



**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.**

**17th April 2025 @ 7:30pm**

## **Maundy Thursday Together at the Table**

**Leader Deok Hee**

**Reflection Deok Hee**

**Holy Communion Deok Hee**

**Exodus 12:1–4, (5–10), 11–14; Psalm 116:1–2, 12–19;**

**1 Corinthians 11:23–26; John 13:1–17, 31b–35**



**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 Maundy Thursday**

### **Exodus 12:1–4, (5–10), 11–14**

God gives specific instructions to Moses and Aaron on how to conduct the first Passover. It is then emphasised that this is a day to be commemorated as a festival each year.

### **Psalm 116:1–2, 12–19**

The psalmist declares their thanks to God for all the goodness they have experienced in life. In return, the psalmist proclaims loyalty to God and says they will call upon the name of the Lord.

### **1 Corinthians 11:23–26**

Paul speaks to the Corinthians about the importance of the Lord's Supper and recalls the words of Jesus during the meal.

### **John 13:1–17, 31b–35**

Knowing that he would soon face his own death, Jesus is gathered with his disciples for a meal. He radically chooses to wash the disciples' feet, which is met with protests from Peter. After predicting Judas' betrayal, Jesus exhorts the disciples to love one another as he has loved them.

## **Theme Focus**

As Jesus washed his disciples' feet and commanded them to love one another, we are invited to reflect on Jesus' servant example and commit to acts of love and humility in our daily lives.

## Word for Maundy Thursday

The readings for today are more about action than word. Jesus did not say many words around the table. It was his actions, the washing of the disciples' feet and the sharing of a meal that we remember and reenact. Sometimes our worship is very full of words, and it can be uncomfortable to be quiet together and simply be with one another, serving each other, and sharing in table fellowship. This is the challenge as we begin the journey through this Easter weekend.

Exodus 12:1–14 also reminds us of the importance of ritual actions to remember who we are as people of God. The instructions given to the Israelites in how to celebrate the Passover have been remembered and reenacted for centuries. At the table together, Jewish people have recalled this story over a meal – remembering God's saving grace. Today, we, too, remember God's saving grace in the person of Jesus. We recall his last meal with his friends, the way he washed their feet and demonstrated how to put their love into action.

### Ideas for Reflection

- How is a change in worship style challenging for you?
- Are we able to be a worshipping community that sits around a table, looking each other in the eye and sharing deeply?
- What is it like to allow others to wash your feet?
- What is it like to wash the feet of another?
- Would you rather run away? Or can you sit with the discomfort of the intimacy?



**17th April 2025 @ 10am**

## **Good Friday Reflecting in the Shadows**

**Leader Deok Hee**

**Reflection Deok Hee**

**Isaiah 52:13–53:12; Psalm 22; Hebrews 10:16–25 or Hebrews 4:14–16;  
5:7–9; John 18–19**



### **Scriptures for Good Friday**

**Isaiah 52:13–53:12** is the last of the well-known Servant Songs. Both Jewish and Christian scholars have puzzled over the identity of the servant described by the prophet. Was it himself? Or the nation? Some other leader or prophet? As there are many parallels with the accounts of Jesus' suffering and death, for many Christians this speaks of Jesus.

#### **Psalm 22**

The gospels of Matthew and Mark both include these words from the opening verse of this psalm in Jesus' words from the cross. The psalmist uses such strong language to capture the depths of human suffering and rejection that we feel drawn into the pain. There is also an underlying trust in being vindicated and in God's purposes being fulfilled.

## **Hebrews 10:16–25 or Hebrews 4:14–16; 5:7–9**

In ancient times, the sacrifice of an animal was seen as offering an atonement for wrongdoing, and the worshipper could walk away in a right relationship with his god. The writer of Hebrews sees Jesus' death as a sacrifice but one so perfect it was only offered once. Today, we relate less well to the image of blood sacrifice, but we can try to interpret the meaning of Jesus' death in terms of our contemporary understandings.

## **John 18–19**

In John's gospel account of Jesus' arrest, trial and death, there is a strong interplay between the human authorities working through their laws and agendas and that of a divine purpose that political and religious leaders do not acknowledge. Interspersed within the debate are the human responses: Peter's resort to the use of a sword followed by his own need for warmth/comfort and anonymity; Pilate's resolve to release an innocent man that weakens under pressure; Jesus' care for his mother; his thirst; Joseph and Nicodemus' care for Jesus' body. The garden offers us a sanctuary in which we, too, can rest after the disturbing story of a violent death.

### **Word for the Day**

Good Friday, Jesus on the cross and the crucified Christ are central parts of our faith, yet also the day that forces us to face difficult questions: what did Jesus' death mean for his followers? What does it mean for me today? The question can divide us theologically; but it can also invite us into deeper understanding and renewed commitment. There have been many levels of meaning given to Jesus' death; Good Friday offers the opportunity to engage with some and explore new depths.

- If we understand Jesus' death as atonement for sin, our response may be penitence.
- Was Jesus' death a sacrifice? If so, we may feel guilt or, gratitude, or a mix of both.
- Jesus called his disciples to follow him to Jerusalem, suggesting his self-giving life offers us an example; our response may be a renewed commitment to practise Jesus' way in our lives.
- The account of Jesus' trial and death confronts us with violence and injustice – we may have experienced violence and injustice in our own lives or in those close to us; we may react with anger as we consider the violence and injustice that continue in the world.
- Some see Jesus as an innocent victim; these terms could be a trigger for any who have experienced trauma. Yet knowing that

Jesus was innocent can be freeing for those who feel guilt in the face of abuse.

- (David Tombs – *The Crucifixion of Jesus: Torture, Sexual Abuse, and the Scandal of the Cross*, <https://onscript.study/podcast/david-tombs-the-crucifixion-of-jesus-torture-sexual-abuse-and-the-scandal-of-the-cross/>)

**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**



## Scriptures for Easter Day

**Isaiah 65:17–25** God speaks, declaring the creation of a new heaven and a new earth. All that is past will be forgotten and a new age begins where people will be blessed and live together in harmony.

**Psalms 118:1–2, 14–24** is a psalm of thanksgiving for God's love and mercy. The psalmist speaks of God's power and answers to prayer and calls on the community to celebrate and be thankful.

**Acts 10:34–43** Peter recalls the story of Jesus' death and resurrection, emphasising that the message of Christ's resurrection is for everyone. Peter tells the people that they are the ones chosen to tell others about Jesus.

**John 20:1–18** Mary Magdalene discovers Jesus' tomb empty and runs to tell the disciples. Peter and another disciple hurry to the tomb and confirm her report. After they depart, Mary stays, weeping. Two angels appear, asking why she weeps. She asks about Jesus' body. Then, the risen Jesus appears and tells Mary not to hold on to him.

### Theme Focus

On this Easter Day, we hear Jesus' words to Mary, 'Do not hold on to me', calling us to let go of the past and embrace the new life found in the risen Christ and inviting us to step boldly into transformation and hope.

### Word for the Day

One way to understand the Easter mystery is as an ongoing truth and a pattern by which we understand the seasons of our spiritual lives. Those who have been travelling this path for a while will know that there are times that are bleaker and more like Good Friday. In these times, we can feel lost, despairing and like we have hit a standstill. When people come across these times, it can be like entering a tomb. The place that can become a resting place, a place to close our eyes, drift away and sleep. It is like the womb. We are safe, released from the responsibility of making choices and the struggle of trying to remain hopeful and faithful. The temptation to overstay in the tomb is very real. To remain observers of the resurrection rather than participants is the easy option.

The disciples were in this same space on Easter morning. They come looking for Jesus among the dead, only to find his body is gone. The risen Christ appears to Mary, and although she would like to take hold of him, he insists she does not. The disciples would like to rewind three days and

have things the way they were when Jesus was among them, but now they must move forward into a new way.

The reading from Isaiah today speaks of a brand-new world, a new way of being. See, I am making all things new. The former things will not be remembered. The old things are forgotten because remembering them will either weigh us down with all our old experiences of pain and failure or will slow us down because we remember how wonderful things were and long for them. In either case, we are being pulled backward, our attention drawn to a past that is dead and needs to be entombed. It is when we allow the past to remain there in the tomb – as we step away – that we can begin to find out what God has in store for us.

### **Ideas for Reflection**

It is not easy to come out of the tomb – to rise up and live. There really is something brave and daring about stepping out and choosing to embrace a new life of faith and hope.

As we learn not to hold on to what was but to trust in the mysterious power of resurrection, what is it you need to let go of and surrender?

What are you carrying from your 'old life' that holds you back from living a resurrection life?





### XV Easter Dawn

He blesses every love which weeps and grieves  
And now he blesses hers who stood and wept  
And would not be consoled, or leave her love's  
Last touching place, but watched as low light crept  
Up from the east. A sound behind her stirs  
A scatter of bright birdsong through the air.  
She turns, but cannot focus through her tears,  
Or recognise the Gardener standing there.  
She hardly hears his gentle question 'Why,  
Why are you weeping?', or sees the play of light  
That brightens as she chokes out her reply  
'They took my love away, my day is night'  
And then she hears her name, she hears Love say  
The Word that turns her night, and ours, to Day.

A sonnet by Malcolm Guite from *Sounding the Season*, Canterbury Press,  
written March 31, 2024 - 5:56 am



## **Planning Ahead**

- **15<sup>th</sup> May Kogarah UC Church Council @ 7pm via Zoom**
- **22<sup>nd</sup> May Worship Task Group @ 7pm via Zoom**
- **27<sup>th</sup> April – 4<sup>th</sup> 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 especially today for Richard and family, Henry as he recovers from appendicitis, Dennis and Robyn Lyons, Brian and Rhonda, Prema and Priya, Bobbie and the extended family in their time of loss, Denis and Dolly, Naghuia, Peter and Sue; Dinah; Ern Edwards; Jim Bird, Cindy, Sue Baglin, Dorothy. 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.**

**Good Friday after the Service and Hot Cross  
Buns**

**Watch Bach's St Matthew's Passion in the  
church**

**Bring some lunch to eat at Interval**

**Next Sunday**  
**27th April 2025 @ 10am**

**Easter Two**

**Lifted in Praise**

**Leader Richard**

**Reflection Deok Hee**

**Acts 5:27–32; Psalm 150; Revelation 1:4–8;**

**John 20:19–31**



**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