



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.

1st June 2025 @ 10am

Easter Seven – A World Transformed

Leader Dinah

Reflection Deok Hee

Acts 16:16–34; Psalm 97; Revelation 22:12–14, 16–17, 20–21;

John 17:20–26



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

Acts 16:16–34

Paul and Silas' steadfast faith and trust during the earthquake not only frees them but deeply influences the jailer, whose life is transformed by their witness. The theme of personal and communal liberation is woven through the other readings for this week.

Psalms 97 celebrates the righteousness and justice foundational to God's reign, assuring believers of God's just governance. This psalm resonates with Revelation's vision of a new era, where God's rule is characterised by fairness and righteousness, encouraging hope.

Revelation 22:12–14, 16–17, 20–21

Revelation closes with an invitation to embrace new life and freedom through the 'water of life,' offered by the alpha and omega. This vision of God's imminent return reinforces the certainty of God's promises, and the gift of life grounded in God's eternal presence.

John 17:20–26

Jesus' in this portion of his 'high priestly prayer', prays for the unity and love of the faith community, linking divine relationship to human connection. This unity, grounded in love, mirrors the community's call to embody the transformative power of God's reign, as seen in Revelation's vision of a renewed world.

Theme Focus

As we conclude the six-week journey through The Psalms and Revelation, we are invited to embody the hope, justice, and renewal of God's reign, living as Easter people in a world yearning for transformation.

Word for the Day

Revelation 22:12–14, 16–17, 20–21 proclaims that Jesus is coming back soon. The writers of the New Testament believed that Jesus was returning soon, and this influenced much of their theology. Psalm 97 can be heard as a celebration of God's coming to earth, too. Although the writer of the psalm probably did not envisage God's coming in the same way the New Testament writers did. This can lead us to ponder how we see God's involvement in earthly affairs, both now and then. It might also lead us to wonder what God's reign of justice, peace and love looks like.

Ideas for Reflection

- The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all (Revelation 22:21). What does Jesus' grace look like in today's world?
- Why is it important that Jesus is the root and descendant of David? If we understand David as the 'father' of the Psalms, how might we understand the relationship between Jesus and the Psalms here? Or between Jesus and David?
- The description of God as Alpha and Omega reminds us that this text was written for a Greek audience. What other elements of the text remind us of the culture behind the text? How does this influence what we understand is being said?
- We are invited to participate in the new realm by receiving life-giving water offered as a gift. How do our actions and attitudes embody the hope, justice, and renewal of God's reign in our world today?
- Revelation 22:15, 18 and 19 have been left out of this week's lectionary readings. Why do you think they were left out? How does it change our understanding when we add these verses back in?



National Reconciliation Week 2025 – May 27 – June 3

The Theme - Bridging Now to Next

celebrates the connection between the past, present, and future, inspiring us to build a brighter and more united Australia.

Reconciliation is a journey filled with opportunities to learn, grow, and work together. While challenges may arise, these moments remind us of the power of resilience and connection. By staying engaged, we can create meaningful change.

Bridging Now to Next invites all Australians to move forward with hope and determination, guided by the lessons of the past and the promise of the future.

Together, we can:

- * Champion the rights of First Nations peoples.**
- * Stand up against racism and injustice.**
- * Elevate and celebrate the voices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Let's take steps toward a shared future grounded in truth, respect, and equity.**

26 May is National Sorry Day. On Monday we remembered and acknowledged the mistreatment of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who were forcibly removed from their families and communities, which we now know as 'The Stolen Generations'.

The first National Sorry Day was held on 26 May 1998, one year after the Bringing Them Home report was tabled in Parliament. This landmark report was a result of a national inquiry into the separation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children from their families throughout the 20th century. It marked an important step in truth-telling and included comprehensive recommendations for healing and justice.

But nearly three decades later, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children are still 10.8 times more likely than non-Indigenous children to be removed from their families.

According to the Healing Foundation's 2025 report – *Are you waiting for us to die? The unfinished business of Bringing Them Home* – only 6% of the report's original recommendations have been clearly implemented.

We acknowledge and support the ongoing work of the Healing Foundation and all those who continue to address the intergenerational trauma in families and communities caused by the forced removal of children. There is still work to be done.

✦ Visit The Healing Foundation to learn more and read their latest report:
<https://healingfoundation.org.au/>

✦ Read Family Matters report via SNAICC-National Voice for our Children
<https://www.snaicc.org.au/.../child-and.../family-matters/>

(This article was posted on the Kogarah Storehouse Facebook page last Monday)

Reconciliation Prayer

Holy Father, God of Love, You are the Creator of all things.

We acknowledge the pain and shame of our history
and the sufferings of Our peoples,
and we ask your forgiveness.

We thank you for the survival of Indigenous cultures

Our hope is in you because you gave your Son Jesus to reconcile the world to you.

We pray for your strength and grace to forgive, accept and love one another, as you love us and forgive and accept us in the sacrifice of your Son.

Give us the courage to accept the realities of our history so that we may build a better future for our Nation.

Teach us to respect all cultures.

Teach us to care for our land and waters.

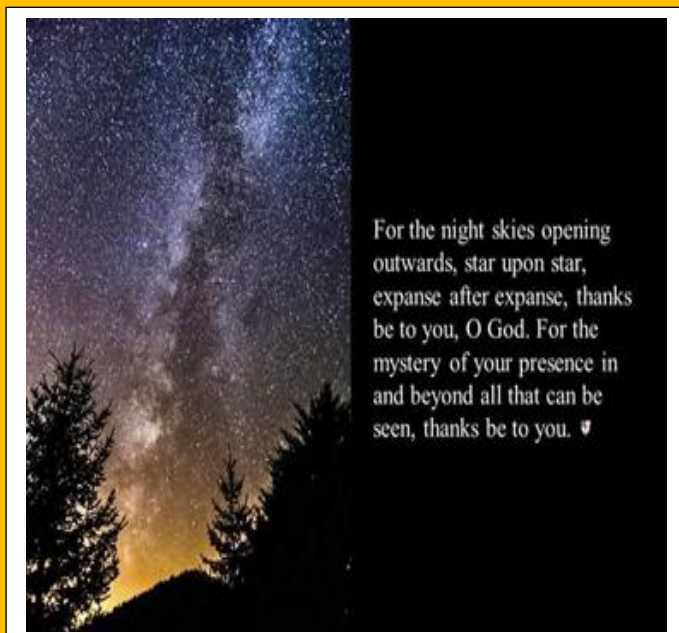
Help us to share justly the resources of this land. Help us to bring about spiritual and social change to improve the quality of life for all groups in our communities, especially the disadvantaged.

Help young people to find true dignity and self-esteem by your Spirit.

May your power and love be the foundations on which we build our families, our communities and our Nation, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Wontulp Bi-Buya Indigenous Theology Working Group 13 March 1997
Brisbane, Qld).**

(Picture below posted on Jamberoo Abbey's Facebook page)



Planning Ahead

- **6th June Study of Stan Grant's book *Murriyang – Song of Time* at Bobbie's over lunch. Bring a sandwich. We hope to start around 11:30am. Pages for discussion:**

At the beginning: A gift (not numbered)

Murriyang p 223

Babiin p237

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. The team, parents and children in the Early Learning Centre.

Those who are sick, sad or lonely:

We pray especially today for Dennis and Robyn Lyons, Brian and Rhonda, Prema and Priya, Denis and Dolly, Naghuia, Peter and Sue; Dinah; Ern Edwards; Jim Bird, Cindy, Dorothy, Sue B. 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

8th June 2025 @ 10am

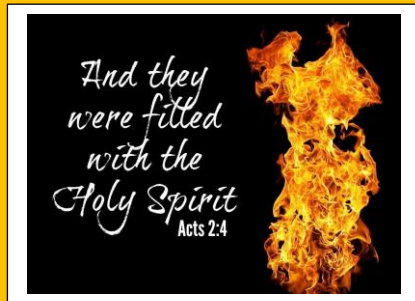
Pentecost - A Spirit of Understanding

Leader Deok Hee

Reflection Deok Hee

Holy Communion Deok Hee

**Genesis 11:1–9; Psalm 104:24–34, 35b; Acts 2:1–21, 16–17,
20–21; John 14:8–17, (25–27)**



Church Council 2024-2025

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Safe Church Contact Person

Richard Goodman