



**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.**

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

**Pentecost 4 Proper 9**

**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**



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

### **2 Kings 5:1–14**

A young girl shares with her captives where surprising restoration can be found.

### **Psalms 30**

Though weeping and distress are part of the human experience, the psalmist celebrates the way that God brings restoration, joy, and healing to our lives.

### **Galatians 6:(1–6), 7–16**

Paul urges the Christians in Galatia to be active in bringing restoration. To bear one another's burdens is to fulfil the law of Christ.

### **Luke 10:1–11, 16–20**

Jesus sends out the seventy-two ahead of him in pairs. Jesus teaches them that there is joy in recognising we belong to God.

## Theme Focus

As we listen to the witness of a young girl and the returning disciples, we are invited to step beyond striving for significance and rest in the deep peace of knowing our identity is found in God's gracious choosing, calling, and sending.

## Word for the Day

The story of the sending of the seventy-two is ultimately a story of grace. In pairs, the disciples go ahead of Jesus to every town and place where he was able to go. In the end, the seventy-two return with immense joy, celebrating that even the demons submit to them in Jesus' name (v. 17). Jesus tells them that he saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven and tells them about how he has given them authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy. Nothing with harm them! (vv. 18–20)

Imagine the sense of power, importance, and specialness that might quickly have swept over the disciples! But then Jesus adds this: 'Nevertheless, do not rejoice at this, that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven'. (v. 20).

The message seems to be that we are not special because of the spectacular things we can do. You're not valuable because the crowds are screaming your name. Your validation has nothing to do with popularity, power, or performance. You don't need to strive for any kind of cosmic significance—you already have it. It is freely given by God and is bound up in God's loving-kindness. Your specialness isn't found in searching for something you don't have. It comes from being found by God. By accepting that you are accepted. By receiving and opening your life to the love God has for you. 'Rejoice that your names are written in heaven'.

This is why followers of Jesus can be a people at ease, people who can give their lives as an offering to the world, a people who can extend peace and not be rocked or deterred by how they might be received by others (v. 5). This is a peace that can withstand hurt or rejection, that won't turn bitter or land us on the back foot. This is a peace that carries us forward without the old needs for acceptance and affirmation.

Unless we embrace our significance in this way, we will always be searching for it elsewhere. Our immense significance isn't something taken or claimed; we can only receive it. The fullness of life comes to us as gift. Peace finds its source in God. As Paul Borgman tells us, 'If you "rejoice that your names are written in heaven" there is no identity issue on earth left for you to be anxious about.' (Paul Borgman, *The Way According to Luke: Hearing the Whole Story of Luke-Acts*, p.86). We don't go looking for this kind of peace; we carry it within us.

## **Ideas for Reflection**

Jesus says to his disciples, 'Go on your way; I am sending you out like lambs into the midst of wolves'. (v. 3)

- How might we understand the meaning of what he is saying here?
- What comes to mind when we think of lambs? (helpless? gentle? a sacrificial animal sent out as an offering for the sake of the world? something else?)
- What comes to mind when we think of wolves? predators or consumers? something else?)
- How might Jesus' vision for peace demand a reorientation of our dominant consumer ethic? (i.e., being sent out as offerings rather than consumers?)
- The disciples are sent out not as solo-workers but in pairs. They go into people's homes and share meals. What does this say to us about how peace comes?
- How might this text point to a shift from a performance-oriented identity to a graced-oriented (or participatory) identity?
- What kind of security or joy does this provide us as people of God?
- What might the significance of this be in terms of being a people who carry peace into the world?

## ***A world in need of radical love***

***by Gershon Nimbalker from Common Grace***

***My daughter turned two this week, a milestone she's been proudly broadcasting to anyone within earshot. She's fierce (sometimes terrifyingly so), full of life, laughter, and boundless joy. Like children so often are, she's also a powerful, constant reminder of why our work matters - why we keep showing up, keep raising our voices, and keep praying and acting for a world where all children, all people, and all creation can flourish as God intends.***

***Because right now, that better world feels urgently needed.***

***In recent weeks, we've witnessed intensifying violence in the Middle East, including U.S. airstrikes on Iran's nuclear infrastructure - actions taken without the backing of the international community, international law or demonstrated evidence of their need. These actions have sat alongside deepening crises in Gaza, Lebanon, Ukraine, Sudan, and beyond. These aren't isolated tragedies; they're symptoms of a world unravelling, struggling to uphold even the most basic principles of peace, accountability, and restraint. At a time when the need for a just, rules-based***

*international order has never been clearer, it is instead being undermined - and often by countries that Australia considers its allies. At the same time, the climate crisis continues to unfold with growing ferocity, and more people than ever before are being displaced, crying out for refuge, safety, and welcome.*

*Journeying through National Reconciliation Week and into NAIDOC Week here in Australia has been uplifting, but also a reminder that as a nation there is so much work we need to do to reconcile our modern national story with the ancient truths of this land.*

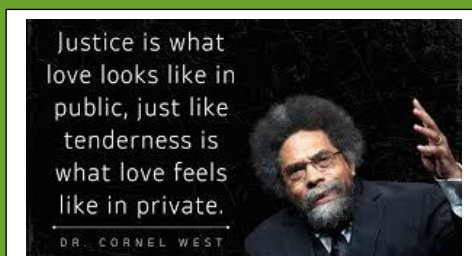
*In each of these crises, it feels that children too often bear the deepest scars.*

*The need to be a people who heed the call of Jesus, and inspire others to do the same, feels as crucial as it ever has. In the face of the temptation to give in to fear, to believe that might is more important than mercy, to demonise others while sanctifying ourselves, Jesus calls us to view all people through the lens of His radical love. A love that reaches across the boundaries of kinship, country, and comfort. In the Parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37 – next Sunday's Gospel reading), Jesus shatters the idea that neighbourliness can be limited by ethnicity or allegiance. In the Parable of the Sheep and the Goats (Matthew 25:31-46), He reminds us to see His face in the face of anyone in need.*

*Every person is created with divine worth. Every person is worthy of love—even those we might be tempted to consider our enemies.*

*This is the love we are called to live out - not just personally, but politically. As Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. said, "Justice is love correcting everything that stands against love." Or as Cornel West puts it, "Justice is what love looks like in public."*

*At Common Grace, we believe this kind of love can shape a better future. Thank you for being part of this movement - shaped by Christ, centred in love, grounded by hope and acting for justice and a world where all people and all creation can flourish as God intends.*



## Dear Inner Circle, (shared by Jim Bird)

In this strangely cold weather, it doesn't take much to warm the heart. The mornings often provide some much-needed laughter. Occasionally someone launches into me mid-sentence, and this morning was no exception. I was being berated for some choice I had made musically, but also being reassured that it wasn't as terrible as had just been insisted seconds before. The others who overheard wished me a good morning with the raise of an eyebrow.

I was then stopped in my tracks by a gentle giant—one who has been in and out of prison for most of his life. He pulled me aside: "You know what keeps me going?" He was busy pulling on some ill-fitting shoes as his long, freshly showered hair swished when he looked up to fix me in his gaze. "I once read that there are plans for me, ones that have a future with hope. That gets me through today and will hold me for tomorrow. You ever read that one before, Rev?" His soft eyes and tender smile immediately melted away the winter despair in my heart.

Then another lady grabbed me—one I hadn't seen for a few years. She was dropping off some warm clothes to our very grateful front desk. We shared a cup of tea and some updates. She told me how, having been at rock bottom herself at times, she never, never gave up. It was the generosity and love shown by total strangers that got her through. She spoke tenderly of her now simple and beautiful life, full of reward, with her family back in her presence. She reminded me that if there's ever value in hitting rock bottom, it's learning that tomorrow can always bring new hope.

She told me how earlier in the morning she had picked some winter flowers, placed them in an empty jam jar, and sat gently on the edge of her daughter's bed, catching her last moments of blissful sleep before she woke for school. What a gift, what a morning—so much better than her old life of waking up and looking for belonging by "shooting up" to keep the loneliness at bay. She's now in a much softer place, no longer in her old underworld of prostitution and gangsters, trying to be part of their world, instead she is gently reconstructing one of her own.

They say that comparison is the thief of joy—but after this morning, I'm not so sure. Comparing to others is a misery, but there's deep value in comparing to past versions of ourselves. It made me think: 'Am I a better person than I was

three years ago?' Well, you're certainly a little greyer and rounder, mate.' Sometimes there's an abundance of gold available here, and all before 9:30 in the morning!

Thank you my Inner Circle, so many of you are strangers to the people I am so lucky to share life with, yet it is through your generosity that Wayside gets to keep opening our doors to keep hope alive for another day,

**Jon**

**Rev. Jon Owen CEO & Pastor The Wayside Chapel**



**A Prayer for discernment from the Laudato SI Movement**

**Loving Creator,**

**As I begin this new day,**

**I ask for the grace to pay attention.**

**As I make decisions throughout the day,**

**Open my heart to remember that the ultimate  
goal of my life**

**Is to be in a loving relationship with You,  
myself, my neighbor, and the Earth.**

**When I call to mind this purpose,**

**I am more easily able to discern the**

most loving action to take,

The next right step.

As I come to a crossroads during the day,

Help me to be a “contemplative in action”

By pausing to notice my feelings and to

remember the purpose of my life.

As I make a decision, I ask myself,

“What will bring about more love?”

“Which option will help create a world

of abundant life?”

“What supports right relationship?”

Encourage my dreams for this world.

Expand my imagination beyond what I

currently believe is possible

As we co-create a future where all life can

flourish.

Amen.

Author: Originally written in English by Brenna Davis

**(This statement applies to the explanation of the  
NAIDOC Week artwork later in this News Sheet)**

Above them is the essence of the land they live and protect/care for. It is a depiction of my home the cold skies of Tenterfield with the swirling clouds and giant moon, a place around the fire is where the next Generation find their strength, vision and legacy.



## Planning Ahead (Note changes to Election schedule)

- **July 6 - Advertising nominees (see below) for Church Council**

Sue Baglin      Councillor 2 years

Joshua Chang      Councillor 1 year

Bobbie Miller	Elder	3 years
John Baglin	Elder	1 year
Dorothy Makasa	Elder	1 year

- **July 13 2025 – Service with Dennis and Robyn**
- **July 17 2025 - Worship Task Group @ 7pm via Zoom**
- **July 20 2025 - AGM and Elections**
- **July 27 2025 - Possible commissioning of Elders/ Councillors**
- **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



Thank you to @ashambihapahar and @zhi\_soon for bringing together representatives from the Chinese-Australian community in Sydney's southern suburbs.

I always value the opportunity to hear from local leaders about the issues affecting their communities and what we can do together to ensure the strength of the diverse Australian society. **Penny Wong**

*Lala and Russell were present at the gathering. This shows the standing of the Storehouse in our community.*





# 6-13 JULY 2025



**THE NEXT  
GENERATION:  
STRENGTH,  
VISION &  
LEGACY**  
4-13 JULY 2025

Ancestral Lines by Jeremy Morgan Worroll

This artwork is a visual representation of the generational lines that carry through my life. When I think of the next generation, I think I know my ancestors—Lucy Wright, Joseph Wright, Henry Wright—through to my Nanna Aubrie and my Mother Vanessa. Looking back gives me the strength and vision to look forward. Each figure in the painting is tied to family lines, the songlines, and looking at what they have done and what they passed on. The first represents Lucy Wright and looking at her second reflects her son, Joseph, and the third shows the first of the two children, while the first two carry unfinished elements—symbols of knowledge and care in motion. Above them sits the essence of Country—swirling seeds and a giant moon over immovable. It is by the fire, under these cool stars, where the next generation finds their strength, vision, and beauty.

#NAIDOC2025 #BLAKLOUDPROUD

The third is when we see the two combine into one, and the last two take unfinished elements of them all, to show the passing down of knowledge and care.

**Next Sunday**

**13th July 2025 @ 10am**

**Pentecost 5 - Proper 10**

## **Love Overcomes Divisions**

**Amos 7:7–17; Psalm 82; Colossians 1:1–14; Luke 10:25–37**

**Leader: Deok Hee**

**Reflection: Deok Hee**

**Holy Communion: Deok Hee**



THIS WEEK'S GOSPEL LESSON

**LUKE**  
**10:25-37**

The Good Samaritan  
by Rembrandt (1606-1669)

### **Church Council 2024-2025**

**Chair**  
**Secretary**  
**Treasurer**  
**Councillors**

**Elders**

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

**Safe Church Contact Person**

**Richard Goodman**