

**KOGARAH UNITING CHURCH  
NOVEMBER 16th 2025**

**The Gathering of the People of God**

**WELCOME & GREETING**

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:**

We acknowledge that this land is God's land, and God's Spirit dwells here. We pay our respects to the elders past, present and emerging of the Bidjegal people of the Eora nation, who have cared for this land in time beyond our dreaming. This land on which we live and move was and always will be Aboriginal Land.

**KUC MISSION STATEMENT**

**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**

God is creating new heavens and a new earth;  
the former things shall not be remembered or come to mind.  
Be glad and rejoice forever in what God is creating;  
for God is creating the world as a joy,  
and its people as a delight.

Come, let us worship together.

**LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE**

God is here

**God is always here**

God is with us

**God is always with us**

**SING: Behold Behold - Iona - 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. (x2)**

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### **OPENING PRAYER**

Creator God, open our eyes this day to see what is made new around us.  
Open our ears to hear your voice speaking fresh words into our community.  
Open our hands to be part of your creating hope.  
Open our hearts to live with compassion and trust.  
Amen.

### **SING: Sing praise and thanksgiving TIS 107**

**Sing praise and thanksgiving, let all creatures living  
now worship their maker with gladness and song;  
all glory and honour we come to him bringing:  
O praise to the Almighty, sing praise to our God!**

**Our lives of his making he brings to their waking;  
in darkness he held us in his gracious care,  
now into the light we are called from our sleeping:  
O praise to the Almighty, sing praise to our God!**

**Lord, frame our desiring to do your requiring,  
that unto your glory be all that we do;  
and where we have faltered, give strength and give healing:  
O praise to the Almighty, sing praise to our God!**

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### **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

God of grace, make us an instrument of your peace.  
Where there is hatred in our lives, **let us sow love.**  
Where there is doubt in our lives, **let there be faith.**  
Where there is despair in our lives, **let there be hope.**  
Where there is darkness in our lives, **let there be light.**  
When we seek to be understood, **help us to understand.**  
When we seek to be loved, **help us to love.**

When we long to receive, **help us to give.**

When we long to be forgiven, **help us to forgive.**

(Inspired by the prayer often attributed to St Francis of Assisi)

### **DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS**

Our God is always creating something new.

We live within the grace of the living Christ.

Let us be thankful and walk forwards in hope and love.

Amen.

### **PEACE:**

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**And also with you.**

<b>The Service of the Word</b>
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### **BIBLE READINGS:**

#### **ISAIAH 65:17-25**

**<sup>17</sup>For I am about to create new heavens and a new earth; the former things shall not be remembered or come to mind. <sup>18</sup>But be glad and rejoice forever in what I am creating; for I am about to create Jerusalem as a joy, and its people as a delight. <sup>19</sup>I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and delight in my people; no more shall the sound of weeping be heard in it, or the cry of distress. <sup>20</sup>No more shall there be in it an infant that lives but a few days, or an old person who does not live out a lifetime; for one who dies at a hundred years will be considered a youth, and one who falls short of a hundred will be considered accursed. <sup>21</sup>They shall build houses and inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit. <sup>22</sup>They shall not build and another inhabit; they shall not plant and another eat; for like the days of a tree shall the days of my people be, and my chosen shall long enjoy the work of their hands. <sup>23</sup>They shall not labor in vain, or bear children for calamity; for they shall be offspring blessed by the LORD— and their descendants as well. <sup>24</sup>Before they call I will answer, while they are yet speaking I will hear. <sup>25</sup>The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, the lion shall eat straw like the ox; but the serpent—its food shall be dust! They shall not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain, says the LORD.**

## **LUKE 21:5-19**

**<sup>5</sup>When some were speaking about the temple, how it was adorned with beautiful stones and gifts dedicated to God, he said, <sup>6</sup>“As for these things that you see, the days will come when not one stone will be left upon another; all will be thrown down.” <sup>7</sup>They asked him, “Teacher, when will this be, and what will be the sign that this is about to take place?” <sup>8</sup>And he said, “Beware that you are not led astray; for many will come in my name and say, ‘I am he!’ and, ‘The time is near!’ Do not go after them. <sup>9</sup>“When you hear of wars and insurrections, do not be terrified; for these things must take place first, but the end will not follow immediately.” <sup>10</sup>Then he said to them, “Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; <sup>11</sup>there will be great earthquakes, and in various places famines and plagues; and there will be dreadful portents and great signs from heaven. <sup>12</sup>“But before all this occurs, they will arrest you and persecute you; they will hand you over to synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors because of my name. <sup>13</sup>This will give you an opportunity to testify. <sup>14</sup>So make up your minds not to prepare your defense in advance; <sup>15</sup>for I will give you words and a wisdom that none of your opponents will be able to withstand or contradict. <sup>16</sup>You will be betrayed even by parents and brothers, by relatives and friends; and they will put some of you to death. <sup>17</sup>You will be hated by all because of my name. <sup>18</sup>But not a hair of your head will perish. <sup>19</sup>By your endurance you will gain your souls.**

### **REFLECTION –Deok Hee**

#### **Luke 21: 5-19, Isaiah 65:17–25**

When I think of Twenty-first Century America, three Big Dates come to mind. One is September 11, 2001 — we all remember the day of pain and suffering. Another Big Date is November 8, 2016, the day Donald Trump was elected President of the United States. And the third Big Date has now been joined by November 8, 2024 — the day Donald Trump was elected again as the 47th President of the United States. They are all equally World Dates, for the whole world feels their impact. I still remember very clearly what happened nine years ago. At that time, everyone was talking about one thing — the American presidential election. People in the United States were choosing their leader for the next four years. There were two candidates. One was Hillary Clinton, an experienced woman politician. The other was Donald Trump, a white man, a successful businessman, and an outsider in politics. Both of them worked very hard with their teams to win. Many people believed that Hil-

lary Clinton would become the next president. But to everyone's surprise, Donald Trump won and became the 45th President of the United States. His victory shocked not only Americans but people all around the world.

And now, one more thing has surprised the world again — Donald Trump has been re-elected as the 47th President of the United States. This news has brought an even greater shock to people everywhere. His leadership style and policies have once again drawn strong reactions from many countries and communities. Recently, the new U.S. trade and tariff policies have become a source of concern for many countries, South Korea, Japan, China, Australia, also for many countries around the world. Many are worried about how these policies might affect their economies and their future relationships with the United States. At the same time, within the U.S. itself, stricter immigration measures and growing social tensions have caused anxiety among many people. Communities are facing uncertainty, and some feel more vulnerable than before. In such a time, the world seems to be holding its breath, watching what will come next. No one really knows what kind of America they will shape

In recent years, Korea has also gone through a time of great political turmoil. Under President Yoon's administration, the nation faced growing challenges both at home and abroad. There were serious allegations of corruption and misconduct involving the president's family and close associates, and many people felt that trust in leadership was steadily weakening. Public concern increased even further when there were accusations that the government had attempted to use extraordinary emergency measures—such as a form of martial law—to hold on to greater political power. Although these efforts did not succeed, they left many citizens feeling shocked, disappointed, and deeply worried about the future of the nation. In response, large numbers of people gathered peacefully in the streets, expressing their hope for justice, honesty, and a leadership that truly serves the country. Eventually, the administration stepped down, and a new president was elected, marking a significant turning point for the nation. When we think of the future, we know that the choices we make can lead us in different directions — at a personal level as well as at the national level. Our decisions can take us closer to the best or closer to the worst. We know that our choices have consequences, and the world we live in is constantly being shaped by them.

Our gospel reading is about future, the signs of the end. Lots of people today fear the end. What lies ahead for us and our world? What does the future look like? So when Jesus speaks in Luke 21 about the uncertainties of the future,

his words feel surprisingly familiar. The disciples were also worried — about wars, conflicts, disasters, and political turmoil. Jesus didn't hide the truth. He said that difficult things would happen, and even his followers would face persecution and betrayal. But here is the part I love. Jesus doesn't leave his disciples in fear. Instead, he makes a surprising promise. He says, "Yes, you will face hard times. But do not worry beforehand about how you will defend yourselves. I will give you words and wisdom that none of your opponents will be able to resist." What a beautiful promise. Jesus says, "Don't live your life worrying about the future. Don't panic about what you will say or what you will do. I will be with you. I will give you what you need."

And then in our Old Testament reading Isaiah 65, through the prophet Isaiah, God paints an even bigger picture — a vision of the world God is creating. A world where crying and pain will be gone. A world where children are safe, where homes stand strong, where people enjoy the fruit of their work, where peace flows so naturally that even the wolf and the lamb lie down together. Now, that might sound very poetic — maybe even too idealistic — but God is giving us a picture to hold onto when the world feels heavy and uncertainty. It's like when a parent comforts a child at night by saying, "I know you're scared, but morning is coming." God is saying, "Yes, the night is real. But the morning will come." Let me put it this way. Imagine you're driving through a thick fog. You can't see far ahead. You don't know what's coming. But you keep going because you trust that the road is still there. And eventually, the fog lifts. In the same way, we often live in fog — uncertainty, confusion, fear. But God says, "Just keep going. I am with you, and the fog will not last forever." It is a promise that God is working toward a future where all brokenness will be restored, and that even in an uncertain future, he will walk with us every step of the way. We don't live by fear. We live by faith.

A few days ago, I was walking down the street, and I happened to bump into someone from my former church. We hadn't seen each other for a really long time, so we decided to sit down and have a coffee together. As we caught up, we talked about how we've been, shared a few stories, and eventually our conversation moved to how tough and complicated the world feels these days. We both agreed that life can feel really heavy at times. And as we kept talking, it just naturally led us into a conversation about faith. He said to me: "Deok Hee, every time I watch the news, I feel heavy. I don't know where the world is going." And honestly, many people feel the same way. I told him: "Yes, the world is unstable. But the heart of our faith is not that the world is stable. The heart of our faith is that God is with us even when the world is unstable." He nodded quietly and said: "That's why faith is so important." And he's right. Because sooner or later, every one of us will go through what people call the 'dark nights of the soul.' We will have fears, we will have

doubts, life will turn against us. What Christ reminds us is that whatever situation we find ourselves in, he is with us. We are not alone and God's grace is sufficient regardless of how difficult life may be. It is vital that we keep our mind fixed on that truth. Life is unpredictable. But God is with us.

I remember the story I heard about the captain, encountering a hurricane while on a cruise in the Atlantic. After the captain managed to sail around the danger, he was visiting with some of the passengers. The captain said he had always lived by a simple philosophy namely that if the sea is smooth, it will get rough; and if it is rough, it will get smooth. He added something worth remembering: "But with a good ship," the captain said, "you can always ride it out." Our ship is our faith in Christ. With a good ship, you can always ride it out. Life is unpredictable. God is with us. Amen.

**SING: Sing a new song sing a new song TIS 166**

**Sing a new song,  
sing a new song,  
and wait upon the promise of the Lord.  
Sing a new song,  
sing a new song,  
and wait upon the promise of the Lord.**

**Creation sings a new song to the Lord,  
the universal energies rejoice,  
through all the magnitudes of space and time  
creatures proclaim the grandeur of Christ.**

**Sing a new song,  
sing a new song,  
and wait upon the promise of the Lord.**

**The mountains and the valleys and the plains,  
the cattle and the wild beasts and the birds,  
the shadows and the clouds, the rain and snow,  
praise and reflect the bounty of Christ.**

**Sing a new song,  
sing a new song,  
and wait upon the promise of the Lord.**

**The ocean deeps, the currents and the tides,  
the diatoms, the fishes, and the whale,  
the storm, the reef, the waterspout, the calm,  
praise and reflect the wonder of Christ.**

**Sing a new song,  
sing a new song,  
and wait upon the promise of the Lord.**

**The fruit trees in their seasons and the vine,  
the eucalypt, the cedar, and the palm,  
the lotus and the orchid and the rose,  
praise and reflect the beauty of Christ.**

**Sing a new song,  
sing a new song,  
and wait upon the promise of the Lord.**

**The human eye, the shaping hand, the mind  
with number and with symbol and design,  
in work and play and artistry and prayer,  
praise and reflect the wisdom of Christ.**

**Sing a new song,  
sing a new song,  
and wait upon the promise of the Lord.**

**The love of man and woman clear as dawn,  
the will for truth and justice broad as day,  
the wisdom of the heart profound as night,  
praise and reflect the glory of Christ.**

**Sing a new song,  
sing a new song,  
and wait upon the promise of the Lord.**

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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.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## **PRAYERS FOR OTHERS**

God of hope, we bring before you the situations, events, and people of this world.

As we pray, may we see glimmers of hope in your love, compassion, and peace.

God of hope, we see the glimmers of hope before us and in your world.

Use us to be your hope, your peace, your love and your compassion in this world.

Amen.

## **THE LORDS 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.**

<b>The Sending Forth of the People of God</b>
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**SING: Love divine all loves excelling TIS 217**

**Love Divine, all loves excelling,  
joy of heaven, to earth come down,  
fix in us thy humble dwelling,  
all thy faithful mercies crown:  
Jesus, thou art all compassion,  
pure unbounded love thou art;  
visit us with thy salvation,  
enter every trembling heart.**

**Come, almighty to deliver,**

let us all thy life receive;  
suddenly return, and never,  
never more thy temples leave:  
thee we would be always blessing,  
serve thee as thy hosts above,  
pray, and praise thee, without ceasing,  
glory in thy perfect love.

Finish then thy new creation,  
pure and spotless let us be,  
let us see thy great salvation,  
perfectly restored in thee:  
changed from glory into glory,  
till in heaven we take our place,  
till we cast our crowns before thee,  
lost in wonder, love and praise.

PD ; words: Charles Wesley

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### **BLESSING:**

God is creating new heavens and a new earth; the former things shall not be remembered or come to mind.

Be glad and rejoice forever in what God is creating; for God is creating the world as a joy, and its people as a delight.

Go out into this world of joy to be a delight, knowing that the blessing of God,

Creator, Son, and Spirit, is forever with you.

Amen.

### **SENDING SONG: There's a light upon the mountains TIS 276**

There's a light upon the mountains and the day is at the spring  
when our eyes shall see the beauty and the glory of the King;  
weary was our heart with waiting, and the night-watch seemed so long,  
but his triumph day is breaking, and we hail it with a song.

**There's a hush of expectation, and a quiet in the air,  
and the breath of God is moving in the fervent breath of prayer:  
for the suffering, dying Jesus is the Christ upon the throne,  
and the travail of our spirit is the travail of his own.**

**He is breaking down the barriers, he is casting up the way,  
he is calling for his angels to build up the gates of day:  
but his angels here are human, not the shining hosts above;  
for the drum-beats of his army are the heart-beats of our love.**

**Hark, we hear a distant music, and it comes with fuller swell -  
the great triumph song of Jesus, of our King, Emmanuel:  
Zion, go you forth to meet him; and, my soul, be swift to bring  
all your finest and your dearest for the triumph of our King!**

**PD; Methodist Publishing House, UK  
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