



**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.**

**27th July 2025 @ 10am**

**Pentecost 7 - Proper 12**

## **Responding to Life's Difficulties**

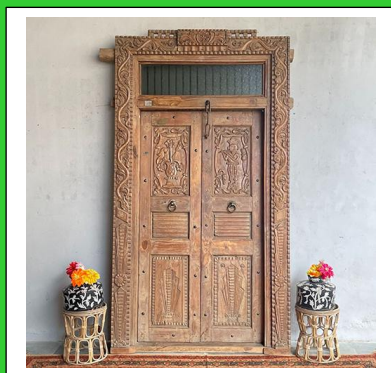
**Hosea 1:2–10; Psalm 85; Colossians 2:6–15, (16–19); Luke 11:1–13**

**Leader: Deok Hee**

**Reflection: Deok Hee**

**Holy Communion Deok Hee**

**Commissioning of New Church Council members**



For details and information about our church activities and The Kogarah Storehouse, check out the websites: [kogarah.uca.org.au](http://kogarah.uca.org.au) and <https://www.kogarahstorehouse.org.au/>

**For pastoral concerns, please contact Deok Hee on  
0401 975 745.**

## **Scriptures**

### **Hosea 1:2–10**

The prophet Hosea is ordered to take Gomer for a wife, and their three children are given metaphorical names that reflect the desolation of Israel and its abandonment by Yahweh. It is unclear whether this marriage was a historical event or merely an analogy for the relationship between Israel and Yahweh.

### **Psalms 85**

The exile provoked a range of questions and responses from the Israelites, which can be seen in this psalm. The psalmist seems to thank God for rescuing Israel but then asks when God will stop being angry at them. The last section returns to the perennial themes of righteousness, truth, peace and loving-kindness as paths to salvation.

### **Colossians 2:6–15, (16–19)**

The writer of the letter to Colossians warns the people that human philosophies and understandings are futile. Rather, they are encouraged to establish themselves in faith in Jesus, remembering their baptism and his death on the cross.

### **Luke 11:1–13**

This passage includes Jesus teaching the disciples to pray, a parable about hospitality, and a metaphor about God and parenting. All three parts encourage us to ask God for what we need.

## **Theme Focus**

In times of uncertainty, the psalmist reminds us that questioning and praise can go hand in hand, while Jesus calls us to step beyond passive waiting to ask and receive with a faith that trusts in God's response in love, righteousness, and peace.

## Word for the Day

While we often think of David when we think of the Psalms, the superscription attributes this psalm to the Korahites. The story of Korah's rebellion is found in Numbers 16, where the earth swallows him whole as punishment for his sins. However, his lineage is redeemed, and his descendants are mentioned in 1 Chron 6:31–38, 9:19–21, and 12:1–6 as loyal subjects of Israel. Psalms 42, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 84, 85, 87, and 88 are all attributed to the Korahites and contain arguably some of the most beautiful poetry in the Bible.

The early verses of Psalm 85 reflect an understanding of God's anger, which perhaps contains a memory of Korah. That is not the end of the story, though. Israel and all its people are redeemed and are blessed with faithful love, truth, righteousness, and peace.

## Ideas for Reflection

- How does a memory of our ancestors inform who we are? This might be those who were our biological lineage or maybe the ancestors of the church or of our faith. How might we honour their memory?
- The psalmist attributes Israel's difficulties to God's anger. How does this theology feel to us? Is there another way of finding the reason for life's challenges? What happens if difficult things happen in our life for no reason? How, then, might we respond?
- How might we understand the idea that 'righteousness walks before God, making a road for God's steps'? What might this look like today in our country? What does righteousness look like for us today? What does it look like for righteousness and peace to 'kiss' in the world today?
- How might our persistent prayers and actions lead to a more peaceful, righteous society?
- If we were to write a poem about life's challenges, what might it show about our understanding of God?

In the Psalms, "Selah" likely signifies a pause or rest, possibly for musical interlude or reflection, though its precise meaning remains debated among scholars. Some interpretations suggest it could also mean "praise" or "lift up," particularly in passages related to worship. It's generally understood as a direction for either the reader or the musicians, prompting a moment of contemplation or a change in musical direction.

# **Kogarah Uniting Church**

## **Congregational Election Statement**

On July 20, 2025, the following persons were elected as Church Councillors or Elders

### ***Church Councillors***

Sue Baglin (2027)

Joshua Chang (2026)

Continuing Church Councillor: Robert McAlpine (2026)

### ***Elders***

John Baglin (2026)

Dorothy Makasa (2026)

Bobbie Miller (2028)

### ***Continuing Elder***

Richard Goodman (2027)

Susan Baglin

Congregational Secretary

July 20, 2025

## **Korean Greetings from last Sunday**

(Annyeonghaseyo?) – Hello, how are you?

(Gamsahamnida) – Thank you.

(Bap meogeosseoyo?) – Have you eaten?

## Planning Ahead

- **July 27 2025 - Commissioning of Elders/ Councillors**
- **August 1 Discussion of *the Sunbird* @ Bobbie's from 11:30am**
- **August 7 2025 Kogarah Church Council @ 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 and volunteers at the Storehouse. 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, Rhonda Chamberlain and family; Prema and Priya, Denis and Dolly, Ngahua, Peter and Sue; Dinah; Ern Edwards; Jim Bird, Cindy, Dorothy, Sue B. 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**

**3<sup>rd</sup> August 2025 @ 10am**

**Pentecost 8 - Proper 13**

**Giving Thanks to God**

**Hosea 11:1–11; Psalm 107:1–9, 43; Hebrews 11:1–3, 8–16; Luke 12:13–21**

**Leader: Robert**

**Reflection: Deek Hee**



**Who might this be in today's world?**

**Church Council 2024-2025**

**Chair**

**Secretary**

**Treasurer**

**Councillors**

**Elders**

**Richard Goodman**

**Sue Baglin**

**John Baglin**

**Robert M<sup>c</sup>Alpine (2026)**

**Sue Baglin (2025)**

**Dinah Roepers (2025)**

**John Baglin (2025)**

**Bobbie Miller (2025)**

**Richard Goodman (2027)**

**Safe Church Contact Person**

**Richard Goodman**