



The Uniting Church in Australia
KOGARAH UNITING CHURCH

30

16th March 2025

Lent 2

***We welcome people of all cultures and
lifestyles,
We create a safe place for the community
We share the journey of life and faith.***

Fear in the Wilderness

Leader Robert

Reflection Deok Hee

**Genesis 15: 1–12, 17–18; Psalm 27; Philipians 3:17—4:1;
Luke 13:31–35**



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 Lent 2

Genesis 15: 1–12, 17–18

God makes a covenant with Abram that he will have a son who will provide descendants as many as the stars in the sky. God also promises that the land before Abram will belong to these descendants.

Psalm 27 is a prayer of praise to God, who is the psalmist's light and salvation. The prayer continues with a cry to God for protection in times of trouble and the desire to trust in God.

Philippians 3:17—4:1

Paul pleads with Philippians to follow his example and remain faithful to the message of the risen Christ.

Luke 13:31–35

The Pharisees warn Jesus that he should flee because Herod wants to kill him. Despite the threat, Jesus remains committed to his ministry.

Theme Focus

As we witness Jesus facing the threat of death from Herod and modelling how to live from a place of love and purpose rather than fear, and as we see Abram trusting God despite his fear of an uncertain future, we are encouraged to hold our own fears with love and trust in God's presence.

Word for the Day

We live in fearful times. Television, print media, and electronic news sources report grim reminders that our world is a dangerous and unpredictable place. Natural disasters, systemic violence, domestic abuse, war, famine, and all manner of atrocities take place each day.

- Fear is a perfectly natural emotion designed to help us recognise danger and respond appropriately, but this healthy emotion can turn into an unhealthy response that leads to aggressive or inappropriate behaviours.
- Fear can hold power in our lives. The world of advertising takes advantage of our fears in order to convince us we need their product, and people in power can threaten our safety leading us to live cautious lives – our fears of failure, inadequacy, or being worthy limit the amazing things we might do.

In this week's gospel, the Pharisees come to warn Jesus of Herod's intent to kill him. There is a good reason to believe that this is very possible, as John the baptiser's death would have been fresh in their minds. Perhaps the Pharisees in this story were motivated by fear, and these good people desired to help Jesus. Or maybe they were trying to trap Jesus in order to get rid of him. We can't know their motivations.

What we do know is how Jesus responded. Jesus had good reason to be afraid. No one would have blamed him for acting out of fear and protecting himself. But Jesus is focused on his mission and on God's agenda rather than humankind's illusion of mastery and control. Even though it may have been difficult for him to bear the rejection of so many beloved people, Jesus is on a mission and will not be deterred by the fear he may have felt inside. Jesus shows us, by example, that the antidote to fear is faith; faith born out of a deep love for his God and for all people.

Ideas for Reflection

In the Harry Potter stories a boggart is a shapeshifter that takes the form of the person's worst fear. As part of their education, the students of Hogwarts practice evoking their patronus, which will overcome the boggart (fear) and allow them to move forward with courage. All of us have a boggart, a deep fear.

- **What is your deep fear in life?**
- **As children of God, we have our own 'patronus' – our faith. When you are faced with your fears, how do you call upon God's presence to reassure you and help you move forward?**
- **How might we learn from the way others express their faith and handle their fears**

Poetry as a Contemplative Practice

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.)

TELL THAT FOX © B.D. Prewer 1993

The fox-men on this stage
think they pull the strings
and make the puppets dance
at the whim of kings.

But the foxes are the fools
trapped in their dis-ease,
they do an anxious dance
as their ego decrees.

The dove-souls of this age
who lust not for the strings,
the meek, the poor, the pure
are real movers of things;
freeholders in a realm
which no fox-man can own,
where grace is on the wind
and no one walks alone.



A Blessing for today ...

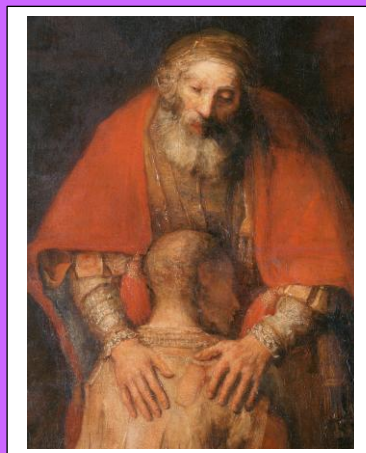
May God's sheltering wings,
her gathering wings protect you.

May God's nurturing arms,
her cradling arms sustain you.

And hold you in her love,

And hold you in her love.

by Judith Snowdon, from More Voices, United Church of Canada, Woodlake
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Lenten Bible Studies

Fridays @ 10:30am @ Kogarah UC

- 3 March 21: Hope amid the Chaos (Belinda Groves)
4. March 28: Confident Hope (Safina Stewart)
5. April 4: Hope in Suffering (Rev Jason Forbes)
6. April 11: Eternal Hope (Naomi Wolfe)
7. April 18: (Good Friday) (No study)

Each study is separate, so come when you can. If you miss a study go to this website : <https://www.commongrace.org.au/lent> and you can catch up.



Celebrate @ The Storehouse on March 17 from 11-2.

Song, Dance and Food from our Multicultural Community.

Planning Ahead

- **17th March Harmony Day @ The Storehouse**
- **27th March Worship Task Group meeting @7pm via Zoom**
- **29th March Chinese Health Seminar (Shoulders & Elbows)**
- **30th March Yum Cha with Table Tennis Group after church. \$10 cost**

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 and Dorothy especially as they travel back to Africa

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, 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; 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 and the countries of Europe. Sudan.

Next Sunday

23rd March 2025 @ 10am

Lent 3

Thirsty in the Wilderness

Leader Deok Hee

Reflection Deok Hee

Holy Communion Deok Hee

**Isaiah 55:1–9; Psalm 63:1–8; 1 Corinthians 10:1–13;
Luke 13:1–9**



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**