



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.*

**10<sup>th</sup> November 2024 @ 10am**

## **Noticing the Overlooked**

**Leader      Deok Hee**

**Reflection      Deok Hee**

**Holy Communion      Deok Hee**

**Ruth 3:1–5; 4:13–17; Psalm 127; Hebrews 9:24–28;  
Mark 12:38–44**



THIS WEEK'S GOSPEL LESSON

MARK 12:38-44

The Widow's Offering

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 Deok Hee on  
0401 975 745.

## Scriptures

### **Ruth 3:1–5; 4:13–17**

This portion from Ruth 3 and 4 portrays the story as a ‘romance’ that culminates in the marriage of Ruth and Naomi’s relative, Boaz. The reading omits the risky, risqué journey from Naomi and Ruth as two widows subsisting together to the arrival of a baby boy on Naomi’s lap.

### **Psalm 127**

This psalmist advocates for God as a foundation for life’s work and activities, saying , ‘Unless it is God who builds the house, those who build it labour in vain.’

**Hebrews 9:24–28** continues to unfold the image in last week’s passage, likening the work of Christ to the work of priests and sacrifices in the sacrificial system. Here, the writer argues that Christ’s work is unique and does not need to be repeated.

### **Mark 12:38–44**

Jesus reflects on poor widows and powerful men. Jesus expresses his solidarity with and cares for widows, one widow in particular.

## Theme Focus

‘A poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which are worth a penny...’ ~ Mark 12: 42

This week, we see the widow hidden in the shadows, who Jesus points out to us, think about the parts of the Ruth story omitted in the lectionary, and ask what it would mean to notice people, places, and situations we usually overlook.

## **Word for the Day**

The readings from Ruth are a strange combination – the beginning of chapter 3 and the near end of chapter 4. We read of Naomi's plan to seek security for herself and for Ruth once the harvests had come to an end. We then skip over the events that played out as Ruth put her body into a high-risk situation, seeking out Boaz in the night and not following the instructions of her mother-in-law as she confronts Boaz. We skip over the bargaining of men at the city gates to possess land and women. This 'business' sees Boaz claim both Ruth and a field belonging to Naomi by tricking another relative. We skip over these shady encounters and only read the story in its quick movement from marriage to son, the silence of Ruth (and Naomi), and the folding of this story into the story of King David.

What happens when we read the portions the lectionary overlooks...do we feel comfortable about the actions taking place?

Does this feel like a story where everyone is looking after each other... or do we see imbalances of power playing out?

How do we grapple with a story like Ruth, where the characters seem both to be motivated by care for each other and ruthless in seeking their own survival?

The lectionary is a wonderful tool for our reflection, but the lectionary also makes choices about which stories we focus on and which we overlook.

### **Ideas for Reflection**

- You might like to read Ruth 3 and 4 in full. What do you notice?
- What do you make of what the lectionary leaves in and what is overlooked?

## 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.

*Take my gifts and let me love you,  
God who first of all loved me,  
gave me light and food and shelter,  
gave me life and set me free.*

*Now because your love has touched me,  
I have love to give away,  
now the bread of love is rising,  
loaves of love to multiply!*

*Take the fruit that I have gathered  
from the tree your Spirit sowed,  
harvest of your own compassion,  
juice that makes the wine of God,  
spiced with humour, laced with laughter--  
flavour of the Jesus life,  
tang of risk and new adventure,  
taste and zest beyond belief.*

*Take whatever I can offer--  
gifts that I have yet to find,  
skills that I am slow to sharpen,  
talents of the hand and mind,  
things made beautiful for others  
in the place where I must be:  
take my gifts and let me love you,  
God who first of all loved me.*

*Words by Shirley E Murray*

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## **Christmas Services 2024**

**December 19 Thursday @ 7:30pm Blue Christmas**

**December 24 Tuesday @ 7.30pm Christmas Eve**

**(A service of Readings and Carols)**

**December 25 Wednesday @ 10.00am Christmas Day**

**(with Holy Communion)**



## Planning Ahead

- 17<sup>th</sup> November Table Tennis/Church Lunch after church – 11-1pm
- 30th November Health Talk *Head to shoulder* 10am – 12noon
- Starting Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November for 4 weeks – Advent Bible Study
- 5<sup>th</sup> December 2024 Kogarah Church Council 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. Spain

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**Next Sunday**

**17<sup>th</sup> November 2024 @ 10am**

**God's Surprising Presence**

**Leader Richard**

**Reflection Deok Hee**

**1 Samuel 1:4–20; 1 Samuel 2:1–10 instead of a Psalm; Hebrews  
10:11–14, (15–18), 19–25; Mark 13:1–8**



**(Temple Destroyed)**

**Church Council 2024-2025**

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

**Richard Goodman**  
**Sue Baglin**  
**John Baglin**  
**Robert M<sup>o</sup>Alpine (2026)**  
**Sue Baglin (2025)**  
**Dinah Roepers (2025)**  
**John Baglin (2025)**  
**Bobbie Miller (2025)**  
**Richard Goodman (2027)**

**Elders**

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