



**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.**

**29th June 2025 @ 10am**

## **Breaking Boundaries, Building Community**

**Leader Rev Dr Matt Wilson**

**Reflection Matt Wilson**

**Holy Communion Matt Wilson**

**(Deok Hee is on his rostered day off)**

**Matt will be using these readings from last week for his service.**

**1 Kings 19:1–4, (5–7) 8–15a; Psalms 42 & 43; Ephesians 2:19-22  
Luke 8:26–39**

**Readings for this Sunday**

***Journey into Greater Love***

**2 Kings 2:1–2, 6–14; Psalm 77:1–2, 11–20; Galatians 5:1, 13–25;  
Luke 9:51–62**

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 Deek Hee on  
0401 975 745.

## Scriptures

### **2 Kings 2:1–2, 6–14**

Elijah ascends in a whirlwind into heaven. Elisha becomes swept up into a different kind of whirlwind—the invitation and challenge to carry forward Elijah’s mantle and to follow in the great traditions of liberation like those who have gone before.

### **Psalm 77:1–2, 11–20**

The psalmist cries out in desperation and is carried by memories and vivid images of God’s delivering love.

### **Galatians 5:1, 13–25**

The Holy Spirit produces beautiful fruit in our lives that allows us to take our place in God’s freedom-bringing love.

### **Luke 9:51–62**

Jesus both invites and challenges potential followers to reckon with what it means to take one’s place in God’s dream for greater peace, love, reconciliation, and unity.

Jesus invites potential followers to reckon with what discipleship really means.

## Theme Focus

As Jesus shows us what following truly means, and Paul spells out the shape of life led by the Spirit, we are invited to step beyond what feels safe and familiar into a way of being shaped by love, freedom, and the Spirit’s leading.

## Word for the Day

How is it that we might move beyond tribalism and division to take our part in God's dream for a renewed and reconciled world? Jesus in Luke 9:51–62 departs and relinquishments we must reckon with as part of following God into the ways of peace:

### **Letting go of judgement and condemnation (vv. 51—56):**

Jesus' followers react with hostility to the poor reception they receive from the Samaritan villagers. Jesus rebukes them. Jesus asks his followers to embrace instead the risky, go-the-extra-mile way of embracing outsiders and enemies.

### **Letting go of ease and the need to remain close to the centre (vv. 57—58):**

A would-be follower approaches Jesus and claims that they will follow him wherever he goes. Jesus does not hide what they would be in for. Jesus is the homeless one, the one who suffers outside the city gate for the sake of a greater wholeness (Hebrews 13:12).

### **Letting go of mere acceptance of the life script of the broader culture (vv. 59–60)**

Jesus encounters another along the road who responds to Jesus' call by requesting to first go and bury his father. Kenneth Bailey suggests that man was referring to a son's traditional duty to remain at home and care for his parents until they are laid to rest respectfully (Bailey, K. *Jesus Through Middle Eastern Eyes: Cultural Studies in the Gospels* [2008])

Jesus responds by saying, 'Let the dead bury their own dead.' Jesus' call outweighs family obligations and cultural norms and cannot be postponed until we've got it all together: the time is always now.

### **Letting go of external validation and approval (vv. 61–62)**

The third person Jesus encounters along the road tells Jesus that he will follow but wants to go and say goodbye to his family first. It is unlikely that this man is simply saying goodbye to his family. More likely, he is returning home to those who wouldn't just let this potential disciple wander off on some questionable enterprise. These are those external voices, those external expectations. Joining Jesus on the road is a call to be misunderstood at times, maybe even to disappoint important people.

Jesus, if we are willing, will guide us beyond the old divisions and the normal securities our lives are often grounded in. These encounters offer us windows into what it looks like to live into greater peace, love, reconciliation and unity.

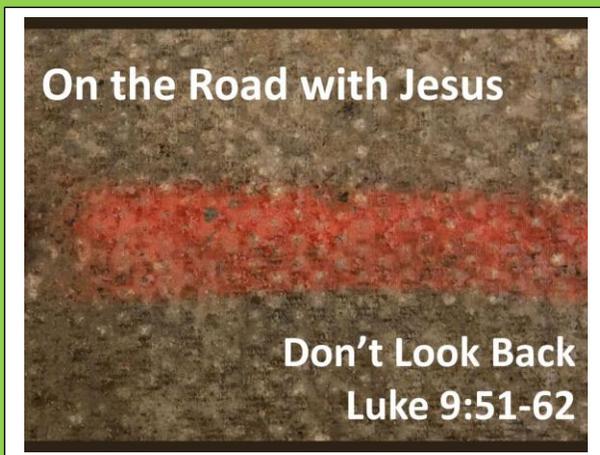
## Ideas for Reflection

You might like to invite to explore themes like:

- The stories of 'Us' and 'Them' and how natural it is to want to retaliate when we are hurt by others
- The pull of comfort, safety and security (emotional, financial, relational, etc.) in our lives
- The cultural/life scripts, hopes or expectations our lives are grounded in (i.e the 'Australian dream', etc.)
- The ways our lives are influenced by the expectations and pressures of others in our lives
- In reflecting on the episode with the third would-be disciple (vv. 61-62), Dietrich Bonhoeffer says:

*The trouble with this would-be disciple is that at the very moment he expresses his willingness to follow, he ceases to want to follow at all. By making his offer on his own terms, he alters the whole position, for discipleship can tolerate no conditions which might come between Jesus and our obedience to him'* (The Cost of Discipleship, 1995, p.61)

You might like to reflect on the challenges inherent to this quote.



*First Steps, Brancaster*

The first verse of a poem by Malcolm Guite (Malcolm was recovering from a broken leg)

This is the day to leave the dark behind you

Take the adventure, step beyond the hearth,

Shake off at last the shackles that confined you,

And find the courage for the forward path.

You yearned for freedom through the long night watches,

The day has come and you are free to choose,

Now is your time and season.

Companioned still by your familiar crutches,

And leaning on the props you hope to lose,

You step outside and widen your horizon.

*And from the Galilee Song*

Vs3 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 till 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.*

***The Galilee Song***

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Thursday & Friday

3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> July 2025

# Unity in Diversity Festival

at The Kogarah Storehouse

11am - 2.30pm

Charity Market Bazaar

*bargains galore*

Performances

By: Storehouse Community Groups

Light  
Refreshments  
Provided



KOGARAH UNITING CHURCH  
THE KOGARAH STOREHOUSE

16-18 GRAY ST, KOGARAH NSW 2217



Supported by Georges River Council's Community Grants Program

## Planning Ahead

- **June 29 and July 6 - Dates for advertising nominees (see below) for Church Council**

Sue Baglin	Councillor 2 years	Bobbie Miller	Elder	3 years
Joshua Chang	Councillor 1 year	John Baglin	Elder	1 year
		Dorothy Makasa	Elder	1 year

- o **July 13 2025 - Date of AGM and Elections**
  - **July 17 2025 - Worship Task Group @ 7pm via Zoom**
- o **July 20 Possible date for the Commissioning of new Church Council**
  - **August 7 2025 Kogarah Church Council @ 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 and volunteers at the Storehouse. 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

**Next Sunday**

**6<sup>th</sup> July 2025 @ 10am**

**Resting in God**

**Leader Dinah**

**Reflection Deok Hee**

**2 Kings 5:1–14; Psalm 30; Galatians 6:(1–6), 7–16;**

**Luke 10:1–11, 16–20**



**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**