



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.**

12th October 2025 @ 10am

Pentecost 18 - Proper 23

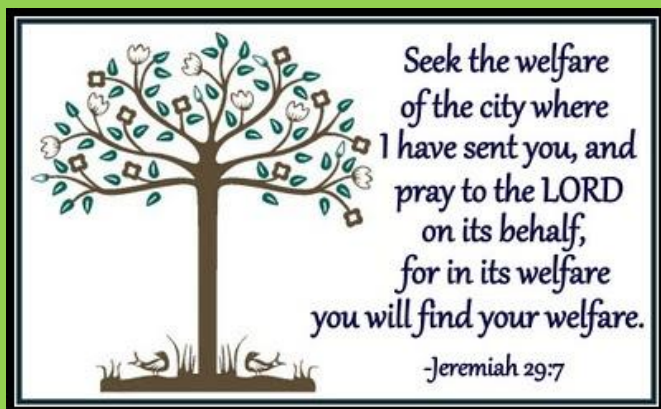
Living faithfully in the Midst of Struggle

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



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

Jeremiah 29:1, 4–7 The prophet encourages the Israelites to set down roots in the place they have been exiled and to work towards the welfare of that city. To seek the good of those who have forced you away from home and family continues to be a difficult message to hear.

Psalm 66:1–12

The psalmist encourages the reader/hearer to praise God, even within or despite difficult circumstances. The key message is that God's power is stronger than anything else.

2 Timothy 2:8–15

The writer of the letter reassures the reader that there is no shame in sharing the testimony of Jesus or his followers. Trusting in God is not shameful.

Luke 17:11–19

Jesus was willing and able to heal ten men with skin diseases. The writer tells us that it was only a 'foreigner' who returned to give thanks, reminding us all not to take the mercies of God for granted.

Theme Focus

As Jeremiah calls the exiles to plant and build in a strange land, and as those on the margins are seen and made whole, we imagine what it means to live faithfully right where we are.

Word for the Day

The people of Judah who were exiled did not have any choice. They were planted in a strange land in a foreign culture. It's possible that they did not even speak the new language. It is easy to imagine they would be angry, resentful, and afraid as well as feeling a range of other emotions. When faced with these challenges, it would be easy to choose to fight with the locals and insist on one's own traditions and understandings. Instead, the prophet encourages them to seek the welfare of the city where they have been placed. How might we today seek the welfare of our cities and towns, while perhaps dealing with the feelings that declining church influence might provoke in us?

Ideas for Reflection

- The fact that this is addressed to the 'few surviving elders' indicates that many have not survived the ordeal of exile. Indigenous groups and societies living in the wake of war often have lost many of their elders who would ideally be guiding the community. This means that traditional wisdom and insight are not always passed down and can be lost. What might we do to protect our elders? How do we support communities that have lost their elders?
- Not all the people of Judah were exiled. When the exiles returned, they had to learn to live again with the people who had stayed on the land. How might the lessons learned in exile help them to return afterwards? What are the lessons we should be learning about getting along with those who live near us?
- This passage doesn't encourage those in exile to dominate the new society. Instead, the exiles are to promote the welfare of the city. How might this inform how Christianity positions itself now that a majority of Australians do not identify as Christian? How may we seek the welfare of our towns or cities, regions and country without needing to be in control?
- Migrants, refugees and asylum seekers can find language a barrier to connection, particularly if they are older when they come to these lands. How might we support those who struggle to communicate? How might we recognise when these people are lonely and need help while still respecting their agency and privacy?

Uniting Church communities across Australia are invited to mark the fourth annual Older Persons Sunday during October.

Established by the Uniting Church Assembly in 2022, Older Persons Sunday is a time to celebrate the contributions and human rights of older people, confront ageism, and consider how we can build communities that honour dignity and nurture hope across all generations.

While the suggested date to observe the day is the first Sunday in October – closely aligned with the United Nations’ International Day of Older Persons (IDOP) – congregations are encouraged to choose any Sunday in October, or another suitable date that works best for their context.

“In many cultures, including my own Tongan heritage, elders are seen as ‘pillars of wisdom,’” says Uniting Church President Rev Charissa Suli.

“From a young age, we’re taught to honour and learn from our grandparents and elders. They carry stories of sacrifice, perseverance and faith that continue to shape us.”

“In the Uniting Church, we believe in the inherent dignity of every person. That belief guides how we care for our older members.”

Older Persons Sunday offers churches a meaningful way to recognise and celebrate the invaluable roles older people play – as individuals, family members, community leaders and advocates for justice. It also aligns with broader efforts to reform attitudes and systems that marginalise older people.

The United Nations created the International Day of Older Persons in 1990 to spotlight the impact of ageism and promote respect and dignity for older adults worldwide. The 2025 theme highlights the essential role of older people in building resilient, inclusive societies through their lived experience in health, finance, community life and human rights.

Statement on the Seventh Anniversary of the National Apology to Survivors of Institutional Child Sexual Abuse

22 October 2025

As we approach the anniversary of the National Apology to Survivors of Institutional Child Sexual Abuse on 22 October, my heart turns to the voices of survivors. Their courage continues to shape us. Their pain and truth remind us that while important steps have been taken, there is still such a long way to go.

As a Church we remain we remain committed to righting the wrongs of the past and to learning from every survivor who comes forward. Ten years have passed since the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse reported on [Redress and Civil Litigation](#). Its call still resounds. We continue to participate proactively in the National Redress Scheme. Each application is a sacred moment of truth-telling and learning, and we thank every person who chooses to come forward and share their story.

I remind our communities that the [National Redress Scheme](#) will close on 30 June 2027. If you believe you may be eligible, I urge you to contact the Scheme so that you do not miss this deadline. For those who have already received a redress payment, know that we stand ready to offer an apology when you are ready to meet with us. You will be received with compassion, dignity and respect. You are in control of the process, and you can take the time you need.

Safeguarding children is not a task that is ever “finished”. It is a lifelong journey of vigilance, learning and improvement as we embed a culture of safeguarding. Across the Church, in our schools, agencies and congregations, we are working to strengthen training for staff and volunteers, to ensure safe recruitment, to make clear and accessible pathways for children and community members to raise their voices when something is wrong, and to respond with care and justice when

harm occurs. Those who raise concerns in good faith will always be supported, and we will always act to protect children.

This year, the Assembly has made a Liturgy of Lament available for all congregations to mark the anniversary. It has been prepared through a trauma-informed lens. To pray these words may be confronting and painful, yet we must face the discomfort. For in that place we hear the echo of survivor voices that cry out with clarity: *never again*.

While we may never be able to remove every risk, we can commit ourselves each day to doing all that we can to make our communities places of safety, care and trust for children and young people.

This is our sacred responsibility, our unshakeable commitment, and part of the “Threads of Love” we are called to weave across our Church.

Rev Charissa Suli

President, Uniting Church in Australia

**Pastoral Prayer for the Seventh Anniversary of the National Apology
written by President Rev Charissa Suli**

Loving and faithful God,

We come before you with heavy hearts,

remembering children and young people who were harmed within
institutions

that should have been places of safety, care and nurture.

We grieve with survivors,

honouring their courage, their truth and their pain.

Their voices call us to repentance,

their stories lead us to change.

Forgive us where we have failed to see,

failed to protect, failed to act.

**Give us humility to listen,
and wisdom to walk in justice and compassion.**

**We pray for all who still carry wounds -
visible and invisible -**

that they may know healing, dignity and hope.

Surround them with people who will believe, support and protect them.

**Renew in us, O God,
an unshakeable commitment to safeguard every child and young person.**

Teach us vigilance, integrity and love.

**Let our Church be woven into a community of safety,
where the "Threads of Love" of Christ hold and protect the most
vulnerable.**

**We pray this in the name of Jesus,
who welcomed children with dignity and blessed them,
and who calls us to create places of safety, love and trust for every child.**

Amen

As we celebrated the feast of St Francis of Assisi and marked the conclusion of the Season of Creation, we prayed in the words of his Canticle of Creation: (Shared from Jamberoo Abbey's Facebook page)

Laudato Si', Mi Signore

Praise be to you, my Lord, through all your creatures,
especially through my Brother Sun,
through Sister Moon and the stars,
through Brother Wind,
and through the air, cloudy and serene,
and every kind of weather.

Praised be You, my Lord, through Sister Water,
through Brother Fire,
through Sister Mother Earth,
who sustains us, producing
varied fruits with coloured flowers and herbs.

Praise be to you, my Lord, through all your creatures,
Laudato Si', Mi Signore!

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, 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

Pray that the peace plan for Gaza holds and that the killing can stop.



Next Sunday

19th October 2025 @ 10am

Pentecost 19 - Proper 24

Looking to a New Day

Leader Dimah

Reflection Deok Hee

Jeremiah 31:27–34; Psalm 119:97–104; 2 Timothy 3:14—4:5; Luke 18:1–8



Image from Seattle Pacific
University, a Christian
University in the USA

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