



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.*

19th January 2025 @ 10am

Epiphany 2/Day of Mourning

Toward the Common Good

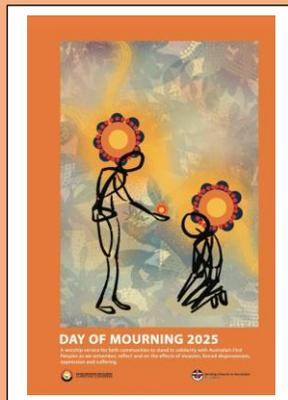
Leader Dinah

Reflection Deok Hee

Lectionary Reading for Epiphany 2

Isaiah 62:1–5; Psalm 36:5–10; 1 Corinthians 12:1–11; John 2:1–11

Readings for Day of Mourning



Isaiah 61:1-3

John 1: 1-9

Isaiah 9 : 1-7

Matthew 5:1-14

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 2

Isaiah 62:1–5

The prophet's voice calls out an intercession on behalf of Jerusalem. Knowing that God has promised restoration, the word of the text is that despite the experience of destruction and the difficulty of return, Jerusalem will again flourish and be renewed.

Psalms 36:5–10 praises the height, depth and breadth of God's loyal, loving kindness.

1 Corinthians 12:1–11

Paul writes about the different experiences that members within the Corinthian community have of the Holy Spirit. Acknowledging that people experience the outworkings of their faith differently, Paul points to the unity in this diversity. The key is that the gift and experience of the Spirit is for the sake of the common good.

John 2:1–11

This story recounts the first sign or miracle recounted by the gospel of John. At a wedding in Cana, at the behest of his mother, Jesus turns water into the very best of wine.

Theme Focus

'To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.' ~ 1 Cor 12:7

As we open the first letter to the church in Corinth, we reflect on how our encounters with God awaken our gifts and passions, urging us to work together for the common good of all.

Word for the Day

Epiphany refers to an appearance of the divine, an encounter with God. Today's passage from the letter of Paul to the church in Corinth makes us wonder about how the Corinthians encountered and experienced the Spirit of God among them.

Responding to a question or situation that we are not privy to, Paul encourages the Corinthians to celebrate and use their diverse encounters with God and the gifts and passions this calls out of them. Each member of the community seems to express their encounter with the God of Jesus a little differently. Paul suggests that the experience of God's gracious and steadfast love leads some to wisdom, compassion, speaking truth, discernment, prayerfulness, listening and more, each understood as unique gifts from God's Spirit. Paul seeks to emphasise that when such qualities are called out of Jesus' followers because they have encountered God they ought to be gifts that build up the community and lead to flourishing. In other words, from their difference, these gifts are to be shared and used for the common good.

Ideas for Reflection

- A famous quote by Frederick Buechener says, 'The place God calls you to is the place where your deep gladness and the world's deep hunger meet.' Do you find this quote helpful or unhelpful? Why?
- How do you understand some of the different gifts that Paul describes?
- What might it look like for our encounter with God to be seen tangibly in the 'common good,' not just for ourselves or our community of faith but for all our neighbours and neighbourhoods?

DAY OF MOURNING Introduction

19 January 2025

In 2024 the Uniting Church in Australia and the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress (UAICC) joyfully celebrated 30 years of a covenant relationship under God. Made in honesty about our history and sustained by hope for the future, the Covenant has been a guiding light in our journey towards a more just Church and nation.

Woven together by threads of love, faith and a vision for God's justice and healing, we have chosen to walk together as First and Second Peoples, sharing in joy and sorrow on the journey to reconciliation.

In this spirit of commitment, we are invited to observe the Uniting Church **Day of Mourning** on this Sunday 19 January

Now in its fifth year, the *Day of Mourning* was established by the Assembly in 2018 at the request of the UAICC, building on Congress' legacy of prophetic leadership including the creation of Congress itself and the Covenant. This day expresses our deep desire that truth, justice, healing and hope will shape our life as First and Second Peoples all across this vast southland.

For countless generations before colonisation, First Peoples lived in this ancient place, custodians of its lands, skies, and waterways. They cared for creation with profound wisdom and harmony, sustained by the Spirit of God who was always present with them.

The brutal settlement of these lands now called Australia devastated the oldest living culture on earth. Since that time First Peoples have known forced intervention, genocide, dispossession, incarceration, the loss of language, culture, family and story. The great wounds at the heart of our nation will remain unhealed until we can reckon with the full truth of our history.

As Second Peoples from many lands, we must understand how we continue to benefit from grave injustices of the past and present.

The *Day of Mourning* asks us to listen deeply and learn humbly, and bear one another's burdens. It is a moment to receive the outstretched hand of friendship offered in grace and hope, and to trust in Jesus, whose reconciling love continues to mend the brokenness within and among us.

The same ancient Spirit of God which has always been present in these lands has given us 'a destiny together' as the body of Christ in this time and place. This is also a day to celebrate survival and the immense gift we have in each other, giving thanks for the transformative and boundless love of Christ which holds us.

As the President of the Uniting Church in Australia and National Chairperson of the UAICC, we pray that the roots of our covenant will grow deep into the soil of truth and friendship and grow new shoots of justice and healing for our Church and nation.

May the blessing of God - the Ancient of Days, Jesus, the embodiment of justice, and the Spirit, the eternal animator of Creation - be on us and remain with us.

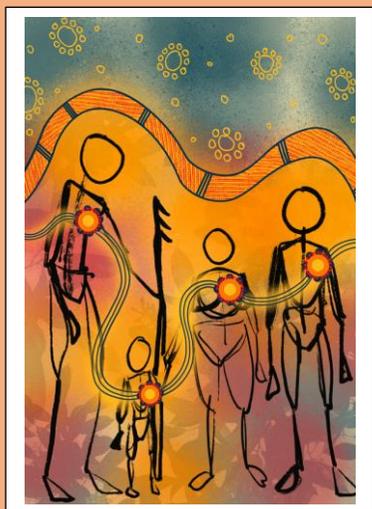
Grace and peace,

Rev Charissa Suli /

President Uniting Church in Australia

Rev Mark Kickett /

National Chairperson Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress



Artwork by Zoe
Belle, Guwa Koa
and Kuku Yalanji
woman

Planning Ahead

- 20th January 2025 Storehouse returns; orders for food parcels taken
- 22nd January 2025 first food parcels distributed
- 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.

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 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

26th January @ 10am

Epiphany 3

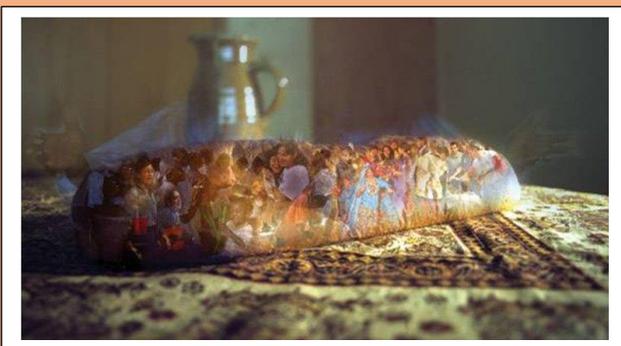
Proclaim Freedom

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**



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