



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.**

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



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

Acts 5:27–32

Peter and some other apostles testify before the Jerusalem council about Jesus.

Psalms 150

These six verses of Psalm 150 encourage the listener to praise God with a variety of instruments.

Revelation 1:4–8

The writer describes a vision of heaven, filled with precious gemstones, thrones, and four mystical creatures.

John 20:19–31

Jesus meets the disciples (except Thomas) in a locked room.

Theme Focus

Together, a psalmist's call to praise and Revelation's mystical vision that lifts our gaze to Christ call us to consider what praise looks like and what is valuable and praiseworthy.

Word for the Day

This week's psalm and the reading from Revelation offer two very different descriptions of praise. One is full of exhortations (words urging us to do something), and the other has a strange description of mythical creatures. How do we understand the difference between these two texts?

Well, they were written at different times, in different cultural contexts, for different audiences and for different purposes. So, how can we think about them together?

First, we recognise the type of writing they are. The psalms are poetry, are liturgical texts and are written in ancient Israel. The ones that survived were chosen because they contributed something to the collection. Even though they are sometimes attributed to David, we don't really know who wrote most of them. Revelation is an apocalyptic work written by 'John' (although it is unclear who this John is) to Christians who are facing persecution from the Roman authorities.

Second, we can look for similar themes or things that are different. We can think about how the two texts make us feel and the ideas they provoke for us.

Third, it is often helpful for us to share the things that we notice and that speak to us in both texts.

Ideas for Reflection

- Revelation records many 'visions' that centre on praising God. Some of these visions might inform our understanding of heaven. What visions of heaven do you have? How is praise incorporated in this vision? Have you experienced any other visions of God?
- The psalms were probably written for worship; however, a worship that looks far different from what we experience today. What place do you think the words of the psalms should have in contemporary worship? What are ways we might include them more fully? Are there reasons not to use them today?
- These texts were written thousands of years ago; how can we intentionally 'mind the gap' between their context and ours?
- What does it mean for you that God is described as 'Holy'? What does holiness look like for you? What does holiness look like in this community or the wider community today? Does everyone agree about what holiness looks like?
- Consider Psalm 1 and Psalm 150. What might these 'bookends' tell us about how to understand the psalms?

Friday 25th April – ANZAC Day

Today, we recall those who,
in the tragedy of war gave their lives for Australia
and those who died for the freedom of all people.

We remember those who found rest on the ridges of Gallipoli;
those who rest in the cemeteries of the great wars;
those who rest in the haze of desert and jungle;
those who rest in the depths of the seas.

We remember those who have fallen in the defence of peace,
on land, in the air and on the sea.

We remember each man, woman and child who has died
so that the light of freedom, justice and humanity may continue to
shine.

Today, as we remember,
we ask God that our praise may be worthy of their sacrifice.



France

A Prayer of Confession for ANZAC Day

God our Father, we hold before you:

those crippled or maimed

in body as well as in spirit,

those who suffer nightmares

that years of peace cannot rub out,

those who cannot or will not forgive.

Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.

God the Son, we hold before you:

those who use the young and old

to wreak havoc and commit unthinkable crimes,

those in a broken world

confused by words of hatred and revenge.

Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.

God the Spirit, we hold before you:

ourselves when we have done nothing

about the wrong all around us,

those who have not forgiven us.

Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.

We repent of all that we have done,

and all we have not learnt from the past.

**We hope for grace to know ourselves forgiven,
and to offer forgiveness to others.**

Amen.

And yet it still goes on ...



From Jamberoo Abbey

Rest in Peace Pope Francis, our brother, our leader, our shepherd, our inspiration. Thank you for the gift and grace of your life and teachings; for your inclusion of all; for your love for your people, especially the poor, the refugee, the marginalised; for your love and care for our Mother Earth; and for your boundless compassion and endless work for peace. May the angels lead you to paradise where you will be raised up with Christ in Easter glory. Alleluia, alleluia!



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 –

The Presbytery Team will be made up of :



Ruth Fyfe



Steve Aynsley



Mat Wilson

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, 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

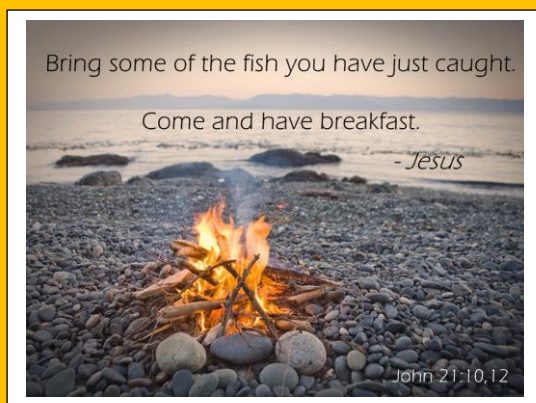
Next Sunday
4th May 2025 @ 10am
Easter Three
Transformed by Worship

Leader Dinah

Reflection Deok Hee

Acts 9:1–6, (7–20); Psalm 30; Revelation 5:11–14;

John 21:1–19



Church Council 2024-2025

Chair
Secretary
Treasurer
Councillors

Elders

Richard Goodman
Sue Baglin
John Baglin
Robert M^cAlpine (2026)
Sue Baglin (2025)
Dinah Roepers (2025)
John Baglin (2025)
Bobbie Miller (2025)
Richard Goodman (2027)

Safe Church Contact Person

Richard Goodman