



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.**

5th 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



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
Rev Deok Hee Cho on 0401 975 745.

Scriptures

Acts 10:34–43 Peter, in the house of Cornelius, tells the good news about Jesus. He calls upon those present who are witnesses to what Jesus has done to preach the good news to others.

Psalms 118:1–2, 14–24 is a psalm of praise and thanksgiving for the victory of God. The psalmist sings of the mighty things God has done; the stone that has been rejected has become the cornerstone. The enduring love of God has saved the psalmist, who will not die but live!

Colossians 3:1–4 This short passage calls upon the Colossians to set their mind upon the living Christ. Their focus should now be on things from above, not earthly things. Life in Christ requires a death and a rising which is hidden with Christ in God.

John 20:1–18 Mary Magdalene finds Jesus's tomb empty and runs to tell the disciples. As Mary sits by the tomb crying, the risen Christ approaches her, and she talks with him, thinking he is the gardener. When Jesus uses her name, Mary recognises Jesus and runs to tell the disciples that she has seen the Lord.

Theme Focus

As we enter this Easter Day, the risen Christ draws us into the pulse of new life and invites us to embody and share that life in the everyday places we live and love.

Word for the Day

We cannot reach Easter morning without remembering Good Friday. The crucifixion and the resurrection must be held together. Too often, the Christian faith has treated the resurrection as an antidote for suffering and pain. The empty tomb gives us a guarantee of a life with no tears, no anguish, no more despair. The Easter story somehow answers our questions about life after death, and this becomes the focus of our faith. This, however, is not the primary concern of the Christian faith. Our faith is founded on the possibility of life before death, not simply a promise of life after death.

We cannot talk about life in all its fullness unless we desire that for all people and, as Jesus did, fight for justice, act in compassion and love with abundance. Participation in the resurrection is about fully engaging in life in all its messiness and pain. It is not the job of communities of faith to offer an escape from the suffering that is part of being human, but rather to create spaces where it can be acknowledged and worked through.

It is not enough to simply believe in the resurrection; to believe the tomb was empty, to affirm that Jesus was physically brought back to life. In fact, believing in a physical resurrection holds little weight if we do not live this out in real ways. As followers of Jesus' way, we must *become* the resurrection. At the tomb, Jesus asked Mary why she was crying and told her not to hold on to him. Similarly, we cannot hold onto the risen Christ like a prop; we must run to tell others. We must keep the beat alive.

Jesus started a dance; a dance to a different beat. The beat of compassion, the beat of love and grace, the beat of justice, the beat of peace. Today, we celebrate that this dance did not die; the beat goes on. In embracing the broken, crucified world in which we live, we say 'yes' to life. And in saying 'yes' to life, we say 'yes' to Christ, who knows what it is to be crucified and resurrected. So let us keep the beat alive and continue the dance through the pain and the joy.

Ideas for Reflection

You could create a montage of photos of your community bearing witness to the life of Christ. This may include photos of community projects, children's programs, or signs of hope in the town or suburb. Now reflect on the images and how they speak to your faith community, keeping alive the beat of the risen Christ.

- Today, 5th 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)



Baptism at Dawn Service, Botany Bay 8th April 2007



[XV Easter Dawn](#)

He blesses every love which weeps and grieves
And now he blesses hers who stood and wept
And would not be consoled, or leave her love's
Last touching place, but watched as low light crept
Up from the east. A sound behind her stirs
A scatter of bright birdsong through the air.
She turns, but cannot focus through her tears,
Or recognise the Gardener standing there.
She hardly hears his gentle question 'Why,
Why are you weeping?', or sees the play of light
That brightens as she chokes out her reply
'They took my love away, my day is night'
And then she hears her name, she hears Love say
The Word that turns her night, and ours, to Day.

Malcolm Guite

This sonnet, and the others I have been posting for Holy Week are all drawn from my collection [Sounding the Seasons](#), published by [Canterbury Press](#) here in England. Available on Kindle and Amazon.

See also

[A Sonnet for Easter Dawn - Malcolm Guite - WordPress.com](#)

<https://malcolmguite.wordpress.com> ›



KOGARAH STOREHOUSE CHINESE NEW YEAR 2026

Unfortunately I couldn't make it to the Chinese New Year celebration at Kogarah Storehouse, but a multicultural engagement officer from my team attended on my behalf. I saw the photos afterwards and heard how wonderful the event was, with local families and community members coming together to celebrate.

Kogarah Storehouse plays a vital role in supporting people in our community and creating spaces where connection and inclusion can grow. Thank you for the warm invitation and for the important work you continue to do.

FROM: ASH AMBIHAIPAHAR MP, OUR FEDERAL MEMBER FOR BARTON

Planning Ahead

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, Ngahua, 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

12th April 2026 @ 10am

Easter 2

Easter Gifts: Peace, Presence, Life

Leader Deok Hee

Reflection Deok Hee

Acts 2:14a, 22–32; Psalm 16; 1 Peter 1:3–9;

John 20:19–31



Church Council 2025-2026

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Culture of Safety Contact Person

Richard Goodman