



**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.**

**29th March 2026 @ 10am**

**Lent 6 – Palm/Passion Sunday**

**The Road Between Hosanna and the Cross**

**Leader Deok Hee**

**Reflection Deok Hee**

**Liturgy of the Palms**

**Psalm 118:1–2, 19–29; Matthew 21:1–11**

**Liturgy of the Passion**

**Isaiah 50:4–9a; Psalm 31:9–16; Philippians 2:5–11;**

**Matthew 26:14–27:66 or Matthew 27:11–54**



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  
Rev Deok Hee Cho on 0401 975 745.**

### Scriptures

#### Liturgy of the Palms

Psalm 118:1–2, 19–29 Gratitude becomes a courageous plea: the rejected stone is God’s cornerstone; ‘Save us’ (*Hosanna*) rises from trust and need.

Matthew 21:1–11 Jesus enters Jerusalem, not as a warlord but as humble peace; the crowd names hopes they barely understand, and the whole city asks, ‘Who is this?’

#### Liturgy of the Passion

Isaiah 50:4–9a The Servant sustains the weary and endures shame without retaliation, trusting God’s nearness.

Psalm 31:9–16 is a Lament from the edge; yet a turning line: ‘My times are in your hand.’

Philippians 2:5–11 Christ empties himself; the path down into service is the way God exalts.

Matthew 26:14–27:66 or Matthew 27:11–54 Love remains steadfast amid betrayal, fear, and state violence. The cross exposes our world and reveals God’s self-giving heart.

#### Theme Focus

Between shouts of ‘Hosanna’ and ‘Crucify,’ Jesus chooses the way of humble love, inviting us to let our praise become compassion in real life.

## Word for the Day

Jesus' entry is a deliberate act of gentle authority, Zechariah's humble king on a borrowed colt, exposing our appetite for spectacle and control while offering a different power shaped by mercy.

The crowd's 'Hosanna, save us!' is less hype than public lament, a prayer that mixes hope with ache; cloaks and branches turn ordinary things into liturgy, reminding us that God rides the generosity of common people rather than the machinery of empire. As the city trembles and asks, 'Who is this?', the text turns the question back on us: will we name him only as a helpful prophet who affirms our expectations, or follow the Messiah who confronts them, redefining mana as service, glory as compassion, and salvation as the slow, courageous work of peace?

The Passion unveils both our world and God's heart: betrayal priced cheaply, expedient politics, the scapegoat logic that chooses Barabbas, and the lonely faithfulness of Jesus who refuses retaliation, prays his terror in Gethsemane, and stays with human pain to the end. His cry from the cross is not unbelief but scripture-soaked lament that permits us to bring our own midnight to God; the torn curtain signals that no barrier, religious, social, or internal, can keep God from drawing near.

In this story, failure is named (Peter's tears), violence is unmasked (mockery, coercion, cruelty), and love is still the last word; the calling for the church is to practice caring, laying down image and advantage, so our Hosannas become repair, our grief becomes solidarity, and our power looks like steadfast presence with the wounded.

### Ideas for Reflection

- Where is God inviting us to choose humble love over image or control?
- What praise can we turn into practical compassion this week?
- Whom do we need to 'stay with' so they are not alone?

## **Next Thursday**

**2 April 2026 - Maundy Thursday @ 6:30pm**

### **Gathered at the Table**

**Exodus 12:1–4, (5–10), 11–14; Psalm 116:1–2, 12–19;**

**1 Corinthians 11:23–26; John 13:1–17, 31b–35**



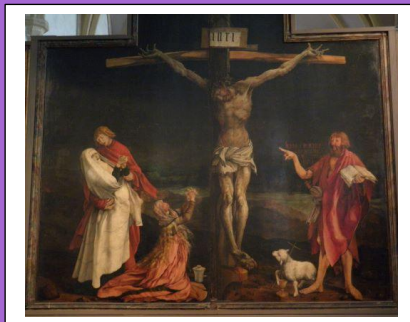
## **Next Friday**

**3 April 2026 – Good Friday @ 10am**

### **The Wounded One Among Us**

**Isaiah 52:13—53:12; Psalm 22; Hebrews 4:14–16; 5:7–9;**

**John 18:1—19:42**



## EASTER PREPARATIONS 2026



### EASTER CELEBRATIONS

- 29<sup>th</sup> March –Today, Palm Sunday/Passion Sunday (We make Palm Crosses) (Leader: Deok Hee)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> April @ 6:30pm– Maundy Thursday – A simple meal followed by worship, - songs, readings, hand washing and Holy Communion (Leader: Deok Hee)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> April 10am– Good Friday – we follow Jesus’ journey to the cross. (Leader: Deok Hee) Hot Cross Buns. We view a video of Handel’s *Messiah*
- 5<sup>th</sup> April 10am – Easter Day! We celebrate the Resurrection together as well as the Baptism of Mei Mei, one of our Chinese members. There will be many visitors today: friends and family of Mei Mei, John and Mariane and members of their Indonesian community whose choir will enliven our service. There will be cake and special food. (Leader: Deok Hee)

Comments on photos opposite by **Margot Krebs Neale**, the photographer.

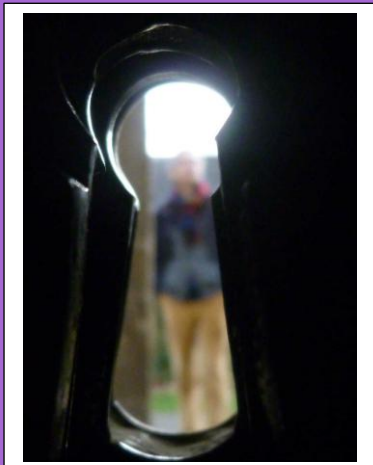
– Who stands in the eye of the camera? behind that gate?

– The Saviour? or me looking out and seeing in my fellow being an incarnation of the Saviour?

and for the image below she says: ‘this wax the child is melting could symbolise this resistance which becomes the source, the stock of the light that comes from us.’

## Palm Sunday

Now to the gate of my Jerusalem,  
The seething holy city of my heart,  
The saviour comes. But will I welcome him?  
Oh crowds of easy feelings make a start;  
They raise their hands, get caught up in the singing,  
And think the battle won. Too soon they'll find  
The challenge, the reversal he is bringing  
Changes their tune. I know what lies behind  
The surface flourish that so quickly fades;  
Self-interest, and fearful guardedness,  
The hardness of the heart, its barricades,  
And at the core, the dreadful emptiness  
Of a perverted temple. Jesus come  
Break my resistance and make me your home.  
“From Sounding the Seasons, by Malcolm Guite, CanterburyPress 2012”



JESUS COME BREAK MY RESISTANCE AND MAKE ME YOUR HOME.

## Planning Ahead

- **March 31 Church Council Meeting @ 7pm via Zoom**  
**Daylight saving 2026 end date:**

***Date: Sunday 5 April 2026***

***Time: 3am Eastern Daylight Time (AEDT)***

***Clocks are moved back 1 hour to 2am, giving you more daylight in the morning***

- **April 12 Yum Cha after church at Kogarah RSL. See Wynne today.**
- **May 7 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, Ngahuaia, Peter and Sue; Dinah; Ern Edwards; Jim Bird, Cindy, Dorothy and Godfrey, Nives - For others whom we name in our hearts.

Pray for the people of Syria, Iraq, Iran, Jordan and other Middle Eastern Countries involved in the current war; Ukraine, Russia, Israel and Palestine, especially the people of Gaza and Lebanon. The USA and the countries of Europe. Sudan.

**Next Sunday**

**5<sup>th</sup> April 2026 @ 10am**

**Easter Day**

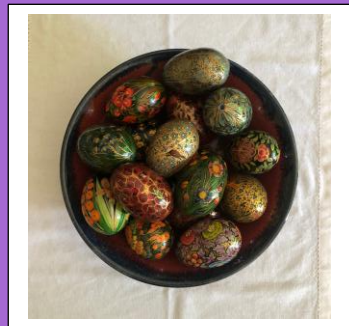
**Keeping the Beat Alive**

**Leader Deok Hee**

**Reflection Deok Hee**

**Holy Communion Deok Hee**

**Acts 10:34–43; Psalm 118:1–2, 14–24; Colossians 3:1–4; John 20:1–18**



**Church Council 2025-2026**

***Chair***

**Richard Goodman**

***Secretary***

**Sue Baglin**

***Treasurer***

**John Baglin (2027)**

***Councillors***

**Robert M<sup>c</sup>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**