

## KOGARAH UNITING CHURCH

9 November 2025

Pentecost 22

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

Let us sing to God a new song this day,  
***for God has done marvellous things.***

Let us make a joyful noise to God, in our singing and in our praise.

***Let the oceans roar and mountains sing for joy.***

Let us come and worship our God.

### LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

God is here / ***God is always here***

God is with us / ***God is always with us***

## OPENING PRAYER

O God,  
you come to us afresh in the newness of this day.  
We see you in the new face, the fresh flower,  
the surprising sight, the startling sound.  
As we gather to worship you this day,  
open our eyes to see you anew.  
Open our ears to hear your word as if for the first time.  
Open our hearts to know your love in our lives. Amen.

## HYMN: Gather Us In TiS 474

Here in this place new light is streaming,  
now is the darkness vanished away,  
see, in this space, our fears and our dreamings,  
brought here to you in the light of this day.  
Gather us in, the lost and forsaken;  
gather us in, the blind and the lame;  
call to us now, and we shall awaken,  
we shall arise at the sound of our name.

We are the young, our lives are a mystery;  
we are the old, who yearn for your face;  
we have been sung throughout all of history,  
called to be light to the whole human race.  
Gather us in, the rich and the haughty,  
gather us in, the proud and the strong;  
give us a heart so meek and so lowly,  
give us the courage to enter the song.

Not in the dark of buildings confining,  
not in some heaven light years away,  
but here in this space, the new light is shining,  
now is the kingdom, now is the day.  
Gather us in, and hold us forever;  
gather us in, and make us your own;  
gather us in, all peoples together,  
fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

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## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Loving and compassionate God,  
we are a broken people, and we bring our lives before you.  
When we are stubborn and stuck in our ways

***melt our coldness and rigidity.***

When we are caught in the dirge of our own making,  
***put a new song on our lips and a dance in our bodies.***

When we are rigid in our ways and quick to judge others  
***ignite our imaginations and inspire us with new possibilities.***

When we fail to hear and see your loving grace about us  
***open our ears and eyes to your awesome grace. Amen.***

## DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

God's love is wider than our mistakes, and his mercy reaches us today.

In Christ, we are made new; God's mercy surrounds us always.

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:** O for a thousand tongues to sing TIS 210

O for a thousand tongues to sing  
my great Redeemer's praise,  
my great Redeemer's praise,  
the glories of our God and King,  
the triumphs of his grace!

Jesus! The name that charms our fears,  
that bids our sorrows cease;  
that bids our sorrows cease;  
such music in the sinner's ears  
is life, and health, and peace.

He breaks the power of cancelled sin,  
he sets the prisoner free;  
he sets the prisoner free;

his blood can make the foulest clean,  
his blood availed for me.

He speaks, and listening to his voice  
new life the dead receive,  
new life the dead receive,  
the mournful, broken hearts rejoice,  
the humble poor believe.

Hear him, you deaf; his praise, you dumb,  
your loosened tongues employ;  
your loosened tongues employ;  
you blind, behold your Saviour come;  
and leap, you lame, for joy!

My gracious Master and my God,  
assist me to proclaim,  
assist me to proclaim,  
to spread through all the earth abroad  
the honours of your name.

PD; Words: Charles Wesley

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## The Service of the Word

**BIBLE READINGS** Psalm 98, Luke 20:27–38

### **Psalm 98**

1 O sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous things. His right hand and his holy arm have gotten him victory. 2 The Lord has made known his victory; he has revealed his vindication in the sight of the nations. 3 He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel. All the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God. 4 Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises. 5 Sing praises to the Lord with the lyre, with the lyre and the sound of melody. 6 With trumpets and the sound of the horn make a joyful noise before the King, the Lord. 7 Let the sea roar and all that fills it, the world and those who live in it. 8 Let the floods clap their hands; let the hills sing together for joy 9 at the presence of the Lord, for he is coming to judge the earth. He will judge the world with righteousness and the peoples with equity.

### **Luke 20:27–38**

27 Some Sadducees, those who say there is no resurrection, came to him 28 and asked him a question: “Teacher, Moses wrote for us that if a man’s brother dies

leaving a wife but no children, the man shall marry the widow and raise up children for his brother. 29 Now there were seven brothers; the first married a woman and died childless; 30 then the second 31 and the third married her, and so in the same way all seven died childless. 32 Finally the woman also died. 33 In the resurrection, therefore, whose wife will the woman be? For the seven had married her.” 34 Jesus said to them, “Those who belong to this age marry and are given in marriage, 35 but those who are considered worthy of a place in that age and in the resurrection from the dead neither marry nor are given in marriage. 36 Indeed, they cannot die anymore, because they are like angels and are children of God, being children of the resurrection. 37 And the fact that the dead are raised Moses himself showed, in the story about the bush, where he speaks of the Lord as the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. 38 Now he is God not of the dead but of the living, for to him all of them are alive.”

## REFLECTION

There is one question every human being asks sooner or later: “What happens after we die?” Every religion tries to answer this question in its own way. Hindus believe that when people die, their soul can be born again in a new body, like starting a brand-new life. Buddhists believe something similar. They think we can be born again and again until our soul reaches nirvana — a place where we are completely happy and peaceful, with no sadness or worries. Muslims believe in a final judgment — that after death, God will raise people and reward or punish them according to their faith and deeds. Some people today think death is simply the end — that there is nothing beyond it. But Jesus shows us something different — a living hope that death itself cannot destroy.

In today’s passage, a religious group called the Sadducees comes to Jesus. They did not believe in resurrection because the first five books of the Bible do not directly teach it. To them, if something is not logical, it cannot be true. So, they asked Jesus a tricky question: Seven brothers married the same woman, one after another... In the resurrection, whose wife will she be? They didn’t want real answers. They only wanted to make the resurrection look silly. To them, resurrection was not logical. But Jesus teaches us: Resurrection is not logic. It is relationship, relationship with the Living God. Jesus said that life in the coming world is different from this world. There is no marriage there, no death there. It is a whole new kind of life- — eternal and transformed. And then Jesus said the most important truth in this passage: “He is not the God of the dead, but of the living, for to him all are alive.” (v.38) Think about what that means: God said, “I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.” He did not say, “I was their God... when they were alive.” God still has a relationship with them. Why? Because they are still alive to God. Because love does not die. Because our relationship with God never ends, even after physical death. Resurrection is not about logic — it’s about love. It’s about relationship —

God's relationship with us that never ends. Resurrection is not a human idea — it is God's love story. The Sadducees asked a foolish question. Jesus answered the most important question ever: Is there life beyond the grave? Jesus says: YES. Definitely yes. Every medical breakthrough gives us hope — hope to live a little longer, hope to fight disease, hope to delay the end... But still — we all die. We will all stand one day at the graveside of someone we love deeply. And in that moment, Jesus gently whispers: "Wait... This is not the end. There is more." That is the greatest Good News humanity has ever received. Everything else in this world is temporary. But God's love and God's promise are eternal.

I once met a beautiful Christian woman of faith. She was 82 years old. Her husband had already gone to be with the Lord. Her children were grown. Her body was weak. She held my hand and said: "I have lived a good life. The Lord has been so good to me. I am ready to go home... to be with my Lord and with my husband." I thought she was afraid of surgery. So I tried to comfort her. But she smiled peacefully: "No, no fear. I am ready to rest in God's arms." Before the operation even began, she peacefully fell asleep — and woke up in the presence of God. I stood there shocked. I believed in eternity with my head... but she believed with her whole heart. So many of us are like that — we know eternal life in our minds, but we fear it in our hearts. Her faith taught me this: Death is not the end — it's a doorway into God's presence. I have been to two kinds of funerals. At some funerals, there is no faith, no hope — only darkness and fear. People cry and cry and say, "It's over. We will never see them again." But Christian funerals are different. Yes, we weep. Yes, we feel deep sorrow. But even through tears, we can also sing. We can say: "She is now resting in the Lord." "We will see him again." Our hearts still break — but hope holds us together. Because we know: The grave is not the end. Death is a doorway. God waits on the other side. This is why we can celebrate even with tears. This is the heart of our faith: "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." — John 3:16. God's relationship never dies.

But resurrection is not only something that happens after we die. Resurrection begins here and now—whenever love wins over hate, whenever hope rises in places of despair, whenever peace is shared in a world full of fear and violence. When we look around, we see pain, injustice, and inequality everywhere—in Gaza and Israel, in Ukraine and Russia, in Syria, Iran, Iraq, Lebanon, and many other places we pray for every week. We see people losing homes, families fleeing from war, and even here in Sydney, people sleeping on the streets with no place to go. And yet, every time we pray for them, every time we share through our Christmas Bowl offering, when we share love with people we have never met, when we help rebuild homes, feed hungry families, and support refugees around the world, and every time we open our door to a stranger, listen to someone in pain, or stand up for justice, that's

resurrection too. We are living as people of resurrection — because life rises again whenever love is shared.

Brothers and sisters in Christ, yes — one day after death, we will rise with God in eternal life. But resurrection also happens now. God calls us today to be people who bring new life — to pray for peace, to care for the poor, to stand with those who are forgotten, and to believe that even in this broken world, God's love is stronger than death. Because the God we worship is not the God of the dead —but the God of the living. And God's life will always rise again — in Gaza and Sydney, in your heart and mine, and in every place where love is alive. Amen.

**HYMN:** Make me a channel of your peace TiS 607

Make me a channel of your peace.  
Where there is hatred let me bring your love;  
where there is injury, your pardon, Lord;  
and where there's doubt, true faith in you.

*(Refrain)*

*O Master, grant that I may never seek  
so much to be consoled as to console,  
to be understood as to understand,  
to be loved, as to love with all my soul.*

Make me a channel of your peace.  
Where there's despair in life, let me bring hope;  
where there is darkness, let me bring your light;  
and where there's sadness, ever joy.

*(Refrain)*

Make me a channel of your peace.  
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,  
in giving of ourselves that we receive,  
and in dying that we're born to eternal life.

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## **OFFERING & OFFERING PRAYER**

Giver of all good gifts,  
take our offerings, we have brought  
and take our lives,  
that we may be your peace, your joy, and your love

in our community and in the world. Amen.

## **ANNOUNCEMENT**

### **PRAYERS FOR OTHERS**

Loving and Living God, we bring before you  
the pain and suffering of our world.

***We remember those in Gaza and Israel, Ukraine and Russia,  
Syria, Iran, Iraq, Lebanon, and everywhere people are caught in war and conflict.***

We lift up those who have lost their homes, their families, their safety.

***We pray for the refugees, the displaced, the lonely,  
and all who cry out for justice and peace.***

We also remember our own community, O God.

***Be with those who are sick, grieving, or struggling in body, mind, or spirit.***

***Comfort the weary, heal the broken, and strengthen those who feel weak.***

May your love rise in the darkness, your hope shine in despair,

***Your peace calm the storms of violence,  
and your justice prevail in a world that longs for fairness.***

Teach us to live as people of resurrection,

***Sharing love with strangers, caring for the vulnerable,  
and bringing life where there is death,***

***hope where there is despair, and light where there is darkness.***

We pray all this in the name of Jesus Christ, our risen Lord,

***Who makes all things new. 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
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### **INVITATION**

Let us draw near to the holy table.  
This is the table our Lord has prepared  
for those who love him.

Jesus said,  
“I am the bread of life;  
Those who come to me shall not hunger,  
and those who believe in me shall never thirst.”

**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.

*(Refrain)*

*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.

*(Refrain)*

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.

*(Refrain)*

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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,

thank you for this holy meal,

for feeding us with your presence and love.

May we carry the life we have received here into the world,  
bringing hope, peace, and love to those around us.  
Help us live as people of resurrection today,  
trusting that to you, all are alive. Amen.

The Sending Forth of the People of God
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**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**

Go in peace,  
carrying the love of God into every corner of your life.  
Go in hope,  
trusting that even in brokenness, God's life rises again.  
Go in joy,  
sharing light, mercy, and grace with the world.

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:** May you find peace Seasons 7-26

May you find peace,  
may you find hope,  
may you find joy this day.  
May you find love,  
may you find rest  
here in this place together.

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