



**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.**

**14<sup>th</sup> September 2025 @ 10am**

**Pentecost 14 - Proper 19**

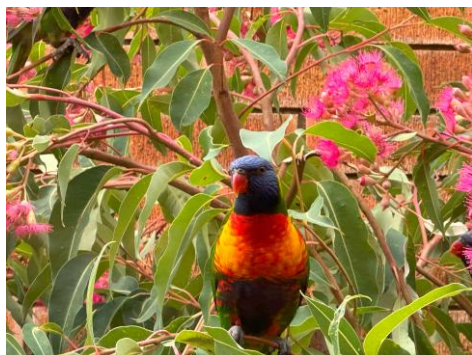
**Season of Creation 2 – Flora & Fauna  
Alive to God**

**Job 39:1–8, 26–30; Psalm 104:14–23; 1 Corinthians 1:10–23;  
Luke 12:22–31**

**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

### **Job 39:1–8, 26–30**

The instincts shown by animals as they rear their young is God-given wisdom. These verses emphasise the wildness of creatures as they thrive away from, and even avoiding, human influence.

### **Psalms 104:14–23**

The psalmist finds numerous examples of God's provision for all forms of life, their interdependence on one another, and their response to the rhythms of day and night.

### **1 Corinthians 13:1–13**

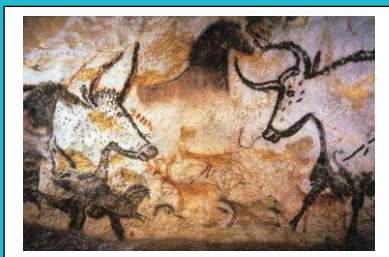
Wisdom is seen in the path of self-giving love taken by Jesus and not in partisan attitudes or self-interest.

### **Luke 12:1–12**

Jesus recognises and celebrates the beauty of nature, in verses that convey a picture of harmony, of trust, of natural provision even for life that is transitory and vulnerable. Jesus promotes a contentedness that is absent from a competitive, commercialised society.

## Theme Focus

In Job's wilderness, the life patterns of wild creatures show us a rhythm and harmony with their environment, and on Jesus' hillside, we are invited to observe the flowers and hear the wisdom of all creation.



## Word for the Day

### Learning from the Wild

This week's scriptures draw us into the wild beauty of a world that flourishes without us, and sometimes in spite of us. BUT! It can also flourish with us!

In Job 39, God points not to human ingenuity but to mountain goats, donkeys, and birds—creatures that thrive by instinct, away from cities and human control. Their wisdom is not taught but received; their lives speak of rhythms older than our calendars.

Psalms 104 paints a vibrant vision of interdependence—of animals that rise with the sun, people who work the land, and trees that provide for birds. It's a vision where all life matters and is provided for, not through competition, but through trust in divine provision.

Jesus echoes this in Luke 12, urging us to look at crows and lilies not just to admire, but to learn from them. Learn how to live without constant anxiety. Learn how to trust the Creator who adorns flowers and feeds birds. Their unhurried beauty isn't just decorative, it's instructive.

This Sunday, we are reminded that animals and plants are not just resources or symbols. They are fellow creatures, teachers, neighbours, kin. They teach us to live simply, to adapt, to trust. Their wisdom is not always in words but in presence, pattern, and praise.

Flora and fauna are not just background beauty—they are part of our story, our breath, our becoming. We live because trees breathe, because pollinators serve, because soil remembers. In God's creation, nothing flourishes alone.

May we be humble enough to learn. May we care deeply enough to change. May we see the flora and fauna not just as scenery, but as sacred.

### Ideas for Reflection

- What might the world be like if we let the plants and animals lead us for a while?
- What would it mean to listen to the wisdom of the non-human creation—to the birds, the bees, and the wildflowers?
- In what ways do we receive care from the natural world, without even noticing?
- What practices help us move from seeing creation as 'other' to experiencing it as 'kin'?
- What are we learning from species that adapt, migrate, and cooperate? What can resilience in nature teach us about living with care and courage?

- This week, take time to observe the intricate dance of life around you—a bee on a flower, the curve of a leaf, the movement of a lizard in the sun. Each one plays a role in the harmony of creation. What might it look like to live as part of that harmony—not over it, not outside it, but within it?



**Blue Banded Bee**  
**Australian Native**

**Spring Flannel  
Flowers**

**Cape Solander**



## A Reflection on Father's Day Past by Jon Owen of the Wayside Chapel

Is there anything more painful than the betrayal of one you love? The cuts seem deeper and easily re-opened. The roller-coaster of emotion becomes a wilder kind of ride as it takes dips and turns through anguish into anger and everything in between. The vengeance has contours more pronounced.

Surely this is something familiar to us all — or perhaps I am revealing too much of myself here. Love is the greatest risk we will ever take. I say as much whenever we review our company risk register here. If we eliminate the risk, we will eliminate the love, so we have to learn how to sit in the tension and be open to exposing our hearts to the ache of betrayal.

That young man's life has stayed with me because it illustrates something many years of men's work has taught me: what so many of us label as anger is really unprocessed sadness. His boundless rage wasn't really about the world around him, it was the only language he had for the deep sadness of a father who simply didn't care. Anger easily identifies enemies and heroes to lay blame for the state of the world, our relationships, and our souls. It gives us a focus and locus of attention, a way to avoid the raw ache underneath.

To sit in sadness isn't natural for most of us, yet it is the very place where spiritual energy is stored: in the grief, in the tears, the loneliness and the boredom of it all. I wish there was a shortcut to the other side of that, but there isn't any substitute for doing the work and owning up to where you may have been a contributor.

This brings me to Sunday's Father's Day — once again a vexed day for our community, one of grief, sadness, and even gratitude. It all happens around here, usually every minute. Our volunteers and team are phenomenal in how they navigate these choppy waters, creating a safe harbour in the midst of the chaos that surrounds so many lives. It's in

the quiet word in private, the cup of tea they shout that becomes an act of love rather than charity for someone who just needs one thing to work out right that day. Every act matters.

Discussing the upcoming Father's Day in our sunny horseshoe yesterday, I was looking for ways to mark it. "How about..." one of our guys asked, "instead of Rev, I call you Daddy for a week?" I told him that whilst I appreciated the sentiment, if he did, I'd have to start charging him rent — and frankly, neither of us could afford the arrangement!

(Submitted by Jim Bird)

From Chris Minn's report to the Community

*Mr CHRIS MINNS (Kogarah—Premier)—I would like to acknowledge Kogarah Storehouse, a charity who welcomed our diverse multicultural community for an event for Harmony week. Kogarah Storehouse has been supporting the St George area since 1992, aiding thousands every year with emergency relief and food programs, putting respect, diversity and belonging at the forefront of their mission. Indonesian, Chinese, Ukrainian, Mongolian and Nepalese community groups, participated in the Harmony week celebrations, which occurs mid-March. The event was promoting this year's theme of 'We all Have a Role to Play' reminding us that everyone has a responsibility to foster a society that is accepting to all. The event was launched by the Storehouse General Manager Lala Noronha and was welcomed to country by Yama Guroo from Bourke. Special guests included Police Superintendent Paul Dunstan, Multicultural Community Liaison Officer Sallie Ajami, and Storehouse Chairman Russel Foxe. The celebrations included performances from cultural groups, culminating with a rendition of 'I am Australian' by an Indonesian singing group. I thank the volunteers and staff of Kogarah Storehouse for their creation of this wonderful Harmony Week event and commend them on their continued support to the community.*

## **Planning Ahead**

- **September 7 till September 28 – Season of Creation**
- **September 14 Face-to-face meeting of the Church Council to discuss the Healthy Church Questionnaire, and the Life and Witness Report.**
- **September 19 at Bobbie's @ 11:30 am – bring your own lunch -to discuss "Orbital" Copies available from Bobbie.**
- **September 26 – Next Chinese seminar organised by Wynne**
- **October 16, 2025 Worship Task Group on ZOOM 7pm**

### **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 and Godfrey, Sue B, Robert & Robyn. 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**

**21st September 2025 @ 10am**

**Pentecost 15 - Proper 20**

**Season of Creation 3 – Storm**

**Job 28:20–27; Psalm 29; 1 Corinthians 1:21–31**

**Luke 8:22–25**

**Leader Robert**

**Reflection Deok Hee**



**Church Council 2025-2026**

***Chair***

**Richard Goodman**

***Secretary***

**Sue Baglin**

***Treasurer***

**John Baglin (2027)**

***Councillors***

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

**Sue Baglin (2026)**

**Joshua Chang (2026)**

***Elders***

**John Baglin (2026)**

**Bobbie Miller (2028)**

**Richard Goodman (2027)**

**Dorothy Makasa (2026)**

***Safe Church Contact Person***

**Richard Goodman**