

KOGARAH UNITING CHURCH
July 20 2025
PENTECOST 6
Joining in God's Dream for the World

The Gathering of the People of God

WELCOME & GREETING

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ
and the love of God
and the communion of the Holy Spirit
be with you all.

And also with you.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY:

We acknowledge that this land is God's land, and God's Spirit dwells here. We pay our respects to the elders past, present and emerging of the Bidjegal people of the Eora nation, who have cared for this land in time beyond our dreaming. This land on which we live and move was and always will be Aboriginal Land.

KUC MISSION STATEMENT

We are a congregation
who welcome people of all cultures and lifestyles,
who create a safe place for the community
and who share the journey of life and faith.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Come all you fully-awake dreamers.

Bring your God-given imagination

and your most thrilling hopes

for a new world that is on the way.

God is calling you; can you hear?

Come! All are welcome!

Take your place in God's dream for the world!

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

God is here

God is always here

God is with us

God is always with us

HYMN: Come as you are that's how I want you TIS 693

"Come as you are: that's how I want you.

Come as you are; feel quite at home,
close to my heart, loved and forgiven.

Come as you are: why stand alone?

"No need to fear, love sets no limits;
no need to fear, love never ends;
don't run away shamed and disheartened,
rest in my love, trust me again.

"I came to call sinners, not just the righteous;
I came to bring peace, not to condemn.
Each time you fail to live by my promise,
why do you think I'd love you the less?

"Come as you are; that's how I love you;
come as you are, trust me again.
Nothing can change the love that I bear you;
all will be well, just come as you are."

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OPENING PRAYER

Wise Jesus, gentle Jesus,
we come to learn from you.
Stir our hearts today,
widen our ways of seeing,
stretch our ways of being,
enlarge love in us, this day.
This we pray in your name, amen.

HYMN: Come and find the quiet centre TIS 493

Come and find the quiet centre
in the crowded life we lead,
find the room for hope to enter,
find the frame where we are freed:
clear the chaos and the clutter,
clear our eyes, that we can see
all the things that really matter,
be at peace, and simply be.

**Silence is a friend who claims us,
cools the heat and slows the pace,
God it is who speaks and names us,
knows our being, touches base,
making space within our thinking,
lifting shades to show the sun,
raising courage when we're shrinking,
finding scope for faith begun.**

**In the Spirit let us travel,
open to each other's pain,
let our loves and fears unravel,
celebrate the space we gain:
there's a place for deepest dreaming,
there's a time for heart to care,
in the Spirit's lively scheming
there is always room to spare!**

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PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**O God, we have spent our whole lives
trying to work out how to play our part
in the unspoken scripts of our cultures,
and to respect the invisible boundaries in place
so that we might fit in and cause no offence.
Forgive us God (and help us God!)
when we're slow to embrace
the radically welcoming and inclusive nature
of your dream for the world.**

& DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

**Our God breaks bread before us
and speaks of forgiveness
and a new rock-solid relationship.
God means this! This is God's gift for our lives.
You are forgiven and drawn into
a life-changing relationship with the God of love.
Thanks be to God.**

PEACE:

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

BIBLE READINGS:

PSALM:52

¹Why do you boast, O mighty one, of mischief done against the godly?
All day long

²you are plotting destruction. Your tongue is like a sharp razor, you
worker of treachery.

³You love evil more than good, and lying more than speaking the truth.
Selah

⁴You love all words that devour, O deceitful tongue.

⁵But God will break you down forever; he will snatch and tear you from
your tent; he will uproot you from the land of the living. Selah

⁶The righteous will see, and fear, and will laugh at the evildoer, saying,

⁷“See the one who would not take refuge in God, but trusted in abundant
riches, and sought refuge in wealth!”

⁸But I am like a green olive tree in the house of God. I trust in the
steadfast love of God forever and ever.

⁹I will thank you forever, because of what you have done. In the
presence of the faithful I will proclaim your name, for it is good.

LUKE 10:38-42

³⁸Now as they went on their way, he entered a certain village, where a
woman named Martha welcomed him into her home. ³⁹She had a sister
named Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to what he was
saying. ⁴⁰But Martha was distracted by her many tasks; so she came to
him and asked, “Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all
the work by myself? Tell her then to help me.” ⁴¹But the Lord answered
her, “Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many
things; ⁴²there is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part,
which will not be taken away from her.”

HYMN: Seek ye first the kingdom of God TIS 745

**Seek ye first the kingdom of God
and his righteousness,
and all these things
shall be added unto you.
Allelu, alleluia.**

**Alleluia, alleluia,
alleluia, allelu, alleluia.**

**Ask and it shall be given unto you,
seek and you shall find,
knock and it shall
be opened unto you.
Allelu, alleluia.**

**Alleluia, alleluia,
alleluia, allelu, alleluia.**

**We shall not live by bread alone,
but by every word
that proceeds
from the mouth of the Lord.
Allelu, alleluia.
Alleluia, alleluia,
alleluia, allelu, alleluia.**

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REFLECTION –Deok Hee

Luke 10:38–42

In Korean culture, when people meet or talk on the phone, they often begin with the question, “Bap meogeosseoyo?” which means, “Have you eaten?” When I first came to Australia, some of my friends found this habit a little strange. “Why do Koreans always ask about food?” they would say. At first glance, it seems like a simple question about whether you’ve had breakfast, lunch, or dinner. But for Koreans, it’s much more than that. It’s not really a question about food—it’s a way of saying, “How are you?” or “Have you been well?” It’s an expression that carries warmth, care, and connection. It has its roots in a difficult time in Korean history, especially after the war, when there was not enough food and life was hard. Asking “Have you eaten?” was one way of showing real concern for someone’s well-being. It meant: “I care about you. I hope you are being looked after.” Even now, in modern Korea where food is easy to find, the phrase remains. I hear it all the time—especially from my brother and sister back home. Even across time zones and through phone

calls, they always ask me, “Bap meogeosseoyo?” It’s more than a habit; it’s an act of love.

This simple phrase got me thinking about today’s Gospel reading from Luke 10. It’s the story of two sisters—Martha and Mary—who welcomed Jesus into their home. Martha did what any good host would do in a traditional society: she began preparing the meal, making sure the guest was well cared for. She was busy with many tasks—probably cooking, setting the table, making sure everything was just right. Mary, on the other hand, did something unexpected. She sat down at Jesus’ feet and listened. She wasn’t helping in the kitchen. She wasn’t serving. She was simply present with Jesus. Martha, understandably frustrated, said to Jesus, “Lord, don’t you care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her to help me!” But Jesus didn’t say what we might expect. He didn’t tell Mary to get up and do her part. Instead, he gently said, “Martha, Martha, you are worried and upset about many things, but only one thing is necessary. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her.” This response is surprising. Jesus isn’t criticizing Martha’s work — after all, hospitality is important. But he is gently helping her see that sometimes, we become so busy doing things for God that we forget to be with God. Martha was trying to feed Jesus. But Mary was letting Jesus feed her — with his presence, his words, his love. And it’s not just about personality. This story isn’t saying that Mary is the spiritual one and Martha is the practical one. It’s about priorities. Mary chose to listen first. And because she listened, she could later serve with deeper love. Listening comes before doing.

This reminds me of a story from years ago when I was working as a youth worker in a Korean church. I took our youth group on a mission trip to Indonesia and Malaysia. We spent weeks preparing impressive dramas about God’s creation, the fall of humanity, the coming of Jesus, his death on the cross, and his resurrection. We also prepared worship dances. It wasn’t an easy trip. Not only was it physically exhausting with all the preparations and performances, but we were also sharing these Christian messages in places where most people were Muslim or Hindu. We were careful. We were respectful. But it was still challenging. When we returned, we shared our experience with the church community. Many people were amazed at how calm, kind, and passionate the youth had been. They said, “You must really love helping the poor, doing performances, and teaching about God.” But what surprised them was when we said, “Actually, we didn’t go just because we love helping and teaching. We went because we love Jesus. And while we were there, we saw Jesus in every single person we met.” That mission trip team, I believe, was like Mary. They had spent time at Jesus’ feet — listening, learning, receiving. And because of that, they were able to stand up like Martha — to serve, to

teach, to perform, and to care. But everything they did came not from pressure or obligation, but from love. That's the rhythm of real discipleship: listening, then acting.

We live in a world that constantly pulls us toward busyness. We feel the need to prove ourselves, to stay productive, to do more. Even in church, we sometimes measure our faith by our activity. But Jesus invites us to start with presence, not performance. Think about your own life. When was the last time you sat quietly and let God speak to you? When was the last time you put your phone down, closed your laptop, and simply listened? When was the last time you were fully present — with God, with others, with your own soul? Today, most of us are not physically hungry. In places like Australia and Korea, there's no shortage of food. We don't ask if we will eat — we ask what we should eat. But that doesn't mean we're not hungry. Many people around us are starving — for love, for meaning, for justice, for peace. Mother Teresa once said, "The hunger in the West is not for bread, but for love, for justice, and for God." You can have a full fridge and still feel empty. You can be surrounded by people and still feel alone. You can be constantly doing, and still feel lost. Jesus knows this. And that's why he gently says to Martha—and to us—"You are worried and distracted by many things. But only one thing is needed." In other words, sit down. Come close. Pay attention. Let me feed your soul. This story isn't asking us to choose between Martha and Mary. It's not a competition. Both sisters love Jesus. Both are faithful. But Jesus is inviting us to bring balance to our discipleship—to combine action with attentiveness. To work, yes, but also to rest. To serve, yes, but also to listen. In a world where so many people are overwhelmed, anxious, and spiritually hungry, our greatest witness might not be how busy we are for God, but how present we are with God—and with one another.

So today, let me ask you that old Korean question again — "Bap meo-geosseoyo?" But not just with your body. With your soul. Have you eaten today — from the Word of God, from the presence of Jesus? Have you been filled — not just with tasks and responsibilities, but with love and peace and meaning? Let us be a church that asks one another that question in a deeper way. Not just "Did you eat lunch?" but "How's your soul?" "How is your spirit?" Let us feed the hungry, yes—but also feed the weary spirit. Let us open our homes like Martha, and open our hearts like Mary. Let us make space at the table—not just for meals, but for moments of stillness, of listening, of grace. Because in the end, people may not remember the perfect dinner we cooked or how efficient we were, but they will remember whether we were fully present—whether we listened, whether we loved. That's the kind of disciple Jesus invites us to be.

So again I ask, as Jesus might ask, gently and lovingly—"Bap meo-geosseoyo?"

Have you eaten? Amen.

HYMN: Faith hope and love ATOK 376

Faith, hope and love –
this is what we long for.
Faith, hope and love –
this is what we need.
Faith, hope and love –
this is what we cry for.
Oh, teach us how to live.

Trust in the Truth –
this is what we long for.
Trust in the Truth –
this is what we need.
Trust in the Truth –
this is what we cry for.
Oh, teach us how to live.

Patience within –
this is what we long for.
Patience within –
this is what we need.
Patience within –
this is what we cry for.
Oh, teach us how to live.

Freedom for all –
this is what we long for.
Freedom for all –
this is what we need.
Freedom for all –
this is what we cry for.
Oh, teach us how to live.

Faith, hope and love –
this is what we long for.
Faith, hope and love –
this is what we need.
Faith, hope and love –
this is what we cry for.
Oh, teach us how to live.

OFFERING & OFFERING PRAYER

Our God is so generous to us. Let's respond with our own giving, trusting in God's wisdom for where it might go and how it might be used.

Bless this offering, loving God. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/ELECTIONS

PRAYERS FOR OTHERS and LORDS PRAYER

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name, your kingdom come,
your will be done on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those
who sin against us. Save us in the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours now and for ever.
Amen.

The Sending Forth of the People of God

HYMN: Draw the circle wide – online resource - VIDEO

Draw the circle wide, draw it wider still.

Let this be our song: no one stands alone.

Standing side by side, draw the circle wide.

**God the still point of the circle round whom all creation turns;
nothing lost, but held together in God's gracious arms.**

Draw the circle wide, draw it wider still.

Let this be our song: no one stands alone.

Standing side by side, draw the circle wide.

**Let our hearts touch far horizons so encompass great and small;
let our loving know no borders, faithful to God's call.**

Draw the circle wide, draw it wider still.

Let this be our song: no one stands alone.

Standing side by side, draw the circle wide.

**Let the dream we dreamed be larger than we ever dreamed before;
let the dream of Christ be in us, open every door.**

Draw the circle wide, draw it wider still.

Let this be our song: no one stands alone.

Standing side by side, draw the circle wide.

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BLESSING:

Sisters and brothers, keep listening to Jesus' teaching, and be encouraged by his delight that we might follow God into all the world.

May the song of the Creator be the soundtrack of your life.

May you feel Jesus' wholehearted embrace of you.

And may the Holy Spirit blaze an exciting path before you, full of adventure, meaning, and joy.

Go in peace.

SENDING SONG: Turn Your Eyes upon Jesus P&W 805

Turn your eyes upon Jesus,
look full in his wonderful face;
and the things of earth will grow strangely dim
in the light of his glory and grace.

Turn your eyes upon Jesus,
look full in his wonderful face;
and the things of earth will grow strangely dim
in the light of his glory and grace.

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