



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.*

26th January @ 10am

Epiphany + 3

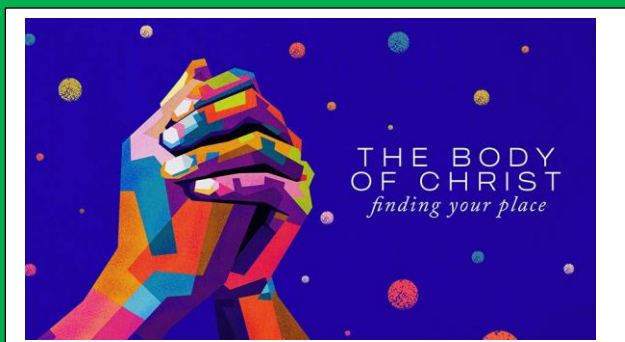
Proclaim Freedom

Leader Deok Hee

Reflection Deok Hee

Holy Communion Deok Hee

**Nehemiah 8:1–3, 5–6, 8–10; Psalm 19; 1 Corinthians 12:12–31a;
Luke 4:14–21**



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 Deok Hee on
0401 975 745.

Scriptures for Epiphany +32

Nehemiah 8:1–3, 5–6, 8–10 describes Ezra reading from the Torah scrolls to the Israelites who have returned from the exile.

Psalm 19 celebrates the teaching and instructions of God in the Torah. Creation calls out its praise of God's glory and the goodness of God's words.

1 Corinthians 12:12–31a

This well-known passage from St Paul to the Corinthian church describes the church using the metaphor of the human body. The many people who make up the church are all valued and have an important contribution to make, as with the different parts of the body.

Luke 4:14–21 marks the beginning of Jesus' public ministry as told by the gospel of Luke. Jesus reads from the scroll of Isaiah in the synagogue of Nazareth, proclaiming what is described by Isaiah as 'the year of the Lord's favour.'

Theme Focus

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. ~ Luke 4:18.

We listen as Jesus proclaims good news from the scroll of Isaiah and consider how we might bear witness to this good news, transforming our lives and our communities through love and justice.



(Isaiah Scroll

Word for the Day

Hearing the story of Jesus reading from the scroll of Isaiah can remind us of the world around us. We are made mindful of the times and places where freedom is not seen or experienced close by and further away. Our hearts can break at the brokenness we see. Our cheeks can burn with the shame of recognising our own part in this brokenness. We might feel overwhelmed about what to do to break out of systems and ways of living that perpetuate injustice.

It is good to hear these words again and to think about how we can live into the vision Jesus draws attention to.

Ideas for Reflection

John Howell offers the following poem and introductory reflection.

Spirit of the ruru (more-pork)

Ruru are strongly associated with the spirit world in Maori Mythology. It is a kaitiaki/guardian, a bird of warning, of wisdom, a bird

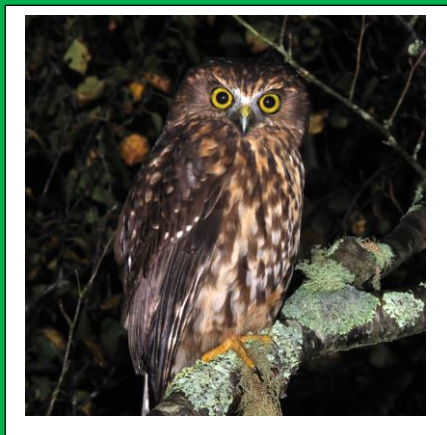
who has the power to protect, warn and advise. The high pitch cry is believed to be the warning, the low cry is believed to be a sign of good.

For me, spirit is not a ghost, but that which moves us – in which we live and move and have our being.

Ruru call in the silent night,
hidden in shadows still quiet.
The presence of a guardian friend
is a treasure, a spiritual diet.
Once on a run through a bush reserve,
one flew head high, broke my trance,
parked on a branch. We just watched.
Just the two of us face to face.

Its wide eyed stare still eyeballs me,
unsettles my comfortable stand.
Is it an insight about life and death
as guardian in the land?
Its plaintive call from the valley bush
rings like a bell in the dark.
Is it a peal to open a gate,
or an alarm to wake my heart?
This guardian spirit of Māori lore
is our taonga in Aotearoa.
In life or death our spirit can steer
our children and all who follow.
Ruru call in the silent night,
hidden in shadows still quiet.

© John Howell





Celebrate the Chinese New Year next Sunday 2nd February with our friends from the Table Tennis Group.

Bring a dish to share for lunch from 11:30am.

Some images for Australia Day 2025 on the next page.



Planning Ahead

- 20th January 2025 Storehouse returns; orders for food parcels taken
- 22nd January 2025 first food parcels distributed
- 2nd February – lunch to celebrate Chinese New Year after church
- 5th February 2025 Worship TG @ 7pm via Zoom
- 6th February 2025 Kogarah Church Council @ 7pm via Zoom
- 7th February 2025 Elders

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 as they begin the new year.

Dorothy and Godfrey and the work of LACLA. Godfrey especially as he travels back to Uganda.

The team, parents and children in the Early Learning Centre. Those who are sick, sad or lonely:

We pray especially today for Deok Hee, 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.

Next Sunday
2nd February 2025 @ 10am
Epiphany + 4
Called for Justice and Love

Leader Robert

Reflection Deok Hee

**Jeremiah 1:4–10; Psalm 71:1–6; 1 Corinthians 13:1–13;
Luke 4:21–30**



*“Before I
formed you in
the womb I
knew you, and
before you were
born I
consecrated
you. Jer 1:5*

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**