



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.**

13th April 2025 @ 10am

Lent 6 – Palm/Passion Sunday

Last steps on the journey

Leader Deok Hee

Reflection Deok Hee

Holy Communion Deok Hee

Psalm 118:1–2,19–29; Luke 19:28–40 (Palm Sunday)

Isaiah 50:4–9a; Psalm 31:9–16; Philippians 2:5–11

Luke 22:14–23:56 or Luke 23:1–49 (Passion Sunday)



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 Palm/Passion Sunday

Palm Sunday

Psalm 118:1–2,19–29

There are several well-known verses in this psalm, which is traditionally associated for the Jewish people with Passover and for Christians with Palm Sunday. Its sense of praise and victory invites us to ask how we can affirm God's supportive presence during our Lenten journey this year and add our voice of thanksgiving.

Luke 19:28–40

We often imagine that Jesus' entry into Jerusalem was a major event in the city that day. Still, Dominic Crossan suggests that it could have been a minor happening while Pilate, flanked by troops, was entering by another gate to show the might of Rome. Even as he describes the enthusiastic welcome of Jesus from the crowd, the gospel writer notes the theme of rejection by the religious authorities and prepares us for what lies ahead for him in Jerusalem.

Theme Focus

God bless the one who comes in the name of the Lord! ~ Psalm 118:26

We join with the crowds and shout our praises as we follow Jesus on the path of living in God's way of self-giving love and wonder what courage is needed to stay on this path with Jesus.

Word for the Day

Lent nears its end and with it, our intentional journeying inward. We have tried to follow Jesus in his commitment to God's way, whatever the cost, and now the events of Palm Sunday bring a change of pace. We are invited to wear a 'garment of praise'.

Whatever our age and stage, it is not difficult to envisage crowds of enthusiastic people welcoming a man on a donkey. We may be able to picture the borrowed beast of burden, the hurried preparation of the disciples and the excited crowds, ready to shed their cloaks in honour of the leader they hope will bring them victory over the Roman invaders.

We may also see the dust rising from the stony path, damped down by rough coats and palms; we may imagine the face of Jesus, set on the path ahead and yet noticing the reaction of those around him. Some wear robes of self-righteousness.

Do we also see Jesus' resolve to stay on that path of suffering, servant leadership where there is no easy victory? Can we sense his love for this city and its people who have been called to be witnesses of God's love and compassion? Do we notice the growing tension as the religious leaders try to stifle the welcome offered to the one who comes in God's name? Do we have the courage to stay on this path with Jesus?

Ideas for Reflection

- How do you best express your praise to God? If you wore a 'garment of praise', what would it look like, and when might you put it on?
- How have you experienced God's love and compassion in your own life? How would you witness this to others?
- When do you find your own faith journey most tested and challenged?
- How has your understanding of following Jesus grown through this Lent and Palm/Passion Sunday?

Passion Sunday

Liturgy of the Passion

Isaiah 50:4–9a

Psalm 31:9–16

Philippians 2:5–11

Luke 22:14–23:56 *or* Luke 23:1–49

Theme Focus

As we hear the Passion story, we are invited to reflect on Jesus' journey and how it resonates with the vulnerability and pain in our own lives, finding strength and hope in following him through Holy Week.

Steps along the way - a form of the *Stations of the Cross*

- 1. The cloak of obedience**
- 2. The garment of grief**
- 3. The garment of humility**
- 4. The cloth of generous provision**
- 5. The cloak of true service**
- 6. Cloak of false courage**
- 7. The garment of suffering prayer**
- 8. The cloak of betrayal**
- 9. The cloak of denial**
- 10. The cloak of false accusation**
- 11. The cloak of contempt**
- 12. The cloak of condemnation**
- 13. The garment of suffering**
- 14. The curtain of separation**
- 15. The shroud of burial**

**Follow the Way, the way of the Cross,
go where the footsteps lead,
follow the way of sorrow and loss,
love is its crime and creed.**

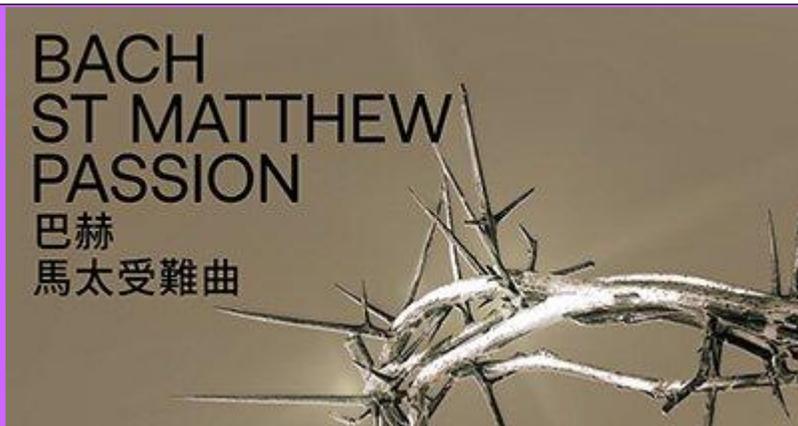
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Palm Sunday

Now to the gate of my Jerusalem,
The seething holy city of my heart,
The saviour comes. But will I welcome him?
Oh crowds of easy feelings make a start;
They raise their hands, get caught up in the singing,
And think the battle won. Too soon they'll find
The challenge, the reversal he is bringing
Changes their tune. I know what lies behind
The surface flourish that so quickly fades;
Self-interest, and fearful guardedness,
The hardness of the heart, its barricades,
And at the core, the dreadful emptiness
Of a perverted temple. Jesus come
Break my resistance and make me your home.

Malcolm Guite from *Sounding the Season* Canterbury Press





Come and watch the Netherlands Bach Society's performance of J. S. Bach's St Matthew's Passion on Good Friday after church.

Hot Cross Buns

St Matthew's Passion Part 1 (Sung in the original German with clear English subtitles)

Lunch – bring a sandwich

St Matthew's Passion Part 2

Each part lasts about an hour. We'll watch it in the church.

Planning Ahead

- 15th May Kogarah UC Church Council @ 7pm via Zoom
- 22nd May Worship Task Group @ 7pm via Zoom
- 27th April – 4th May Life & Witness with Georges River Presbytery – More details to come

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 for Dennis and Robyn Lyons, Brian and Rhonda, Prema and Priya, Denis and Dolly, Naghuia, Peter and Sue; Dinah; Ern Edwards; Jim Bird, Cindy, Sue Baglin. 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.

Services in Holy Week

April 17 Maundy Thursday 7:30pm

April 18 Good Friday 10am with Hot + Buns

April 20 Easter Day 10am * Morning tea followed by St Matthew's Passion

Next Sunday

20th April 2025 @ 10am

Easter Day!

Moving on to New Life

Leader Deok Hee

Reflection Deok Hee

Holy Communion Deok Hee

Isaiah 65:17–25; Psalm 118:1–2, 14–24; Acts 10:34–43

John 20:1–18



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**