



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.*

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**

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 + 4

Jeremiah 1:4–10 recounts the story of Jeremiah’s call to prophetic ministry. It focuses on God’s promised presence with Jeremiah as he steps into this role.

Psalm 71:1–6 is a declaration of trust in God and a prayer for help derived from this trust. The psalmist names God as their hope, strength, and refuge from the time of their birth until the time of utterance.

1 Corinthians 13:1–13

This well-known and loved passage is St Paul’s reflection on the qualities of love. Love is patient, love is kind, and the greatest quality of all is love.

Luke 4:21–30

Having read from the prophet Isaiah in the synagogue, Jesus connects his own work with proclaiming ‘the year of the Lord’s favour’ Jubilee. This creates conflict between him and some of those who hear him. For this passage to make sense, it needs to be read in conjunction with the verses before, which were read last week.

Theme Focus

‘The Lord’s word came to me...’ ~ Jer 1:4

As we hear Jeremiah’s call to build and plant and Paul urging the church in Corinth to embody love, we reflect on how God calls us today to pursue justice, build community, and express love in ways that heal and transform.

Word for the Day

Paul's reflection on the nature of love is very well known. Let's consider the context into which Paul is writing. This is not written to a community that is getting on well but to a community that is finding it difficult to be together. In this context, Paul describes a way of living that he believes in unmatched. He urges the community to work together, striving to create a common life where characteristics of love are borne out – even in this community that is experiencing conflict. I wonder what characteristics best express love within your faith community and within the wider contours of your neighbourhood? What conflicts call out for the embodiment of justice-making? What grief requires comfort and presence? How will your community live into this call to 'pursue love' (Corinthians 14:1)?

Ideas for Reflection

- Where have you heard this passage read? Does reflecting on the conflict within the Corinthian church change your understanding of the passage?
- African American theologian Cornell West says, 'Never forget, justice is what love looks like in public.' What do you make of this?
- What does it mean for your community to be called to love?

The prayer of St Teresa of Avila

Christ has no body on earth but yours,
No hands, no feet on earth but yours,
Yours are the eyes with which He looks
Compassion on this world,
Yours are the feet with which He walks to do good,
Yours are the hands, with which He blesses all the world.
Yours are the hands, yours are the feet,
Yours are the eyes, you are His body.
Christ has no body now but yours,
No hands, no feet on earth but yours,
Yours are the eyes with which he looks
compassion on this world.
Christ has no body now on earth but yours.



Celebrate the Chinese New Year today with our friends from the Table Tennis Group.

Share food with them for lunch from 11:30am.

(It is not easy to have the courage to stand up for the love of God in the world ...)

Words from Bishop Budde to Donald J Trump, 47th President of the United States of America.

In the name of our God, I ask you to have mercy upon the people in our country. ... The people who pick our crops and clean our office buildings, who labor in poultry farms and meatpacking plants, who wash the dishes after we eat in restaurants and work the night shifts in hospitals. They may not be citizens or have the proper documentation, but the vast majority of immigrants are not criminals. They pay taxes, and are good neighbors. They are faithful members of our churches and mosques, synagogues, gurdwara and temples. I ask you to have mercy, Mr. President, on those in our communities whose children fear that their parents will be taken away, and that you help those who are fleeing war zones and persecution in their own lands to find compassion and welcome here.

What Budde did wasn't just taking advantage of an opportune encounter with the commander in chief. What she did was something she was obliged to do as a disciple of Christ preaching the Christian message. She gave a human face to those who, in the approach of a heartless administration, are a faceless group, shamefully maligned and made into a national scapegoat. They have become the new enemy, the inhuman "other" upon which our social ills and anxieties have been heaped.

If a Christian leader in her pulpit, addressing a president who voluntarily placed himself in that sacred space, cannot speak out of the heart of the Gospel, then we might as well turn our cathedrals, basilicas and other houses of worship into museums.

President Donald Trump and Vice President JD Vance spent months ginning up inordinate fear among immigrant communities and exploiting the lies beneath that fear for political purposes. Trump has pardoned

violent criminals who attempted an insurrection. He has been celebrated by crude racists and those who would endanger the LGBTQ community.

If Budde had not addressed those fears and begged for mercy, the service would have been, at best, a disingenuous engagement and, at worst, an act of fraud and cowardice.

It is gratifying then to know that, in addition to Budde, there is a growing chorus of Christian leaders condemning Trump's intended mass deportations and his insistent lies that the immigrant population is made up mostly of criminals.

Pope Francis, in an unusually blunt assessment, called Trump's mass deportation plans "a disgrace." Cardinal Robert McElroy, the newly appointed archbishop of Washington, warned earlier this month that an indiscriminate mass deportation program would be "incompatible with Catholic doctrine."

Archbishop Timothy Broglio, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and head of the Archdiocese for Military Services, included additional elements in his critique: "Some provisions contained in the Executive Orders, such as those focused on the treatment of immigrants and refugees, foreign aid, expansion of the death penalty, and the environment, are deeply troubling and will have negative consequences, many of which will harm the most vulnerable among us."

Bishop Mark Seitz of El Paso, a Texas diocese on the border with Mexico, issued a lengthy condemnation of Trump's plans, saying they "deeply affect our local community and raise urgent moral and human concerns."

The Department of Homeland Security's decision to permit immigration raids in schools and churches "strikes fear into the heart of our community, cynically layering a blanket of anxiety on families when they are worshipping God, seeking healthcare, and dropping off and picking up children at school," Seitz said.

(Opinions/reporting from the National Catholic Reporter) in the USA.

Planning Ahead

- 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
- 16th & 23rd February 2025 Deok Hee on annual leave

Please pray for ...

The mission and ministry of our congregation and for our Minister, Deok Hee and Wynne Cheng as they make links to the Chinese community.

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 Richard and family on the death of his father, 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. 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

9th February 2025 @ 10am

Epiphany + 5

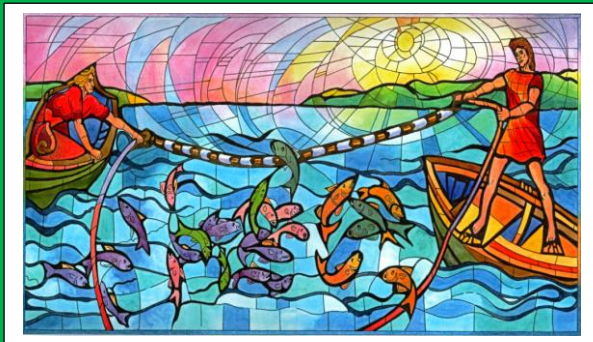
Push out into the depths

Leader Deok Hee

Reflection Deok Hee

Holy Communion Deok Hee

**Isaiah 6:1–8, (9–13); Psalm 138; 1 Corinthians 15:1–11;
Luke 5:1-11**



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**