



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.**

23rd 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



Image: Christ in Judgment,

Art in the Christian
Tradition

Vanderbilt Divinity Library

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 23:1–6

God denounces those who are destroying and scattering the flock of God. God promises to raise up a new shepherd who will tend the flock in a just and wise way.

Luke 1:68–79

Zechariah and Elizabeth bring their son to be circumcised and name him John. At this point, Zechariah, who has been unable to speak, sings a song of praise to God for his son, who will become a prophet.

Colossians 1:11–20

Christ is placed above all things and before all things and will rule over the powers of darkness bringing redemption to all people

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Luke 23:33–43

The mocking and crucifixion of Jesus. A notice proclaiming Jesus as 'The King of the Jews' is placed above him. The criminal to Jesus' side asks him to remember him when he comes into his kingdom.

Theme Focus

On this Sunday, often referred to as Christ the King, we explore what Christ's reign means for the world today.

Word for the Day

Jeremiah 23:1–6 acknowledges that leaders can be destructive and divisive. This is very familiar to us in today's world. We see in our news every week the consequences of unjust leadership on the vulnerable people of the world. The prophet proclaims that God will raise up new leaders and new shepherds who will lead in a different way. We see this manifested in the person of Jesus.

Luke 23:33–43 takes us to the story of Jesus' crucifixion just weeks before we celebrate his birth. This may seem unusual, but it reminds us of the counter-cultural nature of Jesus' message and leadership. While on the cross, humiliated and without power, Jesus continues to show love and compassion to those he encounters. This 'reign' is not of a kingdom that has power over people, but of a kin-dom that lives amongst and with all people. Those who may be oppressed and marginalised by unjust power are seen, heard and loved in Christ's kin-dom.

Ideas for Reflection

How do you see the counter-cultural kin-dom being expressed in your faith community?

What are the challenges of this 'reign' of Jesus as opposed to what we view in leadership of the world?

What does being part of the kin-dom of Christ mean for you, individually, and for your community, and our world?

November 23, Reign of Christ – Proper 29

Readings: Jeremiah 23:1-6 and Luke 1:68-79, Jeremiah 23:1-6 and Psalm 46, Colossians 1:11-20, Luke 23:33-43

The final Sunday of the church's year is often referred to the festival of "Christ the King". Yet, while the scriptures of the New Testament consistently affirm that Christ is sovereign, what exactly this means is not quite as clear. It is no surprise that the readings for today offer several options.

In Jeremiah 23, the 'righteous branch of David shall reign as a King', but he rules like a shepherd caring for sheep. In Luke 1, the promised saviour is much more the ultimate prophet in the traditions of old, calling the people away from sin and showing the glory of God, shining like the dawn's light.

Psalm 46 speaks of refuge and safety, possibly implying that the king will be a strong protector, and in Colossians 1 we see a fully realised incarnation and Jesus is not simply a king, but the ultimate sovereign God present in and around and through all creation.

Finally, in Luke 23, we read that our Lord is a broken man, dying on a cross and yet still overflowing with mercy. It is hard to hold all these images together all at once and in each moment, I don't think we are meant to. However, if we are to proclaim Jesus as sovereign of all creation, let us also remember that he is a king like no other, and he will keep surprising us with his power, grace and love. Not a bad place to finish the year!

November Lectionary Reflections are based on the Revised Common Lectionary and have been prepared by Rev. Dr Niall McKay, Educator for Lifelong Learning . They can be found in Insights on Line

[Christ The King](#)

Based on Mathew 25: 31-46

Our King is calling from the hungry furrows
Whilst we are cruising through the aisles of plenty,
Our hoardings screen us from the man of sorrows,
Our soundtracks drown his murmur: 'I am thirsty'.
He stands in line to sign in as a stranger
And seek a welcome from the world he made,
We see him only as a threat, a danger,
He asks for clothes, we strip-search him instead.
And if he should fall sick then we take care
That he does not infect our private health,

**We lock him in the prisons of our fear
Lest he unlock the prison of our wealth.
But still on Sunday we shall stand and sing
The praises of our hidden Lord and King.**

**Malcolm Guite (2012) from [‘Sounding the Seasons’](#) published
by [Canterbury Press](#).**

ADVENT BIBLE STUDY

**Join us at the church at 10am on the Fridays in
Advent for**

Our Advent Bible Study series

Sessions 1 & 2 are on Friday 5th December

Kogarah Storehouse Dates

27th & 28th November – Christmas market – Food by Oz Harvest (Thursday) and Amin (Friday) Nepalese and Chinese food. This activity is supported by Georges River Council.

17th December – Storehouse Christmas Celebration – Distribution of Christmas Hampers – food and entertainment. This activity is supported by Westfield (Hurstville), CBA (Hurstville), St George leagues Club, Soul of Chinatown. There will be Bamboo Band music, Ukrainian food and much, much more.

The Storehouse will be closed from 22nd December 2025 till 21st January 2026 (first food distribution day)



Christmas Market

at
THE KOGARAH STOREHOUSE
16-18 Gray St, KOGARAH NSW 2217

Bargains Galore!!
All Welcome

THURSDAY 27th & FRIDAY 28th
NOVEMBER
10.30AM - 2.30PM



Bazaar
Performances
Free Refreshment



for more information, please contact 02 9587 5761



Better Together with Unity in Diversity Festival

Supported by Georges River Council's Community Grants Program

Planning Ahead

- **November 23rd Reign of Christ**
- **November 25th Georges River Presbytery meets at Kogarah. We supply light refreshments**
- **November 27th and 28th Storehouse Christmas market – watch for details.**
- **November 30th Advent 1**
- **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, 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

30th November 2025 @ 10am

**Advent 1 – Hope
Waiting for the Light**

**Leader Sue Baglin
Reflection Deok Hee**

**Isaiah 2:1–5; Psalm 122; Romans 13:11–14.
Matthew 24:36–44**



Church Council 2025-2026

***Chair
Secretary
Treasurer
Councillors***

**Richard Goodman
Sue Baglin
John Baglin (2027)
Robert M'Alpine (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