



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.**

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**



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

Isaiah 58:1–9a (9b–12) challenges the hearer to consider whether their behaviour is pleasing to God and in service of one another.

Psalm 112:1–9 (10)

The psalmist explains that those who honour God will be rewarded, and their righteousness will stand forever.

1 Corinthians 2:1–12 (13–16) continues the treatise on the difference between divine and human wisdom that was present in last week's reading. Paul uses the example of his own conduct to reinforce his message for the Corinthians.

Matthew 5:13–20

Jesus explains that his followers must maintain their integrity if they expect other people to listen and follow. Further, their integrity should be grounded in the Law and the Prophets.

Theme Focus

As those declared by Jesus to be salt and light, we explore how we are living as salt and light today?

Word for the Day

There may seem to be little connection between the ideas contained in Matthew 5:13–16 and 17–20. You are salt and light; live in accordance with the law and the prophets. At first, these might sound like abstract or even harsh instructions, but they are meant as both metaphor and a call to action.

The metaphor of salt and light helps us imagine how we are in the world. Think of the characteristics of salt and light. As a call to action, the metaphor is not just something to think about, it invites us to live differently. It is a challenge to act in ways that reflect God's reign here and now.

The law (the Pentateuch, the torah) is a collection of myth, narrative and laws that tells the Israelites where they have come from and who they are called to be. The prophets alert the Israelites to where they have strayed from right living and worship.

The law and the prophets point to how to live in community, because it is within loving communities that the reign of God is found. We are called to enact the reign of God, and to do this we need to be salt, light, righteousness and love to all the people around us. Being salt and light means adding flavour, preserving goodness, and letting others see the light of God through our words and actions. What is one small way we could be light for someone this week? How might your actions bring life, hope, or guidance to those around you?

Ideas for Reflection

- Isaiah speaks about genuine righteousness—how does this inspire us to be salt and light?
- Psalm 112 talks about honouring God—how can this guide our daily actions?
- 1 Corinthians 2:1–12 (13–16) reminds us of God's wisdom—who in our community shows this, and what can we learn from their witness?
- There are times, such as in Matthew 5:13–20, when the requirements of the law seem unattainable for ordinary people. What practices of grace might help us as we read passages such as this?

LOVE IS THE LAW 1974.

The music comes from an album by British folk-rock group Steeleye Span, and is the music for a traditional song called "Copshawholme Fair". Living by the Spirit of God should look and feel markedly different from living by the law. (See *Matthew 5:13–20*)

1. Spring follows winter, as sun follows rain;
with thunder comes lightning, it's always the same.

The world keeps on rolling through day, month and year;
the sun needs no telling that daybreak is here.

2. O how I would like to be just like the sun,
O how I would like to know what must be done.
It's always a struggle between right and wrong.
I need you, Lord Jesus, to guide me along.

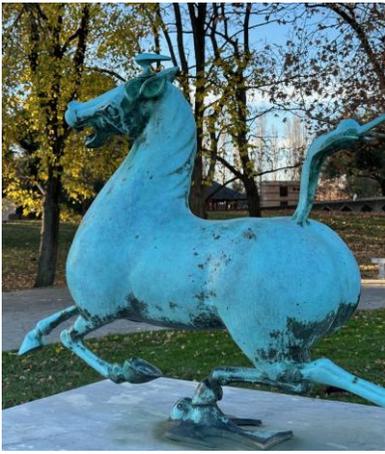
3. The promise was made
through your prophet, that we
would live by your spirit, that we would be free:
laws would be written on paper no more -
our hearts are the paper and love is the law.

4. "My Spirit I leave you, although I must go,
my Spirit I leave you, my peace you will know.
Love one another as I have loved you.
This I have told you, this you must do."

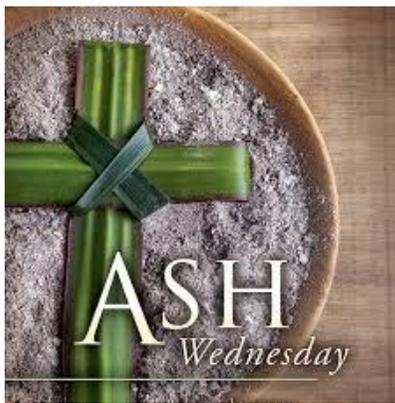
5. We thank you, our Father, for freedom to slip,
for freedom to stumble, for freedom to trip;
Christ is our helper, to him I will cling.
Love is the song he has taught us to sing.

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



**Our Ash Wednesday Service
will be held
at 7:30pm
on Wednesday 18th February
2026
Bring your palm crosses if you
have them.**

Planning Ahead

- **February 11** The Kogarah Storehouse Management Committee meeting at Kogarah @ 4pm
- **February 12** Kogarah Church Council Meeting @ 7pm via Zoom
- **February 15**, Chinese New Year – The Year of the Horse
- **February 18**, Ash Wednesday service @ 7:30pm
- **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, Ngahua, 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.

Next Sunday
15th February 2026 @ 10am
Sixth Sunday after Epiphany
Transfiguration
Mountaintop Experiences

Leader Dinah
Reflection Deok Hee
Exodus 24:12–18; Psalm 99,
2 Peter 1:16–21, Matthew 17:1–9



Church Council 2025-2026

Chair
Secretary
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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)

Culture of Safety Contact Person

Richard Goodman