



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.**

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



**The cross
from Pope
Francis' tomb
showing the
Good
Shepherd**

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 9:36–43 is the heartfelt story of a beloved woman, Tabitha, who experienced the transformative resurrection power of Jesus. Her life, marked by acts of care like sewing clothes for widows, highlights how everyday acts of love, compassion, care, and comfort can deeply impact a community and inspire new life, even in moments of uncertainty.

Psalms 23 is one of the most beloved and well-known psalms, portraying God as a shepherd who provides care, guidance, and restoration. It reminds us that no matter where we are, there is a life-giving presence and power that leads us to peace and renewal.

Revelation 7:9–17

The community that first received John's vision faced danger and persecution, much like many communities today. This vision portrays a gathering of people from all nations, all robed in white – a colour that contains all colours – united in worship. The Lamb, serving as both leader and shepherd, offers healing, protection, and comfort to all.

John 10:22–30

Jesus compares himself to a caring shepherd, emphasising that his followers know his voice and are secure in his care. This passage reminds us that, regardless of circumstances, we can recognise Christ's presence in and through acts of loving kindness.

Theme Focus

As we hear the psalmist's depiction of the shepherd leading sheep to restful waters and Revelation's image of the Lamb who becomes the shepherd, we are invited to trust in God's care and seek the life-giving water that sustains us in all seasons.

Word for the Day

Today's reading from Revelation is similar to the texts from previous weeks. A range of beings are praising God, including angels, the four living creatures, and others. The assurance in verses 16 and 17 can evoke the same feelings of comfort that are given in Psalm 23. The Lamb in this reading refers to Jesus.

Ideas for Reflection

- Psalm 23 talks about restful waters, and Revelation 7:17 speaks of springs of life-giving water. It also says that 'God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.' How might these images of water connect to God's comfort? How do these images make you feel?
- How does the experience of life described in this psalm correspond to that of the first hearers of Revelation 7:9–17, and how might it resonate with the first Easter community?
- Imagine yourself in the vision described in Revelation 7:9–17. What do you see? What do you hear? What do you feel? When have you felt inspired to praise God nonstop?
- If we take some of these images in Revelation 7:9–17 literally, they don't make much sense. For example, robes washed in blood that become white or the Lamb becoming the shepherd. How do you make sense of this type of imagery? What do you think the author was trying to communicate here?
- The words of Revelation 7:12 have inspired worship songs and liturgies. How many songs can you think of that reference these words? Do you have a favourite? What song might you write?

**Water at
Uluru**



God of creation, gentle life-giver,
present at birth and all through our days;
author of sunrise, song in the night sky –
here in this place, we offer our praise.

Jesus, companion, teacher and healer,
friend of the grieving, suffering, the poor –
stand with your people, whisper among us
promise of mercy, goodness for all.

Spirit of comfort, blow through creation,
stir up new life, breathe peace through our world.

Healer of hearts and hope for tomorrow,
weave all our sorrows into new dawn.

Here we give thanks for life in its fullness,
blessings received, your gifts to us all.

Make us a people, filled with compassion,
selflessly giving, serving your world.

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*At the heart
of matter
is the
heart of God
and the deeper
we move
into the
mystery
of any
created thing
the closer
we come to the
Divine Presence*

Teilhard de Chardin

**Posted on the
Jamberoo Abbey
Facebook Page**

Mothering Sunday

by Malcolm Guite (2020)

At last, in spite of all, a recognition,
For those who loved and laboured for so long,
Who brought us, through that labour, to fruition
To flourish in the place where we belong.
A thanks to those who stayed and did the raising,
Who buckled down and did the work of two,
Whom governments have mocked instead of praising,
Who hid their heart-break and still struggled through,
The single mothers forced onto the edge
Whose work the world has overlooked, neglected,
Invisible to wealth and privilege,
But in whose lives the kingdom is reflected.
Now into Christ our mother church we bring them,
Who shares with them the birth-pangs of His Kingdom.

This poem is from his book [Sounding the Seasons published by Canterbury Press](#) and it is available on [Amazon](#)



Planning Ahead

- 15th May Kogarah UC Church Council @ 7pm via Zoom
- 22nd May Worship Task Group @ 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 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

All Creation Praise ... (next week)



Next Sunday
18th May 2025 @ 10am

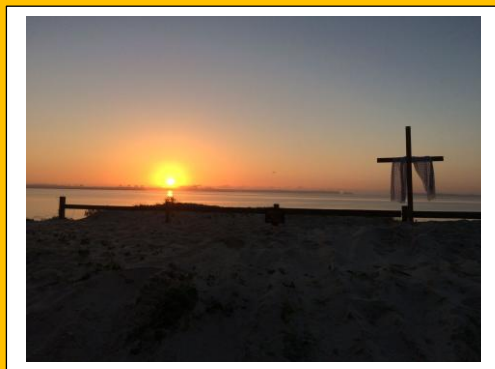
Easter Five -
All Creation Praise

Leader Robert

Reflection Deok Hee

Acts 11:1–18; Psalm 148; Revelation 21:1–6; John 13:31–35

A New Day!



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