



## **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.**

**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: Deok Hee**



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

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 11:1–11**

In this passage, the names Israel and Ephraim are used interchangeably in a lament for the fallen Northern Kingdom. The prophet promises that when Israel/Ephraim listen, Yahweh will be merciful.

### **Psalms 107:1–9, 43**

Redemption is a key theme in these verses, which is offered to God's people because of God's 'hesed' (loving-kindness). Those who have been redeemed will give thanks, and those who are wise will carefully consider God's *hesed*.

### **Hebrews 11:1–3, 8–16**

The congregation at Colossae is encouraged to reject the parts of their human nature that encourage greed, anger and immorality. Instead, they are to look to Christ—through him, all earthly differences may be put aside.

### **Luke 12:13–21**

Using the framework of inheritance, Jesus teaches against prioritising wealth because it cannot be taken with us when we die. Instead, he enjoins the crowd to be 'rich toward God.'

## Theme Focus

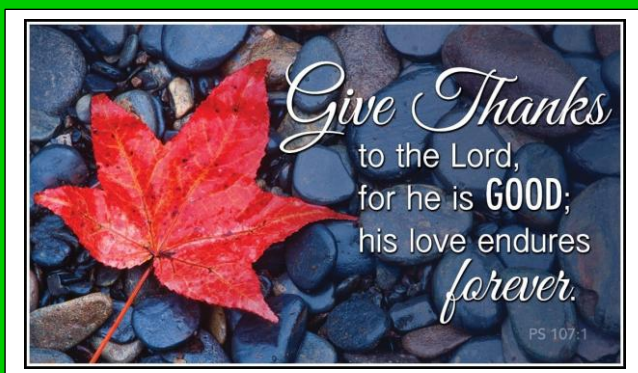
As we listen to the psalmist's song of thanksgiving and hear Jesus' parable about generosity, we are invited to reflect on how God's enduring faithfulness calls us to live with gratitude, trusting that no matter our circumstances, we can step beyond fear and share God's goodness with others.

## Word for the Day

The writer of Psalm 107:1–9, 43 reminds us that God is good, and the right response to goodness is to give thanks. In this reading, we have only one example of redemption—those who have wandered into the desert. But if we read the full psalm there is example after example of the ways that ‘some of the redeemed’ had wandered away. It is human nature to wander away from God’s goodness. The psalm contains the repeated refrain, ‘They cried out to the Lord in their distress, and God saved them from their desperate circumstances.’ How many times have we cried out to God and been saved from our desperation? What stops us from crying out? What helps us to remember to cry out?

## Ideas for Reflection

- When have we wandered away? What does that look like in a contemporary context? Have we cared when others have wandered away? Have we heard their cries of distress? How do we respond when we do notice signs of distress in ourselves or in others?
- How do we tell our stories of God’s faithfulness? Who do we tell these stories to? What is the response we get when we tell these stories?
- The last verse notes that ‘whoever is wise will pay attention.’ Is this how we measure wisdom? How do we pay attention when it seems like the whole world is crying out? How do we choose who to listen to and to care for when we have limited resources?
- Thinking about the two readings together, do we remember to give thanks for all we have? Are we greedy and always asking God for more than we need? Are we jealous of what others have instead of being thankful for what we have been given?
- How can we cultivate a habit or practice of giving thanks in a world that often encourages us to always want more?
- The parable warns against hoarding wealth instead of using it for good, while Psalm 107 calls us to remember and respond to God’s goodness. How do we ensure that our gratitude is connected to generosity?



## Thanksgiving (by Malcolm Guite)

(24<sup>th</sup> November 2022 – Thanksgiving Day in the USA though Malcolm is British)

Thanksgiving starts with thanks for mere survival,  
Just to have made it through another year  
With everyone still breathing. But we share  
So much beyond the outer roads we travel;  
Our interweavings on a deeper level,  
The modes of life embodied souls can share,  
The unguessed blessings of our being here,  
The warp and weft that no one can unravel.

So I give thanks for our deep coinherence  
Inwoven in the web of God's own grace,  
Pulling us through the grave and gate of death.  
I thank him for the truth behind appearance,  
I thank him for his light in every face,  
I thank him for you all, with every breath



From the Uniting Church NSW/ACT

Friendship doesn't need a roof — but everyone deserves one!

As Homelessness Week (Aug 4–10) approaches, we're launching [#Paws4Change](#) 🐾, a campaign that shines a light on the bond between people experiencing homelessness and the pets they call family.




Across the streets, in doorways, and temporary shelters, pets like Ringo are not just companions, they're protectors, emotional lifelines, and reminders of unconditional love. Just ask Michelle, a client at Parramatta Mission, whose bond with Ringo has helped her survive some of the hardest days of her life.

Through [#Paws4Change](#), we're partnering with Parramatta Mission, The Bill Crews Foundation, Wayside Chapel, and Wesley Mission to share real stories of resilience and to call attention to this growing and complex crisis.

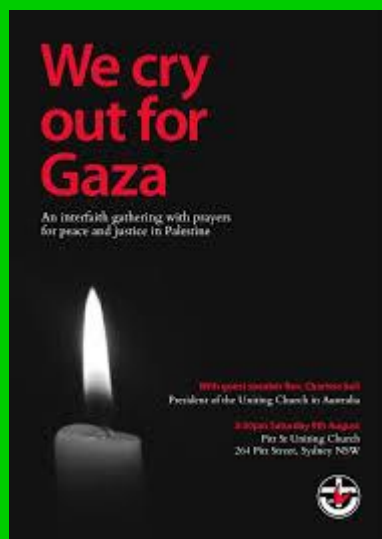
**HOMELESSNESS** #Paws4Change  
**Week 2025**

*Michelle and Ringo*

[homelessnessweek.uca.org.au](http://homelessnessweek.uca.org.au)

 Parramatta Mission  The Bill Crews Foundation  Wesley Mission  WAYSIDE CHAPEL 

**5.30 pm - 6.30 pm Saturday 9 August**  
**We Cry Out for Gaza: Interfaith Service**  
**@ Pitt Street Uniting Church**



## Planning Ahead

- **August 7 2025 Kogarah Church Council @ 7pm via Zoom**
- **August 9 5:30-6:30pm Interfaith service for Gaza @ Pitt St UC**
- **August 17 – August 31 – Deok Hee on holiday**
- **September 7 till September 28 – Season of Creation**

### **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, Thailand, Cambodia

**Next Sunday**

**10<sup>th</sup> August 2025 @ 10am**

**Pentecost 9 - Proper 14**

**Seeking Justice**

**Isaiah 1:1, 10–20; Psalm 50:1–8, 22–23; Hebrews 11:29—12:2;  
Luke 12:32–40**

**Leader: Deok Hee**

**Reflection: Deok Hee**

**Holy Communion Deok Hee**



**Church Council 2024-2025**

**Chair**

**Richard Goodman**

**Secretary**

**Sue Baglin**

**Treasurer**

**John Baglin**

**Councillors**

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

**Sue Baglin (2025)**

**Dinah Roepers (2025)**

**John Baglin (2025)**

**Bobbie Miller (2025)**

**Richard Goodman (2027)**

**Elders**

**Safe Church Contact Person**

**Richard Goodman**