



**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.**

**11<sup>th</sup> January 2026 @ 10am**

**First Sunday after Epiphany – Baptism of Jesus**

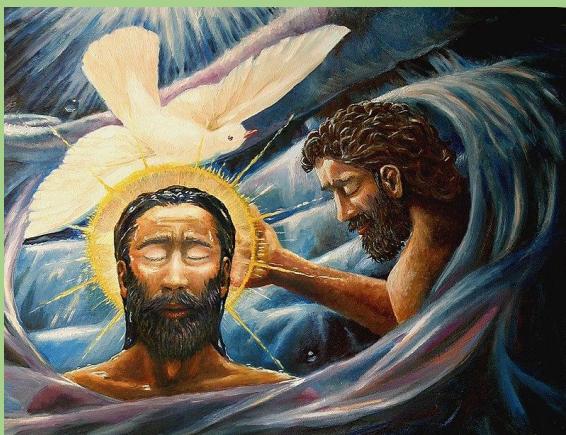
***God is speaking to us***

Leader Deok Hee

Reflection Deok Hee

Holy Communion Deok Hee

**Isaiah 42:1–9, Psalm 29, Acts 10:34–43, and Matthew 3:13–17**



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

#### **Isaiah 42:1–9**

This is the first of what is known as the Servant Songs in Isaiah. It proclaims that the servant of God will be called to bring righteousness and justice to the nations.

#### **Psalm 29**

The psalmist honours the power that is revealed when God speaks, moving over the waters and the earth, creating and breaking, and in all things demonstrating God's glory.

#### **Acts 10:34–43**

In response to Cornelius' visit, Peter explains the inclusiveness of God, who brings forgiveness to all who believe.

#### **Matthew 3:13–17**

John baptises Jesus, despite John's hesitation about his own worthiness. As Jesus rises from the water, the Holy Spirit is visible and likened to a dove.

### Theme Focus

On this Baptism of Jesus Sunday, we hear God's voice speak over the waters, declaring Jesus beloved and inviting each of us to hear that call, embrace our own belovedness, and live with courage and love today.

## Word for the Day

In this week's gospel story, we hear that a voice from heaven declared, 'This is my Son whom I dearly love.' Just before this, the gospel writer tells us that 'heaven was opened.' When we talk about the heavens opening, it is often in the context of torrential rain, thunder and lightning. When we listen to the words of Psalm 29, the voice of God might sound terrifying. Both the psalm for the day and the gospel talk about God's voice. How might we understand these two passages in conversation with each other?

### Ideas for Reflection

- According to Matthew 3:16, 'Jesus saw the Spirit of God coming down like a dove and resting on him.' When have you had a sense of God descending/resting on you?
- A voice rings out over the waters, 'This is my child whom I dearly love.' (v. 17) How does it feel to imagine God saying those words to you today?
- What might the voice of God sound like in our lives today?
- Psalm 29 speaks of a powerful, thundering voice over the waters. How do you experience God's voice—gently, boldly/thundering, in nature, in people, in moments of quiet and stillness?
- Do you think God always speaks the same message? What might God's message be for today?
- How might you embody God's love in your community, family, or workplace?
- If you could speak God's love into one situation in your life today, what would that look like?

### Baptism of Christ

Beginning here we glimpse the Three-in-one;

The river runs, the clouds are torn apart,

The Father speaks, the Spirit and the Son

Reveal to us the single loving heart

That beats behind the being of all things

And calls and keeps and kindles us to light.

The dove descends, the spirit soars and sings

'You are belovèd, you are my delight!'

In that quick light and life, as water spills

And streams around the Man like quickening rain,

The voice that made the universe reveals

The God in Man who makes it new again.

He calls us too, to step into that river

To die and rise and live and love forever.

Source: Sounding the Seasons: Seventy Sonnets for the Christian Year, © 2012 Malcolm Guite



"The message of this feast is that the grace of our God and Saviour Jesus Christ and his love for us has appeared. In effect, this feast speaks to us and says: 'Behold, God is present, still quiet and gentle, just as the spring remains in the tiny seed, quiet and certain of victory, hidden under the wintry earth, yet already more powerful than all the darkness and all the cold. Epiphany is the feast that announces: God is here, God has become human. God has entered into the poverty and the narrow confines of our life. God has so loved us that he has become one of us."

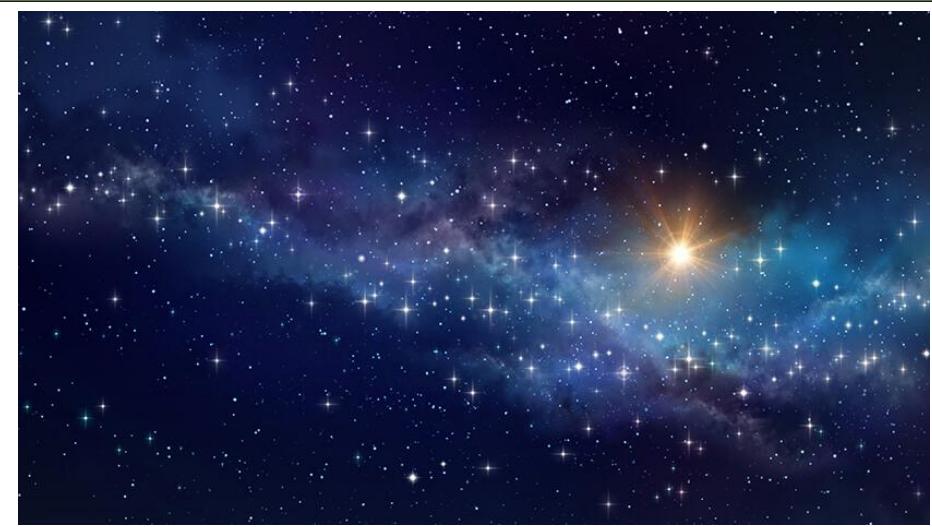
So, like the wise men and women of old, let us step out on the blessed pilgrimage to seek this God who loves us and became one of us and one with us. To quote Karl Rahner again:

"Set out, my heart, take up the journey. The star shines. You can't take much with you on the journey. And you will lose much on the way. Let it go. Gold of love, incense of yearning, myrrh of suffering – these you certainly have with you. He shall accept them. And we shall find him."

~ from The Great Church Year by Fr Karl Rahner

Happy star-gazing! Happy journeying! Happy Epiphany!

Posted by Jamberoo Abbey for Epiphany



## Planning Ahead

- **February 19, 2026, Worship Task Group meeting @ 7pm via Zoom**

### **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, - For members of the Jewish community who continue to mourn. 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. The people of Venezuela, both there and in Australia.

## Next Sunday

**18<sup>th</sup> January 2026 @ 10am**

**Second Sunday after Epiphany – Baptism of Jesus**

***Listening for God's Call***

Leader Richard

Reflection Richard

(Deok Hee is on annual leave with his family in South Korea)

**Isaiah 49:1–7, Psalm 40:1–11, 1 Corinthians 1:1–9, and John 1:29–42**



## 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)

*Culture of Safety Contact Person*

Richard Goodman