



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.**

5th October 2025 @ 10am

Pentecost 17 - Proper 22

Season of Creation 5 – The Feast of St Francis

Proverbs 8:22–31; Psalm 148; Colossians 1:15–20;

John 6:41–51

Leader Richard

Reflection Deok Hee

Psalm 148:7-14 or Psalm 121; Galatians 6:14-18; Matthew 11: 25-30

**RCL for today: Lamentations 1:1–6; Psalm 137; 2 Timothy 1:1–14; Luke
17:5–10**

Dealing with Life's Challenges



**Khan
Younis in
Southern
Gaza – a
place of
refuge?**

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

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

Scriptures from the Revised Common Lectionary

Lamentations 1:1–6

in a poetic description of the ruined city, the writer of Lamentations uses the imagery of a bereaved woman, Daughter Zion, as a metaphor for both Jerusalem and the Israelites.

(Lamentations 3:19–26) or Psalm 137

Psalm 137 was likely written in the post-exilic period, as the psalmist remembers the difficulties that the exiled people faced at the hands of their capturers. A warning that the last two verses are harsh and should be approached with caution and sensitivity.

2 Timothy 1:1–14

The writer of this letter to Timothy is able to empathise with the suffering that is being experienced by the reader and reminds them of the grace of Jesus and the power of God to protect them.

Luke 17:5–10 has two parts. The first suggests that only a small amount of faith is required to achieve great deeds. The second might be encouraging the reader that great deeds are not necessary, only for each person to do their regular duty.

Theme Focus

In a poetic cry over a broken city, we are invited to name what feels lost in our own lives—and to make space, in worship and in one another, for grief, healing, and hope.

Word for the Day

The five chapters in Lamentations are a series of poems that describe the devastation of the exile—the exile of the people of Judah to Babylon. The reforms during the reigns of Josiah and Hezekiah placed great emphasis on Jerusalem and the temple as the centre of Israelite culture. Therefore, the devastation felt because of the Babylonian invasion hit at the heart of their society. Jerusalem here is figured as ‘Daughter Zion’ which carries a range of meanings that can encourage us to think about what it means to be a young woman.

Ideas for Reflection

- The styling of Zion as a woman reminds us of the vulnerability of women particularly in times of war. Women often become the targets of domination, abuse and rape. Even today, many women bear the scars of atrocities committed against them in wars and regional conflicts. How might we pray for these women? Is there anything we can do to assist them?
- Verse one presents us with three contrasts: full-empty, great-widow, queen-slave. The idea of fullness-emptiness might contain echoes of pregnancy, barrenness and lost children. The contrast between greatness and the widow may refer to power relationships. And queen versus slave may represent levels of authority. How do the themes of power, authority, and blessing apply to our own communities? Who are the ones with most power and authority, and who are those with none? Whose lives are full of blessing, and whose are empty? Once we have noticed these imbalances, what might we want to do to address them?
- Australia has often demonised refugees and others fleeing war or persecution. While Aotearoa, New Zealand's policies may differ, we all must ask: as Christians, how do we hold our nations to account for any unjust treatment of vulnerable people? How often do we consider the trauma these individuals carry—and how it is met by our own attitudes? What is our responsibility toward those seeking safety and hope?
- Even if we haven't faced something as devastating as war and exile, life can present many challenges. How might this passage and other Bible verses help us to articulate, understand and deal with the traumas we have faced in our lives? How do we give each other permission to grieve and lament? How is this reflected in our worship?



**70% of deaths
in Gaza are
woman and
children**



**PEACE
WITH CREATION**
SEASON OF CREATION 2025

Garden of Peace
March 30:14-28

The 4th October is the feast day of Saint Francis of Assisi, patron saint of the environment, animals and birds, because of the respect he gave to all the creatures on earth.



A Prayer for the end of the Season of Creation

Throughout the months and years, the
hopes and actions that lie ahead,
May the Renewing Spirit of God bring
to fulfillment the integral ecological
conversion
beginning around the planet.
May God's Spirit of Wisdom provide us all
the hope, wisdom, and courage we need
to restore the household of God on Earth,
making it once again a true Home for All.
May the prophetic Spirit of God bring
about just and loving global solidarity in
the human community so that together in
that Spirit
We may give birth to a life-giving and
profound Peace for all in the New Creation.
Amen

. The Season of Creation 2025 has brought together thousands of Christians worldwide in prayer, reflection, and action for the care of our common home. Under the theme "Peace with Creation," believers have joined in ecumenical solidarity to seek reconciliation with God, one another, and the Earth.

This sacred season culminates on October 4, the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi—the patron saint of ecology and a symbol of harmony between humanity and nature.

Why St. Francis of Assisi is Central to the Season of Creation

St. Francis of Assisi embodied a deep relationship with creation. He affectionately called the sun, moon, and earth his brothers and sisters, recognizing the intrinsic value of all living beings and the natural world. His *Canticle of the Sun*, a song of praise for creation, continues to inspire Christians across denominations today.

In *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis refers to St. Francis as the “*example par excellence of care for the vulnerable and of an integral ecology lived out joyfully and authentically.*” His example perfectly reflects the mission of the Season of Creation: restoring justice, healing broken relationships, and fostering peace with creation.

Ecumenical Celebrations on October 4: Peace with Creation

The Feast of St. Francis of Assisi has become a focal point for ecumenical celebrations at the close of the Season of Creation. Christians of many traditions come together in prayer services filled with music, scripture, intercessions, and reflections on climate justice, the future of our planet, and the hope for a renewed Earth.

This year's closing events remind us that peace with creation is only possible when justice is restored and when we act in solidarity with the Earth and the poor.



(Bees are threatened in Australia and that puts all of our crops in danger.)

Planning Ahead

- **October 15, 2025 Worship Task Group on ZOOM 7pm**
- **October 16 2025 Kogarah CC meeting in person 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, Ngahuaia, 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

Finding Hope in the Darkness

The Book of Lamentations

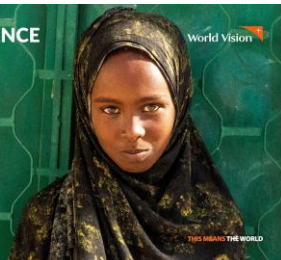


**HELP END VIOLENCE
AGAINST GIRLS**

**SPONSOR
1,000
GIRLS**
BY 11 OCTOBER,
INTERNATIONAL
DAY OF THE GIRL

World Vision

TOGETHER WE CAN CHANGE THE WORLD



Next Sunday

12th October 2025 @ 10am

Pentecost 18 - Proper 23

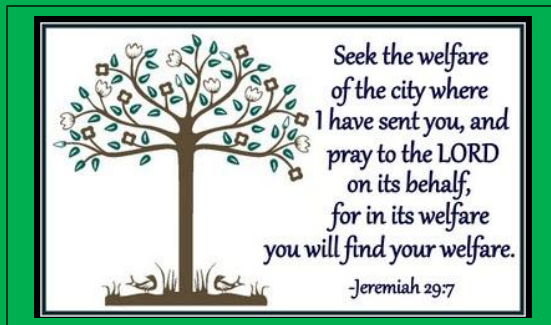
Living faithfully in the Midst of Struggle

Leader Deok Hee

Reflection Deok Hee

Holy Communion Deok Hee

Jeremiah 29:1, 4–7; Psalm 66:1–12; 2 Timothy 2:8–15; Luke 17:11–19



Church Council 2025-2026

Chair

Richard Goodman

Secretary

Sue Baglin

Treasurer

John Baglin (2027)

Councillors

Robert McAlpine (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