



**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.*

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

**Realm of Christ**  
**Celebrating God Who Bears Many Names**

**Leader Deok Hee**

**Reflection Deok Hee**

**Holy Communion Deok Hee**

**2 Samuel 23:1–7; Psalm 132:1–12, (13–18); Revelation 1:4b–8;  
John 18:33–37**



**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**

**2 Samuel 23:1–7** claims these as the last words of King David. They are a poetic reflection in which David praises just leadership and claims God's favour is with him and his descendants.

### **Psalms 132:1–12, (13–18)**

The psalmist asks God to remember David and the desire to build a dwelling place for God and looks forward asking God to remember the 'anointed one' – an heir that will sit on the throne – in the same way God remembered David.

### **Revelation 1:4b–8**

This is the greeting part of John's letters to the seven churches in the province of Asia. The greeting is based on multiple names and images of Christ: faithful witness, firstborn from the dead, ruler, lover, and the one who freed us.

### **John 18:33–37**

Pilate questions Jesus, asking him, 'Are you the King of the Jews?' Jesus does not respond simply but instead suggests this might be the wrong question, saying that his ministry is focused on 'truth.'

## **Theme Focus**

Today is celebrated as the Reign of Christ. It is the last Sunday before we begin a new Church year. We celebrate by thinking about the many different images and metaphors in the Scriptures with which we can understand and connect with God.

## Word for the Day

The reading from Samuel offers a recount of King David as he approaches death. It attributes these as his final words, in which he extols the virtue of a good leader and lays claim to a promise of God that will see his descendants continue as kings.

David is a difficult character in the biblical texts. We often celebrate him as faithful; we sing psalms of praise and lament attributed to his heart for God, and yet the stories about him do not shy from his shadow side: violence, war, manipulation. As biblical scholar Valerie Bridgeman writes, 'History doesn't make David look good, even as a ruler.'

Perhaps we can affirm with David that we long for leaders who would glisten like the aftermath of rain. When we read the news, it certainly seems such leaders are far from us. Yet we might also question whether David can really claim to be like this either.

This seems to fit with Jesus' response to Pilate. When Pilate asks Jesus if he is a king, it seems that Jesus' response suggests he has got the wrong question. Jesus isn't interested in the kinds of power and manipulations that kings become involved with. He is interested in bearing witness to the truth. And what is the truth? The writer of John's gospel has been telling us it is since the beginning when the Word was made flesh: for God so loved the world...

### Ideas for Reflection

- Does the image of Christ as king connect well with you? Why or why not?
- What do you make of Jesus' interaction with Pilate?
- How would you describe the truth that Jesus bears witness to?



# **Christ The King**

## **A sonnet by Malcolm Guite**

**Based on Mathew 25: 31-46**

**Our King is calling from the hungry furrows  
Whilst we are cruising through the aisles of plenty,  
Our hoardings screen us from the man of sorrows,  
Our soundtracks drown his murmur: 'I am thirsty'.  
He stands in line to sign in as a stranger  
And seek a welcome from the world he made,  
We see him only as a threat, a danger,  
He asks for clothes, we strip-search him instead.  
And if he should fall sick then we take care  
That he does not infect our private health,  
We lock him in the prisons of our fear  
Lest he unlock the prison of our wealth.  
But still on Sunday we shall stand and sing  
The praises of our hidden Lord and King.**

### **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 platform formerly known as Twitter faces a crisis, with questions arising over its future role in both technology and politics. Once hailed as a digital town square for free exchange of ideas, X has seen its largest user exodus to date, with growing concerns over its role in amplifying authoritarian voices.

### Bluesky Surges Amid Mass Departures

Bluesky, a rising competitor, has amassed 16 million users, including a record 1 million in a single day last week. The surge follows the fallout from Donald Trump's re-election on November 6, which led to hundreds of thousands of users abandoning X. The backlash stems largely from the platform's transformation under its controversial owner, Elon Musk.

### Musk's Role in the Political Landscape

Musk, who acquired Twitter for \$44 billion in 2022, rebranded it as X and dismantled its moderation policies. Under his leadership, the platform reinstated Trump's account, previously suspended after the January 2021 Capitol riots. Critics argue that Musk has turned X into a megaphone for the alt-right and hate speech, further alienating mainstream users and institutions.

The situation escalated after Trump announced Musk as head of the newly created Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE). This move gives Musk unprecedented influence, combining his roles as a government official and private-sector magnate overseeing Tesla, SpaceX, and X.

"I'm not aware of any precedent for this approach," said Rob Enderle, a tech analyst, highlighting the unprecedented merging of public and private power.

### Cultural Exodus from X

High-profile departures have followed, with figures like author Stephen King and celebrities Barbra Streisand and Jamie Lee Curtis leaving the platform. Organizations like \*The Guardian\* have also severed ties, citing the platform's toxicity. "X has effectively become Truth Social premium," said Mark Carrigan, author of \*Social Media for Academics,\* referring to Trump's hard-right social media platform. Speculation is mounting that Truth Social and X could merge, consolidating their influence in a "super-app" that some fear could amplify authoritarian agendas. **(Read the whole article in Insights)**

## Planning Ahead

- 17<sup>th</sup> November Table Tennis/Church Lunch after church – 11-1pm
- 30<sup>th</sup> 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

### 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)

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, Bobbie and the extended family in their time of loss, 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

**Next Sunday**

**1<sup>st</sup> December 2024 @ 10am**

**Advent 1 - Hope  
A Sign of the Times**

**Leader Robert**

**Reflection Deok Hee**

**Jeremiah 33:14–16; Psalm 25:1-10; 1 Thessalonians 3:9–13;  
Luke 21:25–36**



**Church Council 2024-2025**

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

**Richard Goodman**  
**Sue Baglin**  
**John Baglin**  
**Robert M<sup>c</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**