



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.**

26th October 2025 @ 10am

Pentecost 20 - Proper 25

Dreaming New Dreams

Leader Deok Hee

Reflection Deok Hee

Holy Communion Deok Hee

Joel 2:23–32; Psalm 65; 2 Timothy 4:6–8, 16–18; Luke 18:9–14



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

Joel 2:23–32 contains a vision of flourishing, which includes abundant rain, ample harvests and fresh oil. This will be a cause for celebration in which all people—women and men, old and young, enslaved people and free—will be able to speak and know of God’s goodness.

Psalm 65

The psalmist also describes a land that is flourishing through God’s provision. The response is that the valleys ‘shout for joy and break out in song’.

2 Timothy 4:6–8, 16–18

The writer to Timothy speaks of being deserted by everyone but God. This is hurtful, but God’s grace allowed him to persevere.

Luke 18:9–14

This parable invites us to examine the motivations of our hearts. It reminds us that humility and honesty before God opens us to grace in ways that pride cannot.

Theme Focus

We listen for the Spirit moving among us—in dreams, quiet prayers, and the courage to speak grace aloud.

Word for the Day

The prophet Joel writes in the post-exilic period. Unlike many of the other prophets, Joel is not looking towards the restoration after the exile. Rather he is offering comfort after a natural disaster, namely, a plague of locusts. The encouragement for the 'Children of Zion' to rejoice and be glad comes after a message for the land to rejoice and the animals of the field not to be afraid. This message of flourishing is not just for the people; all creation will tell of God's praise. And when everything is going well again, everyone will have God's spirit poured out on them. For some, this will mean speaking prophetically. Others will dream dreams and see visions. There will be signs on Earth and in the sky. If these signs of the Spirit came today, what might they look like? If we recognised the signs, who might we tell about them?

Ideas for Reflection

- How do we know the dreams that are from God? How do we discern the message of the dream? Once we have seen the dream or vision, how might we go about sharing it?
- How might encounters with natural disasters, such as a plague, interfere with our ability to hear God speaking? How do we understand God's spirit when we are in the middle of a disaster?
- How do we reconcile when people hear the Spirit saying different things?
- What might help us be aware of listening to the loud and self-confident voice rather than the meek and merciful person? How do we trust the message is of God?
- Once we have heard the message, how might we encourage one another to proclaim it within the faith community and without?

Further to the appointment of Sarah Mullaly as Archbishop of Canterbury

Sarah Mullally Becomes First Woman Archbishop of Canterbury Amid Ongoing Anglican Disputes Over Same-Sex Blessings

- By [Adrian Drayton](#) in Insights

Sarah Mullally has been named the new Archbishop of Canterbury, making her the first woman to hold the office in the Church of England's history. Her appointment has stirred divisions within Anglican circles, particularly over the issue of same-sex blessings.

Mullally enters the role against a backdrop of internal tensions. In 2023, the Church of England's General Synod approved prayers of blessing for same-sex couples, while maintaining a ban on conducting same-sex marriages in the church. Mullally supported that vote. Some groups, especially conservative Anglican bodies, view her support of blessings as evidence that she fails to uphold traditional interpretation of the Bible. The Global Anglican movement GAFCON criticized the decision, stating that it undermines the Archbishop's ability to function as a unifying figure for the worldwide communion.

Other voices within the Church look at Mullally's background as a strength. She led the Living in Love and Faith process — a long church-wide consultation on gender, sexuality, and relationship theology. As Bishop of London she has navigated differing views about women's leadership and inclusion.

Her first public statements in the position pointed to fractured relations within the communion and urgent institutional issues. She addressed safeguarding concerns emerging from past abuse controversies and called for accountability in church structures. Mullally also referenced growing division over gender, theology, and power.

Some Anglican provinces — especially in Africa and Asia — do not accept women in episcopal office and oppose same-sex blessings. For those provinces, Mullally's leadership will test whether common structures can hold despite deep disagreement.

Mullally's term begins amidst calls from conservative Anglican factions for her to affirm what they see as the "biblical faith." Some of those factions warn that changes in rites and theology may lead to further fragmentation in the global communion.

As a leader, Mullally will not have sole authority to alter doctrine; that rests with the General Synod of the Church of England. She must also engage with Anglican bodies worldwide, many of which have already signalled impaired communion with the Church of England over these very disputes.

Her time as archbishop will test whether her theological positions and institutional leadership can maintain Anglican bonds across fault lines of gender, sexuality, and tradition.

From Jamberoo Abbey last week ...

Small steps towards peace in the Middle East...we give thanks for prayers and actions answered and continue to pray that all parties involved in long term negotiations will work in good faith towards a lasting peace and justice for all.

Blessing for Peace

Wondrous Peacemaker,
guide us in a world filled with war,
hatred, and division,
to create a place where everyone
can live free from fear of violence.

Care for the soldiers, the victims, the refugees.

Be a balm for their wounds

and guide them to alignment with your holy desires.

Transform the tools of destruction

into vessels of cultivation.

Where bombs rain down,

let the tiny seeds sprout among the rubble.

Where the stranger has fled to safety,

let them be welcomed with open arms.

Where the desire for vengeance consumes

let a new way crack open.

Infuse us with the courage needed

to speak words of care,

to be the presence of peace

in all of our words and actions.

Let the light of your love pulse within us,

so we become bearers of shalom.

May the radiance of our dreaming

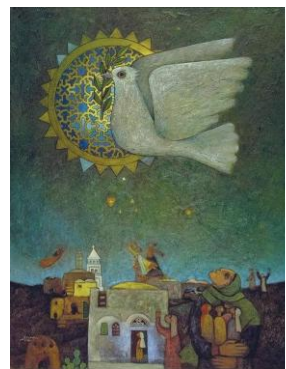
be a sign of hope, so all might dream together

this more beautiful world.

Amen

~ Christine Valtner Painter

Image ~ "Hope" by Palestinian artist, Sliman Mansour



Planning Ahead

- **November 12th TKS Management Committee AGM @ 4pm ftf**
- **November 23rd Reign of Christ November 30th Advent 1**
- **28 November, 5, 12, 19 December Advent Bible Study: Fridays @ 10am**
- **December 10th Worship Committee @ 7pm via Zoom**
- **December 11th Kogarah UC Church Council @ 7pm**
- **December 18th Blue Christmas at 7.30 pm**
- **December 25th Christmas Day (Thursday) (There will be no Christmas Eve service this year.)**

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, - 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

Christopher and all those in the middle of their HSC examinations

Next Sunday

2nd November 2025 @ 10am

All Saints

Pentecost 21 - Proper 26

Remembering the Communion of Saints

Leader Robert

Reflection Deok Hee

Holy Communion Deok Hee

Daniel 7:1–3, 15–18; Psalm 149; Ephesians 1:11–23; Luke 6:20–31



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