



**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.**

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

**Pentecost 9 - Proper 14**

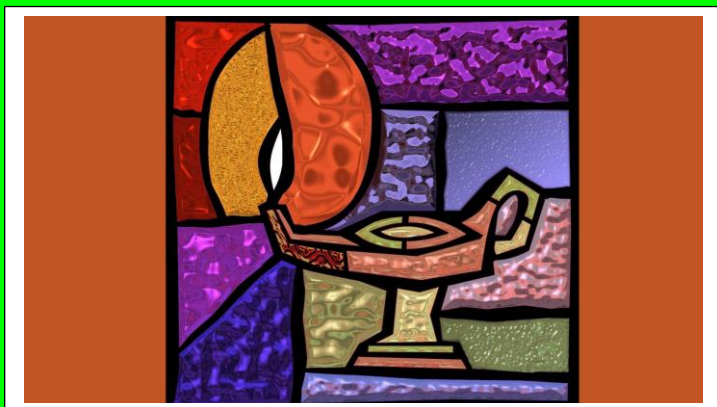
## **Seeking Justice**

**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**



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

### **Isaiah 1:1, 10–20**

The prophet issues a warning that if Israel does not turn away from their sins, they will be 'devoured.' The passage contains a serious warning that worship and religious observance must be matched with a concern for the marginalised.

### **Psalms 50:1–8, 22–23**

The psalmist reminds the hearer that God is sovereign and judges over all the earth. In response, we can honour God through thanksgiving, sacrifice and right living.

### **Hebrews 11:29—12:2**

This famous chapter outlines a history of Israel's faithful people, including Abraham, Jacob, and Sarah. Faithfulness for each of them looks different and expands well beyond their individual lives.

### **Luke 12:32–40**

The home is used as a context for describing the coming of God. The reader is encouraged to keep watch in order to be ready for God's coming because the set time is unknown.

## Theme Focus

As we hear Isaiah's call to advocate for the vulnerable and are inspired by the stories of our ancestors in faith, we are invited to reflect on what it means to step beyond passive belief into a faith that moves us toward justice, inclusion, and hope.

## Word for the Day

The words of the prophets are often contained in oracles or speeches, which can seem entirely foreign to our ears and to our contexts. Yet, when we look below the surface, we can see some of the same themes and issues that we continue to wrestle with today. There is performative worship and ritual action that ignores issues of vulnerability and injustice. There are legal claims here where the rich are able to buy justice while the poor are bankrupted by legal action. There is the requirement to look after our neighbours, particularly those who are marginalised and oppressed.

## Ideas for Reflection

- It is important that we do not read this passage as denouncing worship and its associated rituals. There is nothing inherently wrong with these things, however they must be performed with the right intentions. This begs the questions: What are the right intentions? How do we embody them when we come to worship?
- Sodom and Gomorrah have historically been linked with aberrant sexual activity, but scholars often point to it being an indictment about the lack of hospitality. Here, the reference is probably warning that if justice is not enacted then the towns risk being destroyed entirely like Sodom and Gomorrah were.
- The oppressed, the orphan and the widow are often referred to in biblical poetry as a shorthand for those in the community who were especially vulnerable. Who is vulnerable in our community? How might the treatment of women, Indigenous people, LGBTIQ+ people, migrants, refugees and asylum seekers, and people subject to racism inform our reading of this passage? How should we respond that goes beyond the worship service?
- How do we read this passage in the light of Hebrews 11:1–3, 8–16?
- What do the two passages together point us to?
- What does faith look like in the perspective of worship and justice-making?



The Moderator and others at the **March for Humanity** last Sunday



# HOMELESSNESS Week 2025

#Paws4Change



Ian and Boots

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



Ian Worthing, a visitor at [The Rev Bill Crews Foundation](https://www.revbillcrewsfoundation.org.au), shares the deep connection he has with his beloved dog, Boots.

**"Boots is everything to me. I wouldn't be here without her. She belonged to my girlfriend who passed away 8 months ago. Boots keeps me going. She's the only reason I get up in the morning. She's all I have left. I wouldn't sell her for a million bucks! She's my best friend."**



Ian also opened up about his personal journey:

"I suffer from brain damage from an incident involving my partner when she was still here. She struggled with mental health, alcohol, and drug issues. When she passed, I lost everything. Boots keeps me going now."

💛 If you're able, please consider donating to our vital services via <https://www.nswact.uca.org.au/soc.../homelessness-week-2025/>

Your generosity helps keep people and their beloved animals supported, safe, and seen.

HELPING HANDS: A  
HOMELESSNESS WEEK SERIES

**Wayside Chapel – Building  
Relationships, Not Just Services**



*insights*

insights.uca.org.au



## Planning Ahead

- **August 17 – August 31 – Deok Hee on holiday**
- **August 31 (after church) Congregational meeting to consider the 2025-2026 budget and receive the report on our Life and Mission.**
- **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, Ngahuia, 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**

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

**Pentecost 10 - Proper 15**

## **Caring for Community Faith that Bears Fruit**

**Isaiah 5:1–7; Psalm 80:1–2, 8–19; Hebrews 11:29—12:22;**

**Luke 12:49–56**

**Leader: Deok Hee**

**Reflection: Deok Hee**

**Holy Communion Deok Hee**

### **THE SONG OF THE VINEYARD**

**Isaiah 5:1–7**



### **Church Council 2024-2025**

**Chair**

**Richard Goodman**

**Secretary**

**Sue Baglin**

**Treasurer**

**John Baglin (2027)**

**Councillors**

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

**Sue Baglin (2025)**

**Joshua Chang (2026)**

**Elders**

**John Baglin (2026)**

**Bobbie Miller (2028)**

**Richard Goodman (2027)**

**Dorothy Makada (2026)**

**Safe Church Contact Person**

**Richard Goodman**