the Ephesians that through the love of Christ, they may grasp the fullness of God.

John 6:1–21

Jesus feeds a crowd of five thousand with five loaves and two fish. The disciples are in a boat when Jesus approaches, walking on the water.

Theme Focus

A practical yet highly symbolic story about an abundance provided from a small gift of bread inspires us to work more closely with others and be more generous in sharing what we have.

Word for the Day

This is the first layer in our series of bread stories that we will hear over the next five weeks. It is important to keep this in mind as we read this section. In the weeks ahead, Jesus will use the image of bread to talk about himself.

The story in the gospel of John seems to indicate that this situation was used to test the disciples. Jesus begins by asking Phillip how they are going to feed such a large crowd. The text indicates that Jesus already had a plan. Phillip, however, only sees the impossible cost of the task.

Andrew identifies a young boy with some food. Still, he recognises there is no way it can feed a huge crowd. It is then that Jesus acts. He asks the people to sit down, gives thanks to God for the food and distributes it to the people. Not only does everyone have enough, but there are twelve baskets of leftovers.

This is a very practical story in many ways, but it is also highly symbolic. Jesus' ability to provide an abundance from a scarcity of food will not go unnoticed when, in the next section, we hear him say, 'I am the bread of life'. Perhaps the twelve baskets of leftovers symbolise that there is plenty for all the people of God, all twelve tribes.

Ideas for Reflection

This passage is particularly pertinent at a time when there is much talk about church decline and financial struggles. Cries of 'We don't have enough people!', 'There is not enough money' and 'We can't afford to fix our buildings' seem to dominate many church meetings.

- If we bring the little we have, what might be possible with Christ in our communities?
- Do we trust that God can work with the few resources we have?

A scarcity of resources often forces people to collaborate more. Like Andrew, are we tempted to look at what is brought to the table as insufficient? In leaner times, we often need to think more creatively and trust more in the generosity of others and in God.

- What might this story say to our community about the need to trust God, work more closely with others or be more generous in sharing what you have?

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.

I Am the Bread of Life

35 Jesus said to them, 'I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.

Where to get bread? An ever-pressing question

That trembles on the lips of anxious mothers,

Bread for their families, bread for all these others;

A whole world on the margin of exhaustion.

And where that hunger has been satisfied

Where to get bread? The question still returns

In our abundance something starves and yearns

We crave fulfillment, crave and are denied.

And then comes One who speaks into our needs

Who opens out the secret hopes we cherish

Whose presence calls our hidden hearts to flourish

Whose words unfold in us like living seeds

Come to me, broken, hungry, incomplete,

**I Am the Bread of Life, break Me and eat.
(Malcolm Guite)**

Then Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life.
Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and
whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.



Planning Ahead

- 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)
- Saturday 17th August Memorial Service for Pat Nankivell @ 10am
- 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 Dennis and Robyn Lyons, Brian and Rhonda , Prema and Priya, Jim and Bobbie, 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

4th August 2024, at 10am

Pentecost + 11

Jesus: The Bread of Life – 2

Education Week Sunday with UELK

Leader: Richard

Reflection: Deok Hee

**2 Samuel 11:26—12:13a; Psalm 51:1–12; Ephesians 4:1–16;
John 6:24–35**



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**