



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.

1st February 2026 @ 10am

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

Blessed Ways

Leader Robert

Reflection Robert (Bruce Prewer)

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

Micah 6:1–8; Psalm 15, 1 Corinthians 1:18–31,

Matthew 5:1–12



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 Richard Goodman on 0434 127 340.

Scriptures

Micah 6:1–8

God speaks to the people through the prophet Micah, reminding them of God's faithfulness. In return, God requires them to do justice, love one another, and walk humbly with God.

Psalm 15

The psalmist says that only the most blameless person will be allowed to dwell on God's holy mountain.

1 Corinthians 1:18–31

Paul explains how human wisdom fails to understand the message of the cross, and that God upends human understanding so that people can only come to God through God's grace.

Matthew 5:1–12

Often called the Beatitudes, this passage from Matthew outlines the blessings and happiness that are derived not from worldly wealth and success, but through the gifts of God.

Theme Focus

We listen to Michah's call and Jesus' blessings for the humble and hopeful and are invited to consider how we act toward justice, practice loving kindness, and walk humbly with God.

Word for the Day

This is another familiar passage, at least verse 8, but how often do we hear it in context?

YHWH is bringing a lawsuit against YHWH's people. The language of lawsuits or ribs is relatively common in the Hebrew Bible, although it is often not made this explicit. The psalmist often brings a rib against YHWH, challenging YHWH to listen to their plea. The prophets also frequently use this framework to alert the Israelites to the error of their ways.

Here, YHWH reminds the people of their rescue from Egypt, and from Moab and other enemies. Therefore, the requirement to do justice, embrace loving-kindness and walk humbly with God is done in response to what God has done for them.

Ideas for Reflection

- This passage, along with others like it, invites us to dialogue with God. If you were to have a conversation with God, what might you say? What do you think God would say?
- In vv. 6 and 7, various Israelite worship practices are described. While these are very different from our own, what practices might God detest in our worship? (*Hint: it is not so much the specific actions, but the way they shift our focus from God's requirements*)
- Research Micah Challenge (<https://www.micahaustralia.org/>) and consider how you may like to get involved.
- When we read the Beatitudes alongside Micah's words, what picture of God's reign begins to emerge?

Beatitudes

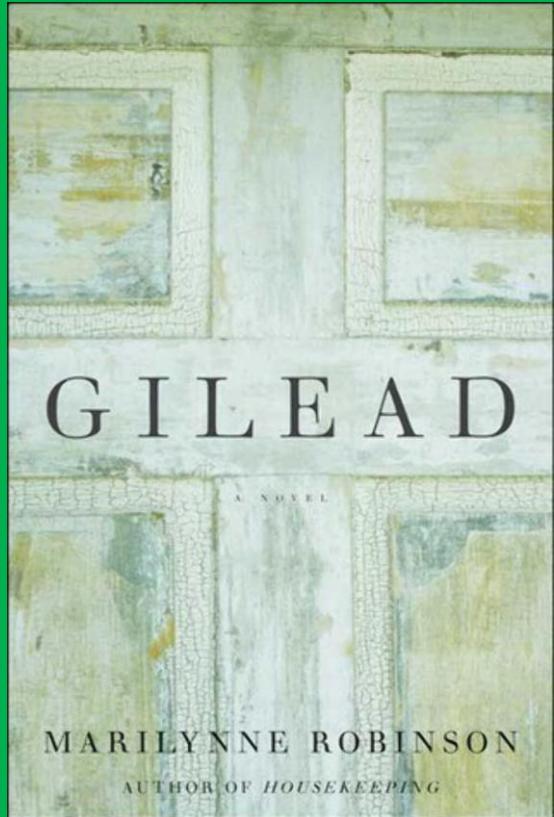
Matthew 5:1-16

We bless you, who have spelt your blessings out,
And set this lovely lantern on a hill
Lightening darkness and dispelling doubt
By lifting for a little while the veil.
For longing is the veil of satisfaction
And grief the veil of future happiness
We glimpse beneath the veil of persecution
The coming kingdom's overflowing bliss

Oh make us pure of heart and help us see
Amongst the shadows and amidst the mourning
The promised Comforter, alive and free,
The kingdom coming and the Son returning,
That even in this pre-dawn dark we might
At once reveal and revel in your light.

Malcolm Guite

‘Parable and Paradox’, a sonnet sequence on the sayings of Jesus,
published by Canterbury Press.



Join us on the

6th February

@ 10am

At Bobbie's apartment in
St Patrick's Square

to discuss this Pulitzer
Prize winning novel by
Marilynne Robinson.
Talk to Bobbie about
how to get a copy and
directions to her
apartment.



Sunday February
15,
Chinese New Year
– The Year of the
Horse

Planning Ahead

- **February 6, Book Discussion Group at Bobbie's 11:30am** The book to be discussed is *Gilead* by Marilynne Robinson
- **February 15, Chinese New Year – The Year of the Horse**
- **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 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

8th February 2026 @ 10am

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

Let Your Light Shine

Leader Rev Matt Wilson

Reflection Rev Matt Wilson

Holy Communion Rev Matt Wilson

(Deok Hee is on annual leave with his family in South Korea. He will be back next week)

**Isaiah 58:1–9a (9b–12); Psalm 112:1–9 (10),
1 Corinthians 2:1–12 (13–16), Matthew 5:13–20**



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