



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.*

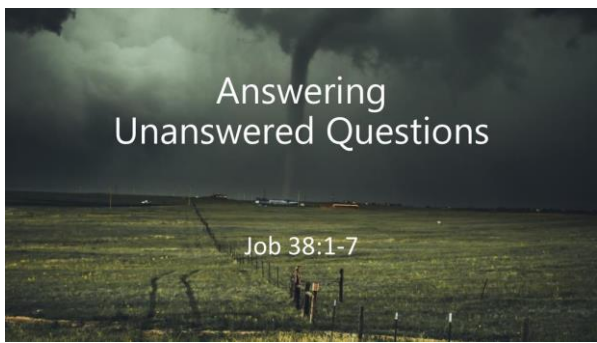
Next Sunday 20th October 2024 @ 10am

Living with Majesty

Leader Dinah

Reflection Deok Hee

**Job 38:1–7, (34–41); Psalm 104:1–9, 24, 35c; Hebrews 5:1–10
Mark 10:35–45**



**Answering
Unanswered Questions**

Job 38:1-7

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/>

Deok Hee is back from his holiday today. For pastoral concerns, please contact him on 0401 975 745.

Scriptures

Job 38:1–7, (34–41)

God responds to Job with questions that highlight God's creative and sustaining work. 'Where were you,' the character of God asks, 'when I laid the foundations of the earth?' God does not directly address Job's suffering and injustice.

Psalm 104:1–9, 24, 35c praises God's creative acts in the world from the beginning of time until the present day. Mirroring the language of the Job passage, the psalmist declares that God laid the foundations of the earth and created all its creatures.

Hebrews 5:1–10

Jesus is likened to a high priest who stands between God and the people, offering prayers and advocating to God on behalf of the people.

Mark 10:35–45

James and John ask Jesus for places of honour. Jesus' response is to name service of and among others as key to following after him.

Theme Focus

'Whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant...' ~ Mark 10:43

From two very different passages – Job and Mark – comes the question of what majesty and grandeur might look like for God and for God's creatures.

Word for the Day

The reading from Job is beautiful poetry that draws on images from creation to highlight God's role as Creator. Image after image is laid atop each other to suggest the vastness and majesty of God – from the building of the earth to the singing of the stars and the particular ways and knowledge of the birds. All these images are set up as questions. Job (and we) answer the questions in the negative, building up a picture of our creatureliness alongside God's enormity. God asks, 'Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth?' The understood response from Job, and from us, is 'I was not there'.

For those who have been following the story of Job over the last weeks, we might be glad finally to hear God's voice. God has been relatively absent from the story since Job was allowed to be tested. Job rightly does not understand why he has experienced so much hardship. I imagine he would be expecting some clarity from God regarding his situation. God's voice from the whirlwind offers a poetic response that highlights God's creative and sustaining work in the world. However, God does not address Job's questions or acknowledge his lament. In light of Job's experiences and questions, I wonder whether or not we find God's response satisfying.

Ideas for Reflection

- How do you respond to the poetry of this passage? Is there a particular image that catches your attention? Spend some time exploring this image and what it conveys to you about God.
- One of the elements of creation named in this story is the constellation of the Pleiades. This constellation appears in many Indigenous songlines across Australia in the story of the seven sisters. What stories of creation do you know from the place where you gather or where you come from?
- Do you think Job would be satisfied with God's response? Why or why not?
- Are you satisfied with God's response? Why or why not?
- What connections do you find between the reading from Job and the reading from Mark?

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.

A poem about the Gospel of Mark by Malcolm Guite

Mark (2015)

A wingèd lion, swift, immediate

Mark is the gospel of the sudden shift

From first to last, from grand to intimate,

From strength to weakness, and from debt to gift,

From a wide deserts haunted emptiness

To a close city's fervid atmosphere,

From a voice crying in the wilderness

To angels in an empty sepulcher.

And Christ makes the most sudden shift of all;

From swift action as a strong Messiah

Casting the very demons back to hell

To slow pain, and death as a pariah.

We see our Saviour's life and death unmade

And flee his tomb dumbfounded and afraid

[The symbol for Mark is the Lion]

William Blake: The Book of Job: When the Morning Stars Sang Together



Excellent News from the Storehouse

Hi Lala,

Hope you are well and everything is going smoothly at the Storehouse?

Thanks again for submitting the Storehouse's grant application and I wanted to get back to you now the board has completed the reviews.

We believe the work you are doing with the Women's Support Program is very valuable and would like to offer Kogarah Storehouse a grant of \$125,00 over the next 3 years to enable these essential supports for CALD women to continue. This amount is as requested on your application and will be paid annually. The first payment of \$41,500 will be available this December for the calendar year of 2025

We will send the grant agreement over to you in the next few days, but please feel free to call me if you have any questions .

We're looking forward to seeing you at our lunch next week and would love to hear more about your programs. I was hoping you can share your program with the group with a 2-3 min stand up chat (same as last year)

Many thanks and best regards,

Kim

Kim Brown

Director

Big Sister Foundation



Planning Ahead

- 21.10 – Cantonese Group – Aboriginal History and Culture
- 24th October 2024 Kogarah Church Council via Zoom @ 7pm
- 7th November 2024 Worship Task Group via Zoom @ 7pm

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, Naghuia, John and Sue and especially John's mother and father; Peter and Sue; Dinah; Ern Edwards; Godfrey; Jim Bird; Sue de B; Sylvia. 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 and Lebanon. The USA. Sudan

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Next Sunday

27th October 2024 @ 10am

Transformed by Encounter

Leader Deok Hee

Reflection Deok Hee

Holy Communion Deok hee

Job 42:1–6, 10–17; Psalm 34:1–8, (19–22), 35c; Hebrews 7:23–28
Mark 10:46–52



Church Council 2024-2025

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Elders

Safe Church Contact Person Richard Goodman