



## 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.**

**16<sup>th</sup> November 2025 @ 10am**

**Pentecost 23 - Proper 28**

**What do we hope for?**

**Leader Richard**

**Reflection Deok Hee**

**Isaiah 65:17–25; Isaiah 12; 2 Thessalonians 3:6–13.**

**Luke 21:5–19**

**THEREFORE WITH JOY YOU WILL  
DRAW WATER FROM THE  
WELLS OF SALVATION.**

*Isaiah 12:3*



For details and information about our church activities and The Kogarah Storehouse, check out the websites: [kogarah.uca.org.au](http://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**

#### **Isaiah 65:17–25**

God promises the creation of new heavens and a new earth where peace will reign, and God will hear prayers before they are spoken.

#### **Isaiah 12**

The prophecy of Isaiah predicts that when the Davidic rule is in place, the people will praise God. A song of praise and trust in God is presented as an example.

#### **2 Thessalonians 3:6–13**

Paul addresses a situation in Thessalonica where some people are becoming idle and not working to earn a living for the food they eat. The community is urged to follow the example set by Paul and never tire of doing good.

#### **Luke 21:5–19**

As the disciples comment on the beauty of the temple, Jesus predicts its destruction. When asked when this will happen and what signs will precede it, he offers an apocalyptic vision marked by turmoil and persecution. Yet even in the midst of this bleak outlook, Jesus offers assurance and calls his followers to remain faithful.

#### **Theme Focus**

In a world where devastation abounds, we hold Isaiah's vision of a renewed earth and are called to live it into being with courage and hope, not fear, trusting in the new thing God is already doing among us.

## Word for the Day

Luke 21:5–19 presents a conversation between Jesus and a group of people in the temple. It seems that some of the concerns are similar to the worries of the world today. When will war break out? How will it affect me and my family? When will the world end—due to spiritual beliefs or climate change?

As we hear the news of the world around us—wars, natural disasters, corrupt leadership, people living in poverty—it is natural to react with fear. However, Jesus replies to the people, saying, ‘Do not be terrified’. Jesus does not ask them to put their head in the sand and pretend everything is wonderful. Instead, he encourages them to put their trust and their hope in God and stay grounded. This does not mean that life will be easy, but with their lives in God they will endure.

### Ideas for Reflection

- When you look at the world around you, what events or situations bring you most despair?
- Where do you see people acting out of fear? What are the results of this?
- What might it look like for you to put your hope in God?
- How can we hold the needs of our world and our community without getting caught up in fear and despair?

November 16, Proper 28

*Readings: Isaiah 65:17-25 and Isaiah 12, Malachi 4:1-2a and Psalm 98, 2 Thessalonians 3:6-13, Luke 21:5-19*

When I read the calamitous future described in Luke 21 I can't help but feeling that this is not a snapshot of some special moment in time but rather a broad and sobering telling of human history in its totality. Has there ever been a time when there were *no* wars or insurrections? When did kingdoms *not* rise against kingdoms? When have there *not* been famines and plagues?

It can be easy for Christians to slip into the trap of reading Jesus' apocalyptic words in Luke 21 (and elsewhere) from a human and historical perspective. In order somehow to understand and predict (and perhaps avoid) what is to come. It is perfectly reasonable to want to avert calamity, or at least avoid persecution. Yet the key message for believers in this part of the gospel is not about avoiding, but about enduring; about resting in the words of wisdom and trusting in God in the face of hatred and betrayal. Even though the first hearers of Jesus may well have thought that the end of all things was months or at most a few years away, as history continued on the Gospel has helped people of faith to endure. In a time when many of us feel that we have little control over our own future, perhaps resting again in the wisdom of God will help us endure in the days and years to come.

*From last week's Uniting Insights on Line*

*Prepared by Rev. Dr Niall McKay, Educator for Lifelong Learning*

**We sing of our need for God (Love Unknown) – John L Bell**

**(Responding to Luke 21:5-19)**

**1 God, give us peace that lasts  
not through the fear of might,  
but through the force of love  
and love of life and right.**

**Where costly wars and weapons lure,  
show us our Lord among the poor.**

**2 God, give us love that lasts,  
which makes of strangers, guests;  
which startles hurt with hope  
and for the weak protests;  
what hate or guiltiness emboss,  
confront with Jesus and the cross.**

**3 God, give us hope that lasts  
through passion and through pain,  
through danger, doubt and death  
till life is raised again.**

**When dread and pessimism loom,  
direct us to the empty tomb.**

**4 And all these things we ask  
in knowledge of your grace  
which gave the earth its birth  
and bore a human face;  
and with our prayers we give a word  
to serve and follow Christ our Lord.**

**©2010 Wild Goose Resource Group; text, John Bell Reproduced under  
Copyright Licences: ONE LICENSE A-604712; CCLI #45150**



**War Child Alliance – the specialist charity for children  
affected by conflict.**

## Planning Ahead

- **November 23<sup>rd</sup> Reign of Christ**
- **November 25<sup>th</sup> Georges River Presbytery meets at Kogarah. We supply light refreshments**
- **November 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> Storehouse Christmas market – watch for details.**
- **November 30<sup>th</sup> Advent 1**
- **28 November, 5, 12, 19 December Advent Bible Study: Fridays @ 10am**
- **December 10<sup>th</sup> Worship Committee @ 7pm via Zoom**
- **December 11<sup>th</sup> Kogarah UC Church Council @ 7pm**
- **December 18<sup>th</sup> Blue Christmas at 7.30 pm**
- **December 25<sup>th</sup> 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, Ngahua, 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.

## Next Sunday

**23<sup>rd</sup> November 2025 @ 10am**

**Pentecost 24 - Proper 29**

### **Reign of Christ - What sort of reign is this?**

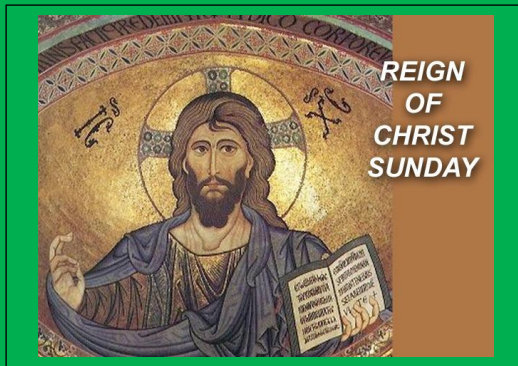
**Leader Deok Hee**

**Reflection Deok Hee**

**Holy Communion Deok Hee**

**Jeremiah 23:1–6; Psalm 46; Luke 1:68–79; Colossians 1:11–20.**

**Luke 23:33–43**



**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**