



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.*

8th December 2024 @ 10am

**Advent 2 - Peace
I Am Sending My Messenger**

Leader Deok Hee

Reflection Deok Hee

Holy Communion Deok hee

**Baruch 5:1–9 or Malachi 3:1–4; Luke 1:68–79; Philippians 1:3–11;
Luke 3:1–6**



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 Deok Hee on
0401 975 745.**

Scriptures

Baruch 5:1–9 or **Malachi 3:1–4**

The writer warns that a messenger of God is coming who will be like a 'refiner's fire' who comes to purify the Levites.

Luke 1:68–79

Zechariah, John the baptiser's father, filled with the Holy Spirit prophesied and names his son as a messenger who will prepare the way for the Messiah.

Philippians 1:3–11

Timothy and Paul send their greetings to the Philippians, who have been partners in the gospel with them.

Luke 3:1–6

The ministry of John the baptiser is described and is described for the reader in the words of the prophet Isaiah.

Theme Focus

The writers of Malachi and the gospel of Luke both include descriptions of messengers who prepare people for the coming of a messianic figure. Even today, God sends messengers who point the way.

Word for the Day

In this passage, the author of Luke includes a poem in which Zechariah talks about his newborn son, John. This passage was written many years after John had died by someone likely not there to witness the event. The

memory of who John (and his parents Zechariah and Elisabeth) was – as he was remembered within the community – will have informed the writing of this passage.

We read this passage with our memories and ideas about what we know of John's story. The baby John is remembered with reference to the prophesying John, the baptising John, and the John who is later beheaded. How does that impact our understanding of this text?

Ideas for Reflection

- The two passages this morning make reference to a messenger or prophet who will bring change to the community. Biblical prophets seem to be difficult people, and we are reminded not to shoot the messenger. Change is complex, and being a changemaker is not often welcomed. How do we recognise prophets? How might we prepare ourselves to hear the message of the changemaker?
- Pregnancy and birth are usually times of looking forward and anticipating what the child might become. How might these stories we tell of the child to come influence their future? How do the stories change? What happens when the child tells their own version of the story?
- How do stories of prophets from our own community get told? Who tells the story? Why do they tell it? What is added to or taken away from the story over time?
- In this time of Advent, who are the messengers and prophets? What is the message they are bringing to us? What change do we need to make in this season, in the upcoming year, in our lives?

Take off the garment of your sorrow and affliction, O Jerusalem,
and put on for ever the beauty of the glory from God.

Put on the robe of the righteousness that comes from God;
put on your head the diadem of the glory of the Everlasting;
for God will show your splendour everywhere under heaven.

For God will give you evermore the name,

'Righteous Peace, Godly Glory'. (Baruch 5)

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.

On the Edge of Peace

Advent is a time of waiting.
Waiting in the dark, on the edge of
the Light that is coming.
Waiting on the edge of Peace.
As we wait for the presence of
Christ,
what Peace are we waiting for
Christ's Light to bring?
What Peace are we longing for?
When we look around in this
darkness...
We see unrest on our borders
And we see persecution of people
in the land where Jesus came
from.
We see people fighting to
suppress others
And people desperate to be seen.
We see powers at war
And the powerless with no
escape.
We long for the Light in this
Darkness.
Restore us, O God.
We wait for you to shine your
Light over here
Where we stand
On the edge of Peace.
Jennifer Melton

Advent Poem #2: Peace

In a world gone hysterical with
phobia,
Foaming at the mouth about rights
and retaliation,
Spewing propaganda and violence
towards flesh-and-blood humans
In a world where God is twisted
into a
Thirsting need for power,
Dominating others who tremble
at their version of a kingdom
In a world that blames the victims,
Accusing the innocent of crimes,
Blocking entrance to the outcasts
who cry for shelter from bitter cold.
Into this world came a baby
Struggling in his mangy crib,
Reminding us that the divine
was housed in the humble, the
helpless.
So in this world we pray:
Blessed are those who hunger for
right,
Righteous are those who strive for
peace,
and peaceful are those who learn
to Love.

Teryn O'Brien

Storehouse End of Year Dates

9th December Packing Children's presents

10th December Christmas Hampers packing

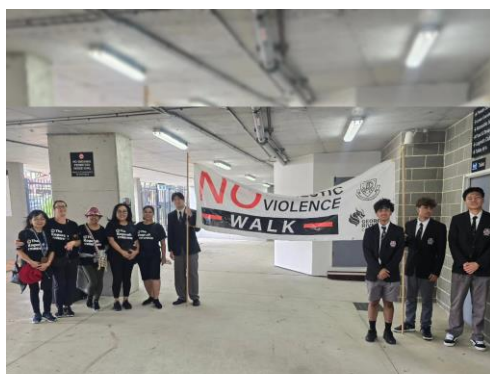
11th December Christmas Hampers distribution

13th & 14th December Community Gift Wrap @ Hurstville Westfield. (This activity publicises the Storehouse as well as earning money for Storehouse projects.)

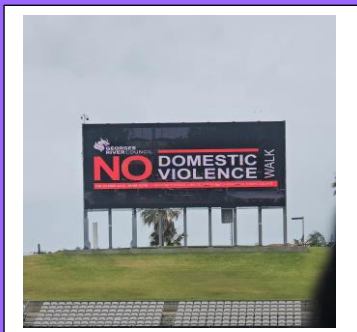
16th – 18th December clean up and regroup for 2025

19th December Staff, volunteers and boards members Christmas Celebration

20th December CLOSE



Members of the Storehouse Team joined the march against Domestic and Family Violence to Jubilee Oval on Friday 29th November. The Storehouse runs courses and counselling for people who suffer the effects of domestic violence.



Stop Press

The Storehouse has received a grant of \$20 000 for its program No One Should Go Hungry from the Sisters of Charity. We give thanks for such generosity!



Members of the Kogarah Storehouse met with Ronni Kahn, the founder of Oz Harvest who supply food to the Storehouse for distribution to clients.



Planning Ahead

- 15th December 2024 Chinese Christmas celebration 6-6pm

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*; 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

***It is with sadness that we announce the death of John's father on 28th November. His funeral will be held soon in Northern NSW. Please hold them all closely in your prayers.**

Next Sunday

15th December 2024 @ 10am

Advent 3 - Joy

Comfort, Hope, and Challenge

Leader Dinah

Reflection Deok Hee

Zephaniah 3:14–20; Isaiah 12:2–6; Philippians 4:4–7; Luke 3:7–18



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**