



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.**

15th June 2025 @ 10am

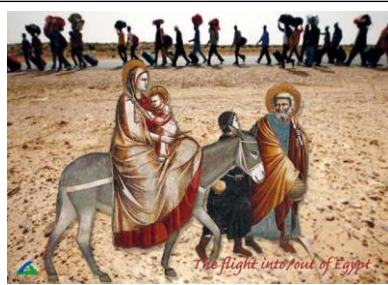
Trinity Sunday - Encountering the Divine
Refugee Sunday

Leader Robert

Reflection Deok Hee

Proverbs 8:1–4, 22–31; Psalm 8; Romans 5:1–5;

John 16:12–15



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

Proverbs 8:1–4, 22–31

The writer of Proverbs introduces us to creativity, joy, and supportive relationships in the person of Wisdom. This feminine figure reminds us of the Spirit of God active in creation, and of Christ the Word.

Psalms 8 also invites us to reflect on the wonders of creation, earthly and heavenly. The sense of awe moves us to consider our role as humans in this amazing world. Recognising that we are neither divine nor animals, the writer asks how we even find a place in the Divine consciousness.

Romans 5:1–5 reminds us that even though our experience of living in the world may include suffering along with wonder, our relationship with God is one of peace. This peace is an undeserved gift of God that offers us hope for the future.

John 16:12–15

Jesus has a close relationship with God and the Spirit, a relationship beyond the experience and comprehension of his close friends and followers. He promises that in time, for them and for us, the Spirit will bring a fuller grasp of what is true and a deeper understanding of who God is.

Theme Focus

On this Trinity Sunday, we are invited to step beyond definitions and enter a place of discovery where we may encounter the Divine in our experiences of wisdom, truth, and love.

Word for the Day

Today is known as Trinity Sunday when the church has traditionally focussed on God as 'Three-in-One'. For the Jewish faith, 'God is One God' has always been a basic tenet of belief. As part of their daily prayers, Jews recite the Shema which affirms the oneness of God. After Jesus' death and resurrection, his followers increasingly recognised God in Jesus' life, ministry, and teaching. Through the activity of the Holy Spirit in their lives, they also came to acknowledge the reality of God present among them. How could they affirm the presence of God in each of these experiences of the divine?

The early church tried to explain God in terms of Greek philosophy of the day and referred to the Persons of the Godhead: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Since the rise of feminist theology, the exclusively masculine imagery of God has been challenged; God is also described as Creator/Earth-maker, Pain-Bearer/Redeemer, and Life-Giver/Comforter/Sustainer. Which of these do we use most often? Which are helpful? Which other names might we use to describe these aspects of God's being?

This week's readings from Proverbs and John are among the few in scripture which mention all three persons of the Trinity within a single verse or two. Both refer not only to the activity of the Godhead in different ways, but also to the close, loving, and supportive relationship between them. Daniel Migliore refers to God as 'other-affirming, self-giving, community building God of love' (Daniel L. Migliore. *Faith Seeking Understanding*. Eerdmans, 1993).

How can we move from trying to define—and thus limit—the different persons of the Triune God to expanding our understanding, so that we embrace and participate in God's varied and far-reaching activity in the world? Early Christian theologians used the concept of a dance—a divine dance, *perichoresis*—to describe how the persons of God indwell and make room for one another. How does this change our understanding of the nature of God?

Ideas for Reflection

- How can the different relationships for a person be helpful in understanding God?
- Explore the images for God: water experienced as ice, liquid, vapour; a person in relationship as mother – wife – daughter – the same person experienced differently.

- How important is it for you to affirm the Christian belief in the trinitarian nature of God? Why?
- How would you describe God to someone who comes from a background with no understanding of the divine?
- Think of the characteristics and qualities you believe that God has and the names you use to address or refer to God. Which are most important to you now?

Wisdom's call

based on Proverbs 8:1–4, John 16:13

*At the crossroads and beside the way, hear the voice of understanding,
raise wisdom's call. Proverbs 8:1–2*

At the top of my steps
there is a gate I hear click.
I listen for the knock.
The visitor watches for the door to open.

It is like
manuhiri waiting at the waharoa, or
the aboriginal welcome to country.

When we engage
is it in a spirit of truth?
Is the agenda twisted?
Does the Apple carry a worm?

When we talked
he never looked me in the eye.

The digital portal expands my world.
Who is at the door it opens?

There is a lot of hate and greed,
I listen to great music,

hear some wise voices,
ignore the trivia.

I hold close those I love.
I knock at their hearts.

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2025

manuhiri (visitors) and
waharoa (entrance/gateway
to a marae).

Refugee Week 2025

Sunday 15 June to Saturday 21 June

2023-2025 Theme: Finding Freedom

What does it mean to be free? To live without the fear of war, to have your basic human rights upheld, to live in equality and without the fear of persecution are just some of the examples of what freedom can entail. Every day millions of people across the world embark on dangerous journeys for the sole purpose of finding safety and freedom. From Australia to nations across the globe, settling into a new environment after experiencing the perils of a refugee's journey can also provide the opportunity to live, to love and to dream.

Why does Refugee Week have a theme? Our theme helps raise awareness of the issues affecting refugees. It aims to highlight aspects of the refugee experience and help the broader community to understand what it is like to be a refugee.

2025: Finding Freedom: Diversity in Community

In 2025, the theme Finding Freedom will focus on Community and explores the important role community bonds play in refugees' lives.



 **Refugee
Week**

16 – 22 June 2025

Kogarah Uniting Church – Notice of Church Council Elections

The elections for KUC CC will be held in conjunction with the KUC Annual Congregational Meeting on July 13

These are the current members of KUC CC and the year when their current term ends.

Church Councillors

Robert McAlpine (2026) Continuing

Susan Baglin (2025)

Dinah Roepers (2025)

Elders

John Baglin (2025)

Richard Goodman (2027) Continuing

Bobbie Miller (2025)

The continuing members of Church Council are Robert McAlpine and Richard Goodman.

The remaining members are due to retire. If you wish them to continue in their roles, you will need to nominate them. They may agree to stand for a 1-, 2- or 3-year term.

Also, feel free to approach other members of the congregation you feel have gifts to offer either as a member of church council or as an elder.

Where applicable

Nomination forms are now available, and may be handed in to Richard at any time until **Sunday June 22.**

**You are invited to attend the memorial service
for**

Brian Chamberlain

At 10:30am on Thursday 19th June 2025

Planning Ahead

- o June 15 and 22 - Dates for receiving nominations for Church Council**
- o June 29 and July 6 - Dates for advertising nominees for Church Council**
- o July 13 2025 - Date of AGM and Elections**
- o July 20 Possible date for the Commissioning of new Church Council**

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, Rhonda and family on the death of her husband Brian, 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

Welcome back Yamini and Margaret. It was great to see you again!

Next Sunday
22nd June 2025 @ 10am
Breaking Boundaries, Building Community

Leader Richard

Reflection Richard (Deok Hee is on a course)

1 Kings 19:1–4, (5–7) 8–15a; Psalms 42 & 43; Galatians 3:23–29;

Luke 8:26–39



Church Council 2024-2025

Chair
Secretary
Treasurer
Councillors

Richard Goodman
Sue Baglin
John Baglin
Robert McAlpine (2026)
Sue Baglin (2025)
Dinah Roepers (2025)
John Baglin (2025)
Bobbie Miller (2025)
Richard Goodman (2027)

Elders

Safe Church Contact Person

Richard Goodman

(The Rev Matt Wilson will lead us in worship next week (29.06.2025) It is Deok Hee's rostered day off.)