



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.**

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



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 9:1–6, (7–20)

A great light strikes Saul on the road to Damascus.

Psalms 30

reads like a personal testimony, but the superscription marks it as a 'song for the temple dedication.'

Revelation 5:11–14

is a vision of worship from which we draw some popular liturgical sayings.

John 21:1–19

Jesus instructs Simon three times to look after his sheep.

Theme Focus

This week, the second week of a six-week series looking at the Psalms and Revelation as parallel texts, we are reminded that worship – whether through personal testimony or the heavenly chorus – anchors us in resurrection hope and the enduring call to praise.

Word for the Day

Psalms 30 presents an image of a very personal relationship between the writer and God. Revelation 5:11–14 is a huge, communal worship including millions of angels and every creature in heaven, on earth, under the earth and in the sea. It might be tempting to think that one is worship for introverts and the other for extroverts. It might be that sometimes we appreciate more fully the words of the psalmist and sometimes the writer

of Revelation. This might cause us to think about how we worship, what fits us and what doesn't, and how we might engage differently in worship depending on what we are feeling on any given day.

Ideas for Reflection

- Which picture of worship fits you better – Psalm 30 or Revelation 5:11–14? Do you know others who would choose the other text? What do you find appealing or unappealing about each picture of worship?
- David didn't build the temple, but this psalm has the superscription 'of David.' In fact, many of the psalms carrying the superscription *leDawid* (of David) were probably not written by him. How does this change how we read the psalms? What might the people who developed the superscriptions have been thinking when they chose this title?
- When we use the words of Revelation 5 in worship or sacred song, the word 'slaughtered' is removed. How does this change our understanding? How does the image change when we include or remove this word? What other words in these passages might we be tempted to remove (or add in)?
- Power, wealth, wisdom, might, honour, glory, blessing. This list includes many things that seem to make our lives better. When might asking for these things be a problem? How do we understand God's provision when we don't experience these things in our lives?



Next week we celebrate *Christ the Good Shepherd* ...

One of the most distinctive and sometimes controversial elements of Francis's papacy was his deep and personal friendship with evangelical Christians. His longtime friend Marcelo Figueroa, a Presbyterian pastor and former head of the Argentine Bible Society, recalled to *Christianity Today* that while the pope occasionally sought his opinion on theological matters, their relationship was largely rooted in mutual respect and affection. "Much of our relationship was more personal," said Figueroa.

This openness was reflected in a 2014 speech in which Francis said, "The Holy Spirit creates diversity in the Church. But then, the same Holy Spirit creates unity... a diversity reconciled by the Holy Spirit." The phrase captured the heart of his ecumenical vision—one that was rooted not in uniformity, but in unity across difference.

Francis's humble approach to the papacy was evident from the very beginning. Upon his election, he greeted the crowds in St. Peter's Square not with proclamations, but with humor and a request. "You know that the duty of the conclave was to give a bishop to Rome," he said. "It seems that my brother cardinals went almost to the end of the world to get him." Then, in an unprecedented move, he asked the crowd to pray for him—reversing the traditional dynamic of papal blessing and earning widespread admiration.

That humility was a defining hallmark of his time in office. Evangelist Luis Palau, a fellow Argentine and a longtime friend, once described Francis as "a very Jesus Christ-centred man." While some in the Catholic Church were uneasy about his close relationships with evangelicals, many others saw in it a reflection of Christ's own inclusivity.

His personal commitment to shepherding rather than ruling resonated deeply with many. As YWAM (Youth With A Mission) director Andrés Rodríguez recalled, he once told the future pope that “real shepherds live with their sheep... they’re around them so much they have the same smell.” It was a metaphor Francis embraced wholeheartedly, often describing himself as a shepherd who walked with his flock, not above it.

The world is now mourning the passing of a pope who defied expectations, challenged norms, and embodied a deeply human, pastoral style of leadership. Catholics and non-Catholics alike have expressed their grief and gratitude, remembering a man who took risks for love, extended hands across religious boundaries, and carried the scent of his sheep.

(The above is part of an article you can find in the on-line version of *Insights*.)



Planning Ahead

- 15th May Kogarah UC Church Council @ 7pm via Zoom
- 22nd May Worship Task Group @ 7pm via Zoom
- 4th May Life & Witness with Georges River Presbytery – Congregational Meeting after church today

The Presbytery Team



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

11th May 2025 @ 10am

Easter Four - Good Shepherd Sunday

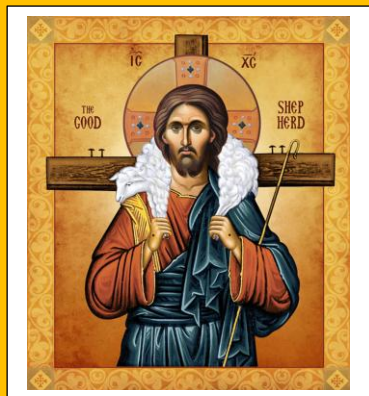
Life-Giving Comfort

Leader Deok Hee

Reflection Deok Hee

Holy Communion Deok Hee

Acts 9:36–43; Psalm 23; Revelation 7:9–17; John 10:22–30



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