

## KOGARAH UNITING CHURCH

27 July 2025

Pentecost 7

The Gathering of the People of God
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### WELCOME & GREETING

May 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 VISION STATEMENTS

***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

Christ has said to us:

***"Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us."***

Christ has said to us:

***"Pray for the kingdom to come, on earth as it is in heaven."***

Christ is calling us today:

***Pray for God's will to be done in us, by serving one another,  
and sharing the love of Christ in all we do.***

Christ is calling us in this moment to worship:

***We join our hearts together, serving God by serving one another,  
lifting up our hearts in prayer and praise to our Almighty God.***

## LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

God is here

***God is always here***

God is with us

***God is always with us***

## OPENING PRAYER

Loving and caring God,

in you we find all that we need.

In you we are fed. In you we are heard.

In you we are truly alive.

Let your Spirit flow over and through us as we worship you.

Draw us closer to you – we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

**HYMN:** O breath of life, come sweeping through us TiS 409

O breath of life, come sweeping through us,

revive your church with life and power;

O breath of life, come cleanse, renew us,

and fit your church to meet this hour.

O wind of God, come bend us, break us,

till humbly we confess our need;

then in your tenderness remake us,

revive, restore: for this we plead.

O breath of love, come breathe within us,

renewing thought and will and heart;

come, love of Christ, afresh to win us

revive your church in every part.

Revive us, Lord! Is zeal abating

while harvest fields are vast and white?

Revive us, Lord, the world is waiting,

equip your church to spread the light.

PD; text, Elizabeth Ann Porter Head

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## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

We ask –

***but we are so sure of what the answer should be,  
we don't always catch what the answer is.***

We search –

***but we lose track of what it is we are searching for.***

We knock –

***but at too many doors, and we miss when one opens.***

(Together)

***Forgive us, God, when we ask, search, or knock  
more for our own reasons than in support of your vision for us.  
We are your community builders, dear God.  
Help us to trust a blueprint that we cannot see. Amen.***

## DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

In our searching, God is with us. In our seeking, God is with us.

Even in our mistakes, God is still with us.

Here then Christ's word of grace to us:

Our sins are forgiven.

***Thanks be to God.***

## PEACE

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

***And also with you.***

**HYMN:** Lord Jesus Christ TiS 526

Lord Jesus Christ, you have come to us,  
you are one with us, Mary's son;  
cleansing our souls from all their sin,  
pouring your love and goodness in,  
Jesus, our love for you we sing, living Lord.

Lord Jesus Christ, now and every day,  
teach us how to pray, Son of God;  
You have commanded us to do  
this in remembrance, Lord, of you:  
into our lives your power breaks through, living Lord

Lord Jesus Christ, you have come to us,  
born as one of us, Mary's son;  
led out to die on Calvary,  
risen from death to set us free,  
living Lord Jesus, help us see you are Lord.

Lord Jesus Christ, I would come to you,  
live my life for you, Son of God.  
All your commands I know are true,  
your many gifts will make me new,  
into my life your power breaks through, living Lord.

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The Service of the Word
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## **BIBLE READINGS**

### **Psalm 85**

1 Lord, you were favorable to your land; you restored the fortunes of Jacob. 2 You forgave the iniquity of your people; you pardoned all their sin. Selah 3 You withdrew all your wrath; you turned from your hot anger. 4 Restore us again, O God of our salvation, and put away your indignation toward us.

5 Will you be angry with us forever? Will you prolong your anger to all generations? 6 Will you not revive us again, so that your people may rejoice in you? 7 Show us your steadfast love, O Lord, and grant us your salvation. 8 Let me hear what God the Lord will speak, for he will speak peace to his people, to his faithful, to those who turn to him in their hearts. 9 Surely his salvation is at hand for those who fear him, that his glory may dwell in our land. 10 Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet; righteousness and peace will kiss each other. 11 Faithfulness will spring up from the ground, and righteousness will look down from the sky. 12 The Lord will give what is good, and our land will yield its increase. 13 Righteousness will go before him and will make a path for his steps.

### **Luke 11:1–13**

1 He was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples." 2 So he said to them, "When you pray, say: Father, may your name be revered as holy. May your kingdom come. 3 Give us each day our daily bread. 4 And forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us. And do not bring us to the time of trial." 5 And he said to them, "Suppose one of you has a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say to him, 'Friend, lend me three loaves of bread, 6 for a friend of mine has arrived, and I have nothing to set before him.' 7 And he answers from

within, 'Do not bother me; the door has already been locked, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot get up and give you anything.' 8 I tell you, even though he will not get up and give him anything out of friendship, at least because of his persistence he will get up and give him whatever he needs. 9 "So I say to you, Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. 10 For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. 11 Is there anyone among you who, if your child asked for a fish, would give a snake instead of a fish? 12 Or if the child asked for an egg, would give a scorpion? 13 If you, then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"

## REFLECTION

Before we move into today's message, I'd like to begin by sharing something very special that's been happening in our church recently. As many of you know, our church started a table tennis group about two years ago. At first, it was simply a group for playing sports and building friendships. But as time passed, relationships began to grow more naturally and deeply, and about two months ago, I began a Bible study with a few of them who had shown interest. Every Tuesday in the afternoon, I sit with a small group of Chinese friends—people who have never read the Bible before, who never heard about Jesus before—and we study the Bible together. Isn't that amazing? And what's even more amazing is this: Every week during our Bible study, I see something beautiful happening. Little by little, they are opening their hearts to God's Word. God is gently touching their hearts, and I can feel his presence in that room. Then, something truly surprising happened. Last Tuesday, one of them looked at me and asked, "Deok Hee, how do we pray?" Another one followed with more questions: "What should we pray for?" "How long should we pray?" I was so surprised—but also deeply moved. These friends don't know much about faith, or the church, or even who God is. But they were asking about prayer. That question was not just about 'how to pray'. It was a sign that their hearts are starting to open to God. And when I heard that, I felt very humble. Because I realized something important: Prayer is not only for people who have strong faith. Prayer is where the journey begins. It is the first step for anyone who wants to find God. You don't need to know everything about God to pray. You just need a heart that is open and willing to speak to him. "Is anyone there? Can I speak to you?" And then I thought of today's Bible passage. In Luke chapter 11, the disciples come to Jesus and say, "Lord, teach us to pray." The disciples had already walked with Jesus. They had seen his miracles. They had heard his teaching. But still, they said, "Lord, we don't know how to pray. Please teach us." That same request from the disciples... is now being spoken by people in our own community. People who are just beginning to know God are saying, "Please show us how to talk to God."

And to be honest, when I heard those questions last Tuesday, I felt something in my own heart. I asked myself, “Do I still know how to pray?” “Do I still pray with the same heart I had when I first followed Jesus?”

A few years ago, I was part of a Presbytery candidate committee, interviewing a young man who wanted to become a church minister. For two hours, we talked with him. He shared his story—his life, his calling, and his dream to serve God. I was very touched by his honesty and passion. But as I was asking him questions, a thought came to me suddenly: “If someone asked me these same questions today, how would I answer?” And I found myself thinking about my own journey. About 23 years ago, I sat in that same chair as a candidate for ministry. I remember how excited and nervous I was. I had so much passion back then. I thought I knew what ministry was all about. But after many years of walking this road—after facing joys and challenges, success and failure—I must confess something to you: I’m not so sure I know what ministry is anymore. It has become deeper, more complicated, and sometimes more difficult than I expected. And that is why these days, my prayer is very simple: “Lord, teach me again. Teach me to pray. Teach me how to be a church minister. Teach me how to love. Teach me how to serve.” Prayer is not something we learn once and then finish. Prayer is something we must return to, again and again. Just like our breath—daily, constant, honest.

In Luke 11, Jesus gives the disciples a prayer. We call it the Lord’s Prayer. It is not just a list of holy words. It is a way of life. Jesus teaches us to pray, “Father, may your name be holy. May your kingdom come. Give us our daily bread. Forgive us... Lead us not into temptation...” But Jesus doesn’t stop there. He tells a short story about a man who goes to his friend’s house at midnight and asks for bread. Why? Not for himself—but for another friend who is hungry. The man keeps knocking on the door until the friend finally opens it and gives him not just three loaves, but everything he needs. Jesus says: “Ask, and you will receive. Seek, and you will find. Knock, and the door will be opened.”

Dear friends, this is what prayer is. It is not a perfect speech. It is not a performance. Prayer is a heart that keeps knocking on God’s door—not just for ourselves, but for others. When we pray like that—when we pray for justice, for peace, for the hungry, the lonely, the sick, the poor—God listens. And God responds—not always in the way we expect, but always in love and in power. In this world, many people are suffering. War, violence, discrimination, poverty, loneliness, and fear are all around us. And every day, many people lose their sense of meaning in life. They feel so much pain that they cannot carry it anymore. Some even choose to end their lives because they have lost all hope. We cannot ignore them. As followers of Jesus, we are called to pray—not only with our words, but with our lives. We pray for the poor. We pray for the refugee. We pray for the child without parents. We pray for those suffering from injustice. We pray for those who have lost the meaning of life and are

living without hope. And as we pray, we also act. We speak up. We give. We love. We serve. This is what Jesus meant when he said, “Pray like this.”

So today, whether you are new to faith—like my Chinese friends who just began asking about prayer—or whether you have walked with God for many years, I invite you to pray this simple but powerful prayer again:

“Lord, please teach us how to pray.”

“Let Your kingdom come here on earth.”

“Lord, help us not to ignore the pain of others.

Help us to pray. Help us to care.

Make our prayers alive in our daily lives.”

When this kind of prayer begins again in our hearts, the world around us will begin to change—little by little. Amen.

**HYMN:** Seek ye first TiS 745

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

(Refrain)

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.

(Refrain)

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

(Refrain)

## COMMISSIONING SERVICE (Elders/Church Councillors)

### 1 SENTENCES

There are diverse gifts;

***but it is the same Spirit who gives them.***

There are different ways of serving God:

***but it is the same Lord who is served.***

God works through people in different ways:

***but it is the same God whose purpose is achieved through them all.***

Each one of us is given a gift by the Spirit:

***and there is no gift without its corresponding service.***

There is one ministry of Christ:

***and in this ministry we all share.***

Together we are the body of Christ:

***and individually members of it.***

### 2 PRESENTATION

**The minister addresses the people:**

The Uniting Church provides for the exercise  
by men and women of the gifts God bestows upon them  
for the building up of the Church.

Having sought the guidance of the Holy Spirit,  
we are now to commission as elders / church councillors  
those whom we have elected to this ministry.

I present the following persons to be commissioned  
or recommissioned as elders / church councillors:

Elders: John Baglin, Dorothy Makasa, Bobbie Miller.

Church Councillor: Sue Baglin, Joshua Chang.

**The minister reads the names of the candidates.**

**The candidates stand together facing the congregation  
and the Minister addresses them:**

Brothers and sisters,  
the congregation has elected you to serve  
as elders / church councillors.

The church council shall give priority in its life  
to building up the congregation in faith and love,  
sustaining members in hope, and leading the congregation



to a fuller participation in Christ's mission in the world.

**If there are elders to be commissioned/recommissioned,  
the following statement shall be included:**

The ministry of elder is one of spiritual oversight,  
and may also be exercised in pastoral visitation,  
teaching, encouraging members of the congregation to share in mission,  
and assisting the minister in leadership of worship and administration of the  
sacraments.

**Where the elders are to be members of the church council,  
the following should be included:**

Elders who serve on the church council  
have a particular responsibility to ensure  
that such matters have priority  
in the work of the church council.

### 3 THE VOWS

**The minister asks the candidates:**

Do you confess anew Jesus Christ as Lord?

***I do.***

Do you believe that you are called by God through the Church to this ministry?

***I do.***

Being guided by the Basis of Union of the Uniting Church in Australia, will you live  
and work within the faith and unity of the one holy catholic and apostolic Church?

***With God's help I will.***

Relying on God's grace, do you promise to carry out  
the duties of your office?

***I do.***

**The people stand. The minister says:**

Will you, the members of this congregation,  
accept these brothers and sisters as church councillors?

***We will.***

Will you encourage them in love and support them  
in their ministry, serving with them  
the one Lord Jesus Christ?

***We will.***

May God give you strength to fulfil these vows,  
and to him be the glory in the Church and in Christ Jesus  
from generation to generation for ever.

**Amen.**

**The people sit.**

#### 4 ACT OF COMMISSIONING

**The minister says:**

Beloved in Christ,  
let us pray in silence for these people  
before we commission them for the work  
to which we believe the Holy Spirit has called them.

**After a time of silence, the minister says:**

Almighty God,  
we thank you that in every age you have chosen leaders  
to serve and care for your people.  
We thank you that you have called these brothers and sisters,  
our new elected elders / church councillors to serve you.  
May those you have chosen  
have the same mind which was in Christ Jesus  
and be faithful disciples,  
giving example to Christ's flock  
and witnessing to the truth of the gospel;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

**The minister lays hands on the head of each candidate  
in turn, and the minister says:**

God of grace,  
through the Holy Spirit  
empower your servants  
John Baglin, Dorothy Makasa, Bobbie Miller.  
Sue Baglin, Joshua Chang.

**The people respond:**

**Amen.**

## 5 DECLARATION

**The minister says:**

In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
I declare you to be elders / church councillors  
of the Uniting Church in Australia  
in the Kogarah Congregation.

**The people may applaud.**

### OFFERING & OFFERING PRAYER

Before you, O God,  
we offer our prayers, our presence, our gifts, and our service.  
We lay our gifts before you in praise and thanksgiving for your many blessings.  
May these offerings continue the transforming work of your Spirit  
in and through our congregation. Amen.

### ANNOUNCEMENT

#### PRAYERS FOR OTHERS

God we pray for those who are hungry:  
for those who are hungry for bread;  
for those who are starving for food;  
for those in refugee camps with no control and no power;  
for those who are hungry  
because they are unable to grow their own food;  
for those who are hungry because of natural disaster,  
human foolishness or human greed.  
May the truth of Christ change the world.

Lord, in your mercy,  
***hear our prayer.***

God we pray for those who are hungry for peace;  
for those whose hearts and minds are in turmoil;  
for those whose lives are disrupted by terrorism or hatred,  
by bitterness or shame, by want or despair;  
for those who have no sense of their own worth,  
whose lives have been damaged  
by others' selfishness and power;  
for those who are hungry to know the peace of God

to experience his presence and joy.  
For countries and people being suffered  
from violence and injustice.  
May the peace of Christ give them hope.

Lord, in your mercy,  
***hear our prayer.***

God, we pray for those who are hungry for love;  
for those who have never known  
what it means to be wanted, needed and appreciated;  
for those who, like all of us, have needed to know that they are loved,  
not for what they do or what they achieve,  
but just for themselves and because they are;  
for those who are hungry  
for unconditional love and acceptance.

May the grace of Christ, the free love of God, enable them  
to accept that they are accepted as they are right now.

Lord, in your mercy,  
***hear our prayer.***

Lord, we pray for the sick and people in suffering  
who are known in this congregation.  
(We remember Dennis and Robyn Lyons,  
Rhonda Chamberlain and family; Prema and Priya,  
Denis and Dolly, Ngahuia, Peter and Sue; Dinah;  
Ern Edwards; Jim Bird, Cindy, Dorothy, Sue B  
and for others whom we name in our hearts.  
May your healing hand rest upon them,  
may your life-giving powers flow  
into their bodies and souls, cleansing, purifying,  
restoring them to wholeness and strength  
for service in your kingdom.

Lord, we pray for all in this congregation,  
all who are here and away  
that they may be blessed and strengthened by your Spirit. Amen.

## THE LORD'S 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 Sacrament of the Lord's Supper
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## INVITATION

We are here because Jesus has called us –strangers and friends,  
locals and visitors, believers and doubters, the certain and the curious.  
It is always a mixed company that Jesus gathers  
and invites to his table where, in bread and wine, he meets us  
and through him we, who are different, are joined to each other.  
So come, not because you understand, but because you are understood.  
Come, not because of how you feel, but because God has food for you.  
Come, not because you deserve a place, but because Jesus invites you,  
just as you are.

**COMMUNION HYMN:** You are holy    TiS 753

You are holy, you are whole.  
You are always ever more than we ever understand.  
You are always at hand.  
Blessed are you coming near;  
blessed are you coming here  
to your church in wine and bread,  
raised from soil, raised from dead.

(Refrain)

*You are holy, you are wholeness,  
you are present, let the cosmos praise you, Lord!  
Hallelujah, hallelujah,  
hallelujah, hallelujah, our Lord!*

You are holy, you are whole.  
You are always ever more than we ever understand.

You are always at hand.  
Blessed are you coming near;  
blessed are you coming here  
to your church in wine and bread,  
raised from soil, raised from dead.  
(Refrain)

### **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

The Lord be with you.  
***And also be with you.***  
Lift up your hearts.  
***We lift them to the Lord.***  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
***It is right to give our thanks and praise.***

With joy we praise you, gracious God,  
for you created heaven and earth, made us in your image,  
and kept covenant with us—even when we fell into sin.  
We give you thanks for Jesus Christ, our Lord,  
who by his life, death, and resurrection  
opened to us the way of everlasting life.  
Therefore we join our voices  
with all the saints and angels and the whole creation  
to proclaim the glory of your name.

***Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.***

At this table we bear witness to the love  
which has been poured into our hearts and lives.  
We remember when Jesus washed his disciples' feet  
and sat down at a table to share the meal with them.  
At that meal – Jesus took bread, giving thanks, and broke it and gave it  
to his disciples, saying:  
Take, eat. This is my body given for you.  
Do this in remembrance of me.”

In the same way, after supper, he also took the cup and said:  
Drink from this all of you.

This is my blood shed for you and for the whole world  
for the forgiveness of sins.  
Do this in remembrance of me.”

For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup,  
you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.  
We remember and we give thanks for such outpouring of love.  
Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us, O God,  
and upon these gifts of bread and wine,  
that they may be for us the body and blood of Christ – his life in us.

Make us one with him, one with each other,  
and one in ministry in the world,  
until at last we feast with him in the kingdom.

***Through your Son, Jesus Christ,  
in your holy church,  
all honour and glory are yours, Father almighty,  
now and for ever. Amen.***

## **BREAKING OF THE BREAD**

### **LAMB OF GOD**

Jesus, Lamb of God,  
***Have mercy on us.***  
Jesus, bearer of our sins,  
***Have mercy on us.***  
Jesus, redeemer of the world,  
***Grant us peace.***

### **The Communion**

#### **Prayer after Communion**

Holy God, we give you thanks  
that we have been fed and renewed by Christ’s life in us  
and we go now to touch people’s lives with his life.  
Send us forth equipped with the power of your Spirit  
to spread the message of his love  
and compassion to all whom we meet. Amen

**HYMN:** Sorrowing song TiS 689

Lord, hear my praying, listen to me;  
you know there's evil in what I see.  
I know I'm part of all that is wrong:  
still, won't you hear my sorrowing song?

Children are crying, hungry for food,  
sick from diseases — God, are you good?  
People are homeless, lost and alone:  
God, are you hiding? Where have you gone?

Why do the rich ones steal from the poor?  
Why do they build their weapons of war?  
How can you stand the torture and pain,  
hope disappearing, freedom in chains?

Jesus, remind us that you are found  
with those who cry, with those who are bound;  
where there is suffering, you will be there -  
help us to follow: Lord, hear my prayer.

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**BLESSING**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

May the love of the Father enfold you,  
the wisdom of the Son enlighten you,  
the fire of the Spirit kindle you;  
and may the blessing of the Lord God come down upon you  
and remain with you always. **Amen.**

**SENDING SONG:** Behold, behold Season 6-10 (Sing Twice)

Behold (behold), behold (behold),  
I make all things new,  
beginning with you and starting from today.  
Behold (behold), behold (behold),  
I make all things new,  
my promise is true, for I am Christ the way.

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