



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.**

30th November 2025 @ 10am

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

Leader Sue Baglin

Reflection Sue & John Baglin

Isaiah 2:1–5; Psalm 122; Romans 13:11–14.

Matthew 24:36–44

Today is Deok Hee's rostered day off



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

Isaiah 2:1–5 paints a vision of a time when people will come to God’s dwelling place together in peace. The people will walk in God’s ways, and their disputes will be settled without violence.

Psalms 122 is a song of ascents sung as the people approach Jerusalem. As they approach the city, they pray for peace for Jerusalem.

Romans 13:11–14

Paul exhorts the early Christians to wake to the new life in Christ. The night is nearly over, and the day is coming. They are to put aside whatever separates them from God and clothe themselves in Christ, allowing the light of his life and love to guide their steps.

Matthew 24:36–44

Jesus urges his disciples to keep watch and be ready, for the time of God’s reign coming in its fullness is unknown. Because its arrival cannot be predicted, they are called to live faithfully, alert, and prepared, as they wait.

Theme Focus

As we begin this Advent season, Isaiah’s vision of people walking in God’s ways and Jesus’ call to wakefulness invite us to wait in hope.

Word for the Day

Intergenerational Conversation

It may seem obvious that people would want to wait for the light for Jesus to come this Advent, but light can sometimes be a scary place.

There is a story written by Max Lucado titled ‘The Cave People’ about a group of people who had always lived in a cold, bleak cave. One day, a visitor came to their cave and built a fire that gave warmth and light. The people were afraid and found the light hurt their eyes. They wanted the visitor to put the fire out and leave. One woman approached the fire, felt the warmth, and allowed her eyes to adjust to the light. Others stayed far away, for they were afraid.

Sometimes, it is easier to remain in our comfortable ways rather than change, even if the new thing will be better for us. We might remember the Israelites who were brought out of slavery in Egypt, but once they came into the desert, they grumbled and wanted to go back.

Living with hope for what may come is not always easy. We can look foolish or lose our patience.

- I wonder if there has ever been a time in your life when you waited in hope for something new?
- I wonder what it was like?

November 30, Advent 1

Readings: Isaiah 2:1-5, Psalm 122, Romans 13:11-14, Matthew 24:36-44

It often strikes me as odd that the start of the church year, and the beginning of our preparation for Christmas, usually begins apocalyptically – in this case with the verses from Matthew 24 that speak of “the day and hour no one knows” and reference the destruction of the great flood, the sudden separation of friends and family, and finish with a tale of burglary to bring it all together.

There is a risk that this kind of language will make us fearful; prompting us to hide in our holy huddles and cut ourselves off from any peril that

may come. The irony is, however, that hiding away and becoming more focussed on ourselves is the opposite of what Jesus is commanding. “Keep awake!” Stay alert and notice and engage in what is happening in the world. Moreover, taken with the Gospel’s constant refrain not to be afraid (repeated at least 5 times in Matthew), the strange and wonderful verses of Matthew 24 are better read with surprise and wonder, rather than fear. The point for Christians, especially as they prepare for the coming of Christ at Christmas, is not to worry about whether we are “in” or “out” of the promised kingdom of God. But, rather, always to be alert to Christ’s coming into the world and our lives so that we might respond with great hope and joy. *This Lectionary Reflection is based on the Revised Common Lectionary and have been prepared by Rev. Dr Niall McKay, Educator for Lifelong Learning UCA*

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

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)



AS ADVENT APPROACHES, WE PREPARE FOR HOPE



Join the 76-year tradition of compassion
through the Christmas Bowl.



Kogarah Uniting Church

高嘉華聯合教會

Merry Christmas!

聖誕快樂

Chinese Christmas Celebration

華人聖誕聯歡會

Date: 14 December 2025

日期: 12 月 14 日 星期日

Time: 4pm-7pm

時間: 下午四至七時

Bring a dish to share 每人帶一味菜

Planning Ahead

- **November 30th Advent 1 Hope**
- **December 7th – Advent 2 Peace**
- **December 14th Advent 3 Joy**
- **December 14th @ 4pm Chinese Christmas Deok Hee + Wynne**
- **December 21st Advent 4 Love**
- **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 @ 10am (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, Deok Hee - 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
7th December 2025 @ 10am

Advent 2 – Peace
Longing for More

Leader Dinah
Reflection Deok Hee

Isaiah 11:1–10; Psalm 72:1–7, 18–19; Romans 15:4–13.
Matthew 3:1–12



Church Council 2025-2026

Chair
Secretary
Treasurer
Councillors

Richard Goodman
Sue Baglin
John Baglin (2027)
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