

KOGARAH UNITING CHURCH

12 October 2025

Pentecost 18

The Gathering of the People of God

WELCOME & GREETING

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ
and the love of God
and the communion of the Holy Spirit
be with you all.

And also with you.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY:

As we gather, we acknowledge that we meet on the lands of the Bidjegal people of the Eora nation, the traditional owners who have tended and cared for this land since time immemorial. We pay our respects to elders past and present and commit to walking together seeking truth, justice, treaty and reconciliation.

KUC VISION STATEMENTS

Let us say together who we are.

***We are a congregation
who welcome people of all cultures and lifestyles,
who create a safe place for the community
and who share the journey of life and faith.***

CALL TO WORSHIP

Come, let us gather in the presence of God,
with hearts full of gratitude and hope.

We come with joy, remembering God's goodness.

We come to give thanks for life, love, and mercy.

Let us lift our voices in praise for God's blessings.

We rejoice, for God's love surrounds us each day.

God calls us to gratitude and faithfulness.

We respond with thankful hearts, offering our lives in praise.

Come, let us worship God with joy and thanksgiving!

Let our hearts be grateful, our voices lifted, and our lives shine with God's love.

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

God is here

God is always here

God is with us

God is always with us

OPENING PRAYER

Gracious God, we come to you with thankful hearts.
Even in hard times, your blessings surround us.
Thank you for life, for family and friends,
for this church, and for your love and guidance.
Teach us to see your blessings in every moment,
and to express our gratitude in words and actions.
May our worship today be full of joy and thanksgiving. Amen.

HYMN: Shout to the Lord TiS 738

My Jesus, my saviour
Lord, there is none like you;
all of my days, I want to praise
the wonders of your mighty love.
My comfort, my shelter,
tower of refuge and strength,
let every breath, all that I am,
never cease to worship you.

*Shout to the Lord, all the earth let us sing
power and majesty, praise to the King.
Mountains bow down and the seas will roar
at the sound of your name.
I sing for joy at the work of your hands;
forever I'll love you, forever I'll stand.
Nothing compares to the promise
I have in you!*

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PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Let us take a moment to confess the times we have hurt one another.

(Provide a time of silence)

Gracious God, we lay all these things at your feet.
Forgive us for the times we have spoken or acted without love,
for the times we have been selfish, proud, or careless.
Cleanse our hearts and renew us, that we may live in your grace. Amen.

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

God sent the Son into the world, not to condemn the world,
but that the world might be saved through him.
Those who believe in him are not condemned.
If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just, and will forgive our sins
and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Hear then Christ's word of grace to us:
Our sins are forgiven.

Thanks be to God.

PEACE

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

HYMN: Lord, I lift your name on high P&W 736

Lord, I lift your name on high;
Lord, I love to sing your praises.
I'm so glad you're in my life;
I'm so glad you came to save us.

*You came from heaven to earth to show the way,
from the earth to the cross, my debt to pay.
From the cross to the grave,
from the grave to the sky;
Lord, I lift your name on high.*

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The Service of the Word

BIBLE READINGS

Psalm 66:1–12

1 Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth; 2 sing the glory of his name; give to him glorious praise. 3 Say to God, “How awesome are your deeds! Because of your great power, your enemies cringe before you. 4 All the earth worships you; they sing praises to you, sing praises to your name.” Selah 5 Come and see what God has done: he is awesome in his deeds among mortals. 6 He turned the sea into dry land; they passed through the river on foot. There we rejoiced in him, 7 who rules by his might forever, whose eyes keep watch on the nations—let the rebellious not exalt themselves. Selah 8 Bless our God, O peoples; let the sound of his praise be heard, 9 who has kept us among the living and has not let our feet slip.

10 For you, O God, have tested us; you have tried us as silver is tried. 11 You brought us into the net; you laid burdens on our backs; 12 you let people ride over our heads; we went through fire and through water; yet you have brought us out to a spacious place.

Luke 17:11–19

11 On the way to Jerusalem Jesus was going through the region between Samaria and Galilee. 12 As he entered a village, ten men with a skin disease approached him. Keeping their distance, 13 they called out, saying, “Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!” 14 When he saw them, he said to them, “Go and show yourselves to the priests.” And as they went, they were made clean. 15 Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice. 16 He prostrated himself at Jesus’s feet and thanked him. And he was a Samaritan. 17 Then Jesus asked, “Were not ten made clean? So where are the other nine? 18 Did none of them return to give glory to God except this foreigner?” 19 Then he said to him, “Get up and go on your way; your faith has made you well.”

REFLECTION

Today, my reflection is about a grateful heart. And I’d like us to think together about what it really means to live with gratitude — not just to say “thank you,” but to have a thankful heart that changes how we see our lives.

When I first came to Australia — many years ago — I worked in a Korean church as a youth worker. I looked after teenagers who were mostly born or raised here. One day, we had a special meeting to talk about their families — especially their parents. As many of you know, second-generation immigrant kids often struggle with identity. They live between two cultures. They love their parents, but at the same time, they often feel misunderstood. That day, the young people started sharing their honest feelings. They said things like, “My parents don’t understand me.” “They can’t speak English well, so I can’t talk to them about what I feel.” “When I’m sad or confused, I want to share with them, but they don’t get it.” And they were right — their parents were working so hard, day and night, trying to survive in this

new country. They didn't have much time to rest, and sometimes they didn't have much energy to listen. The young people spoke with pain and frustration. Their hearts were full of disappointment. After listening for a while, I asked them a different question. I said, "I understand it's been hard. But let's think about something we can be thankful for about our parents." At first, the room was silent. No one said anything. Then one boy said quietly, "Maybe my parents have suffered even more than I have." Another said, "My parents always make sure we have good food, even when they don't have time to eat properly themselves." Then another girl said, "My mum prays for me every morning before she goes to work. I never said thank you for that." As they continued sharing, something changed in the room. Their voices softened. Some had tears in their eyes. And that meeting — which began with complaints — ended with gratitude and prayer. We prayed together, thanking God for our parents. It was a beautiful, emotional moment. That day, I learned again that gratitude can heal pain. When we begin to give thanks, even for small things, our hearts begin to change. Gratitude turns pain into peace.

In today's Gospel reading from Luke 17, we also meet someone whose heart was changed by gratitude. Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem. As he entered a village, ten men with leprosy stood at a distance and called out, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!" Leprosy was one of the most terrible diseases in ancient times. It slowly destroyed the body and also separated people from everyone else. They were seen as unclean — untouchable — and they had to live outside their towns and families. Can you imagine how lonely that must have been? To be alive, but cut off from everyone — to walk the earth, yet feel dead inside. But these ten men had heard about Jesus. So when they saw him, they shouted, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!" And Jesus said something simple — "Go, show yourselves to the priests." That might sound strange, but in those days, the priests acted a bit like public health officers. If a leper was healed, he had to show himself to the priest to be declared "clean" and allowed back into society. So these ten men, still sick and scarred, started walking toward the priests. They didn't argue. They didn't ask for proof. They simply obeyed. And Luke says, "As they went, they were healed." Somewhere along the road, their skin became new again. Their bodies were restored. Can you imagine their joy? They must have shouted and danced in disbelief! But what happened next is surprising. Only one of them came back to Jesus. Only one turned around to give thanks. And Luke tells us, "He came back, praising God in a loud voice. He threw himself at Jesus' feet and thanked him." And this one man — this grateful man — was a Samaritan, someone seen as an outsider, even unholy. Jesus said to him, "Were not ten healed? Where are the other nine? Get up and go. Your faith has made you well."

There are two simple but powerful lessons in this story. First: Even in hard times, there is always something to be thankful for. Sometimes we think, "How can I give thanks when life is so difficult? When there's sickness, loneliness, or

disappointment?” But gratitude isn’t about pretending life is easy. It’s about recognizing that God is still with us, even in our pain. There’s an old story about a pastor named Martin Rinkart. He lived during a terrible war and a plague in Germany. In one single year, he buried more than 4,000 people — including his own wife. Yet in the middle of that suffering, he wrote the great hymn:

“Now thank we all our God, with hearts and hands and voices.”

He chose to give thanks, not because life was good, but because God was still good. We need to know that even in the middle of our problems, hardships, and pain, God’s blessing is always there, waiting to be found. Maybe we need to do the same — to make a list of our blessings. Even in our struggles, there’s always something to be thankful for — life, breath, family, faith, this community.

Second: Gratitude must be expressed. It’s not enough to feel thankful in our hearts. We need to say it. We need to show it. Nine men were healed, but they never came back to say “thank you.” Only one did — and he received not only physical healing, but also spiritual healing. There’s power in expressing gratitude. When we say “thank you,” something happens — not just to others, but inside us. It opens our hearts to God and to one another. Sometimes the people we think are “outsiders” — like the Samaritan in the story — are the very ones who show the deepest gratitude and faith. And Jesus blesses that kind of heart. Friends, maybe some of us here today feel tired. Maybe life hasn’t gone as we hoped. Maybe we’re carrying pain that others don’t see. But let me gently remind you — there is still something to be thankful for. Even in darkness, there’s a small light that shines. Even in loss, there’s love that remains. When we begin to thank God, our focus shifts — from what we lack to what we already have. And that change can bring healing and peace. So this week, I invite you to do something simple. Take a few minutes. Make a list of your blessings. Think about what you still have, and whisper a prayer of thanks. You might be surprised how your heart begins to change.

The Apostle Paul said,

“Rejoice always,

pray continually,

give thanks in all circumstances,

for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.” (1 Thessalonians 5:16–18)

Giving thanks is not just good manners — it’s the will of God. It is the way of faith.

So, brothers and sisters, whatever you are facing today, may you find reasons to give thanks. May you discover that gratitude brings healing, and that a grateful heart opens us to the grace of God. Thanks be to God. Amen.

HYMN: Now thank we all our God TiS 106

Now thank we all our God

with hearts and hands and voices,

who wondrous things has done,
in whom the world rejoices;
who from our mothers' arms
has blessed us on our way
with countless gifts of love,
and still is ours today.

O may this bounteous God
through all our life be near us,
with ever joyful hearts
and blessed peace to cheer us.
Lord, keep us in your grace,
and guide us when perplexed,
and free us from all harm
in this world and the next.

All praise and thanks to God
who reigns in highest heaven,
to Father and to Son
and Spirit now be given:
the one eternal God,
whom heaven and earth adore,
who ever was, is now,
and shall be ever more.

PD ; Martin Rinkart

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OFFERING & OFFERING PRAYER

Generous and loving God,
everything we have comes from you —
our lives, our families, our church, and all our blessings.
We bring these gifts to you with thankful hearts.

Use them, Lord, to share your love and hope in this world.
Bless the hands that give and the hearts that desire to serve.
May all that we offer today bring glory to you.
In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENT

PRAYERS FOR OTHERS

Gracious and loving God,
we thank you for all your blessings —
for life, for family, for friends, and for this loving church community.
Help us to live each day with grateful hearts.

This is my prayer.

This is our prayer.

God of mercy and comfort,
we lift up to you those who are sick or in pain,
those in hospital or at home,
and those waiting for healing or strength.
We remember them now in a moment of silent prayer...
(Silent prayer)

Surround them with your peace,
touch them with your healing love,
and give them hope in your presence.

This is my prayer.

This is our prayer.

God of compassion,
we pray for all who are lonely, anxious, or grieving today.
Let your Spirit bring them comfort and courage.
May we be people who listen, care, and walk beside them.

This is my prayer.

This is our prayer.

God of justice and peace,
we pray for our world — for those suffering from war, hunger, and injustice.
Show us how to be peacemakers and bridge builders.

This is my prayer.

This is our prayer.

God of welcome and hope,
we remember those who have come to this country
to begin a new life — immigrants, refugees, and their families.
Help them to find safety, belonging, and dignity.
May our church be a place of open arms and open hearts.

This is my prayer.

This is our prayer.

Faithful God,
bless our church family here at Kogarah Uniting Church.
Fill us with gratitude, love, and faith
so that we may serve others in the name of Christ.

This is my prayer.

This is our prayer.

We gather all these prayers,
spoken and silent, into your loving hands,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

***Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us in the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.***

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

INVITATION

This is the table of our Lord Jesus Christ.
In great humility and love
Jesus lived among us, he became one of us.
He came, not to call the righteous,
but sinners to repentance.
He came, not to condemn us,
but to save us from our sins.
He understands our doubts, our lack of faith,
our longing for more love, more holiness of life;
and even now he accepts us as we are
and calls us to be his disciples.

Come then to this holy feast.
Come to our crucified Saviour and risen Lord.
The Master is here and is calling to you.
Come and receive the signs of his presence,
the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ.

COMMUNION HYMN:

Let us talents and tongues employ TiS 537

Let us talents and tongues employ,
reaching out with a shout of joy;
bread is broken, the wine is poured,
Christ is spoken and seen and heard.

*Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again,
pass the Word around: loaves abound!*
*Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again,
pass the Word around: loaves abound!*

Christ is able to make us one,
at the table he sets the tone,
teaching people to live to bless,
love in word and in deed express.

*Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again,
pass the Word around: loaves abound!*
*Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again,
pass the Word around: loaves abound!*

Jesus calls us in, sends us out
bearing fruit in a world of doubt,
gives us love to tell, bread to share;
God-Immanuel everywhere.

*Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again,
pass the Word around: loaves abound!*
*Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again,
pass the Word around: loaves abound!*

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Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also be with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

We bless you for your continual love and care for every creature.

We praise you for forming us in your image
and calling us to be your people.

We thank you that you did not abandon us
in our rebellion against your love,
but sent prophets and teachers to lead us into the way of salvation.

Above all we thank you for sending Jesus, your Son,
to deliver us from the way of sin and death
by the obedience of his life,
by his suffering upon the cross,
and by his resurrection from the dead.

We praise you that he now reigns with you in glory
and ever lives to pray for us.

We thank you for the Holy Spirit,
who leads us into truth,
defends us in adversity,
and out of every people unites us into one holy church.
Therefore, with the whole company of saints
in heaven and on earth
we worship and glorify you, God most holy, and we sing with joy.

***Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.***

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

We give thanks to God
that our Saviour, Jesus Christ, before he suffered,
gave us this memorial of his sacrifice until he comes again.

The Lord Jesus, on the night when he was betrayed,
took bread, giving thanks, and broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take, eat. This is my body given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me."

In the same way, after supper, he also took the cup and said:
Drink from this all of you.
This is my blood shed for you and for the whole world
for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this in remembrance of me.”

With this bread and this cup we do as our Saviour commands:
we celebrate the redemption he has won for us.

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Eternal God, let your Holy Spirit move in power over us
and over these earthly gifts of bread and wine,
that our sharing of them may be for us
the communion of the body and blood of Christ,
and that we may become one in him.
May his coming in glory find us
ever watchful in prayer,
strong in truth and love,
and faithful in the breaking of the bread.
Then, at last, all peoples will be free, all divisions healed,
and with your whole creation we will sing your praise,
through your Son, Jesus Christ.

***Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all glory and honour are yours,
almighty Father, forever. Amen.***

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

LAMB OF GOD

Jesus, Lamb of God,
Have mercy on us.
Jesus, bearer of our sins,
Have mercy on us.
Jesus, redeemer of the world,
Grant us peace.

The Communion

Prayer after Communion

Loving God,
We thank you that through word and sacrament
you have given us your Son
who is the true bread of heaven and food of eternal life.
So strengthen us in your service
that our daily living may show our thanks;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Sending Forth of the People of God

HYMN: God gives us a future TiS 687

God gives us a future, daring us to go
into dreams and dangers on a path unknown.
We will face tomorrow in the Spirit's power,
we will let God change us, for new life starts now.

We must leave behind us sins of yesterday,
for God's new beginning is a better way.
Fear and doubt and habit must not hold us back:
God gives hope, and insight, and the strength we lack.

Holy Spirit, teach us how to read the signs,
how to meet the challenge of our troubled times.
Love us into action, stir us into prayer,
till we choose God's life, and find our future there.

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BLESSING

As we leave this place today,
may we go with hearts full of gratitude.
May we see God's blessings in every part of our lives —
in moments of joy and in times of struggle.
May our thankful hearts bring hope and kindness
to everyone we meet this week.

And the blessing of God almighty,

the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be upon you and remain with you always.
Amen.

SENDING SONG: Behold, behold Season 6 - 10

Behold (behold), behold (behold),
I make all things new,
beginning with you and starting from today.
Behold (behold), behold (behold),
I make all things new,
my promise is true, for I am Christ the way.

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