



**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.*

**9<sup>th</sup> 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**



**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 for Epiphany + 5**

### **Isaiah 6:1–8, (9–13)**

God summons and sends Isaiah, whole and holy.

### **Psalm 138**

God increases the strength of our souls, caring for us in the face of our struggles.

### **1 Corinthians 15:1–11**

We are what we are - gracious participants in God's resurrection movement.

### **Luke 5:1–11**

Jesus opens up new storylines in Simon Peter's life, inviting him to push out into the depths to discover who he is becoming.

## **Theme Focus**

As Jesus called Simon Peter to push out into deeper waters, we too are summoned to step beyond our doubts and discomfort, trusting God's guidance and daring to participate in God's dream for the world.

## **Word for the Day**

The whole episode in this passage begins with Jesus' words for Simon Peter to push out into the depths. What happens following this point inaugurates a new storyline in Simon Peter's life – a storyline that draws him beyond the limitations of his own imagination alongside barriers of fear

and unworthiness. Jesus reveals who Simon Peter is becoming. Simon Peter's life will no longer simply be about *him*. Now Simon Peter is about *life*.

This is the big transformation that happens in human lives when we encounter Jesus' summons and invitation to push out into the deep. This is the God-life in all of us. We are always being summoned to push out into the depths – often in ways that will make us feel uncomfortable, that will touch our sense of inadequacy, our shortcomings, our doubts, and our fears. But this same God-life-in-us will also touch our spirit of adventure, our joy, our mysterious sense of the possible against all odds.

To push out into the depths is profoundly challenging and vulnerable. Luke's jubilee vision (Luke 4:15–21) will involve great and risky acts of love. It will pull us into unlikely movements of solidarity, generosity, and forgiveness. This God-life-in-us transforms the very ground beneath our feet. But like those who have gone before us, we may well catch ourselves, by the whiff of God's Spirit within us, uttering the most daring thing we can say: 'Yet if you say so...'

### **Ideas for Reflection**

Jesus hops into one of the boats and asks Simon Peter to put the boat out a little way from the shore. Jesus needs his help. Jesus needs his considerable sea-and-boat skills so he can address the crowds from his boat-pulpit. Simon Peter is side-by-side with Jesus, controlling the drift of Jesus' boat. Because of Simon Peter's skilful activity, Jesus can hold the attention of the crowd and reel them in with his imaginative and life-giving words.

*You are invited to reflect on your various skills, qualities, experiences, and capacities. How might these bring aliveness into the world?*

Peter's encounter with Jesus shapes what he knows of God and also what he understands about himself.

*Reflect on the stories and experiences from your own lives that have altered your storylines about God and yourselves.*

Jesus asks Peter to push out into the depths.

*Reflect on what this might have meant in your own experiences.*

- What are your “Yet if you say so...” experiences?
- What might it mean at this time of your life?
- What risk or vulnerability might be part of these experiences?
- In what way might joy or excitement be part of your experiences?

Here is a song we sing to help in your reflections on this theme ....

**Deep within my heart, I feel  
voices whispering to me.  
Words that I can't understand;  
meanings I must clearly hear.  
Calling me to follow close,  
lest I leave myself behind,  
calling me to go into  
evening shadows one more time.**

***So I leave my boats behind,  
leave them on familiar shores.  
Set my heart upon the deep,  
follow you again, my Lord.***

**In my memories, I know  
how you send familiar rains  
falling gently on my days;  
dancing patterns on my pain.  
And I need to learn once more,  
in the fortress of my mind  
to believe in falling rain  
as I travel deserts dry.**

***So I leave my boats behind,  
leave them on familiar shores.  
Set my heart upon the deep,  
follow you again, my Lord.***

**As I gaze into the night,  
down the future of my years,**

I'm not sure I want to go  
past horizons that I know.  
And I need to learn once more,  
like a stirring deep within,  
restless 'til I live again  
beyond the fears that close me in.

*So I leave my boats behind,  
leave them on familiar shores.  
Set my heart upon the deep,  
follow you again, my Lord.*

Words and music: Frank Andersen, MSC.

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### Instructions

1. As you quietly read the poem, try to let your mind drop into your heart as you quietly read the poem. You might like to start by centering on your breath.
2. Read the poem through more than one time.
3. Notice what arises in you as you read each time.

This is intended to be a way of entering into the scriptural themes in a contemplative way – not unlike how one might engage in a *lectio divina* process.

### **Blindsided**

based on Luke 5:10–11

He saw something we didn't notice  
tired after fishing all night  
catching nothing.

'Have another go', he said.  
We did and our nets were full.  
He saw something in us too.

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**Following on from the story last week about the Bishop of Washington DC and her request to Donald trump – a reaction from the Uniting Church Assembly.**

**"We stand with you in unwavering solidarity."**

**President of the Uniting Church in Australia Rev Charissa Suli has written in solidarity and support to the Right Rev Dr Mariann Budde, Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Washington.**

**"Many of us grieve the unjust criticism you have faced for speaking truth to power particularly from those who should be heeding your call to love and mercy. Yet we rejoice in your steadfast witness, knowing that those who walk in the way of Christ have always faced opposition by those for whom Jesus' liberating mission is a threat to their power. Your courage, integrity, and unwavering commitment to the Gospel is an inspiration to us all."**

## Planning Ahead

- 16<sup>th</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2025 Deok Hee on annual leave
- 19<sup>th</sup> February 2025 Storehouse MC meeting 4pm @ Kogarah
- 13<sup>th</sup> March Church Council Meeting
- 27.03.2025 Worship Task Group meeting @7pm via Zoom

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, Henry as he recovers from appendicitis, Dennis and Robyn Lyons, Brian and Rhonda, Prema and Priya, Bobbie and the extended family in their time of loss, Denis and Dolly, Naghuia, 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**  
**16th February 2025 @ 10am**  
**Epiphany + 6**  
**Gathered at the Level Place**

**Leader Richard**

**Reflection Richard**

**Jeremiah 17:5–10; Psalm 1; 1 Corinthians 15:12-20; Luke 6:17–26**



**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