



**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.**

**17th May 2026 @ 10am**

**Easter 7**

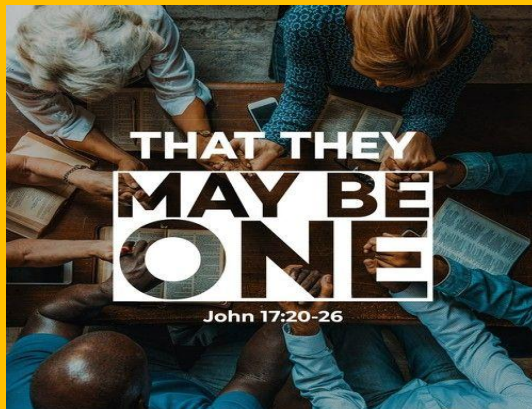
**Waiting in Prayer**

**Leader Dinah**

**Reflection Deok Hee**

**Acts 1:6–14; Psalm 68:1–10, 32–35; 1 Peter 4:12–14, 5:6–11;**

**John 17:1–11**



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**

As the Season of Easter moves toward Pentecost, this week's readings draw us into a time of waiting and prayer.

#### **Acts 1:6–14**

Jesus' ascension leaves the disciples between what they have known and what God will soon do through the Spirit; their response is to gather and pray.

**Ps 68:1–10, 32–35** celebrates God as the protector of the vulnerable—an anchor for a community.

#### **1 Peter 4:12–14, 5:6–11**

Peter's letter encourages the early church to endure challenges with humility and hope, keeping their lives grounded in God's care.

**John 17:1–11** Jesus prays for his followers to remain united in love.

Together, these scriptures invite us to a shared posture of prayer, trust, and openness as we wait for the Spirit who empowers God's people.

### **Theme Focus**

As Jesus ascends and the disciples gather in prayer, we join them in waiting, wondering, and seeking God together as the Spirit draws near.

## Word for the Day

As we move toward Pentecost, today's reading from Acts 1 brings us into the moment of Jesus' ascension—a time filled with questions, uncertainty and wonder. The disciples have seen so much and still do not know what is yet to come.

Their response is simple and profound: they return to the room where they had been staying and devote themselves to prayer together. In this time between what has been and what is yet to unfold, we are invited to join them—to bring our questions, hopes, and our waiting, trusting that the Spirit meets us in our wondering and prayers.

### Ideas for Reflection

- Acts 1 shows the disciples in a moment when they do not yet know what is next. What kinds of 'in-between' seasons do we experience in our lives? What are the questions that you would ask Jesus if you had the chance? How might prayer sustain us in these 'in-between' not-knowing times?
- The disciples still ask about the restoration of Israel (v. 6)—hopes shaped by their history and longing. How might our own expectations limit our ability to see what God is doing? What assumptions might we need to release?
- V. 14 notes that women are present in this prayerful community only in general terms, yet women are fully part of the story. Who are the women in our communities who go unnamed or unnoticed, and how might we honour them more clearly?
- The earlier believers 'devoted themselves to prayer' (v. 14). What do you think they were praying for? What prayers might be rising in us today?
- Psalm 68 names God as a parent to the orphan and protector of widows. How does knowing God's heart for the vulnerable shape the way we pray and the way we act as a community?



**(From Malcolm Guite)**

**Here is a sonnet for Ascension Day, the glorious finale of the Easter Season. I'm posting it a day in advance, in case anyone would like to use it in a service, either on the day itself or else this Sunday.**

**In the mystery of the Ascension we reflect on the way in which, one sense Christ 'leaves' us and is taken away into Heaven, but in another sense he is given to us and to the world in a new and more universal way. He is no longer located only in one physical space to the exclusion of all others. He is in the Heaven which is at the heart of all things now and is universally accessible to all who call upon Him. And since His humanity is taken into Heaven, our humanity belongs there too, and is in a sense already there with him."For you have died", says St. Paul, "and your life is hidden with Christ in God". In the Ascension Christ's glory is at once revealed and concealed, and so is ours. The sonnet form seemed to me one way to begin to tease these things out.**

This sonnet is drawn from my (Malcolm Guite) collection [Sounding the Seasons](#), published by [Canterbury Press](#) here in England. The book is now back in stock on both [Amazon UK](#) and [USA](#) . The book is now also out on [Kindle](#).

### [Ascension](#)

We saw his light break through the cloud of glory  
Whilst we were rooted still in time and place  
As earth became a part of Heaven's story  
And heaven opened to his human face.  
We saw him go and yet we were not parted  
He took us with him to the heart of things  
The heart that broke for all the broken-hearted  
Is whole and Heaven-centred now, and sings,  
Sings in the strength that rises out of weakness,  
Sings through the clouds that veil him from our sight,  
Whilst we ourselves become his clouds of witness  
And sing the waning darkness into light,  
His light in us, and ours in him concealed,  
Which all creation waits to see revealed

# **KUC Annual Congregational Meeting and Church Council Elections**

**On Sunday June 21, we plan to hold our Annual Congregational Meeting and Church Council Elections.**

## **The church councillors at present are**

- Sue Baglin (2027)
- Joshua Chang (2026)
- Robert McAlpine (2026)

Joshua's and Robert's terms expire this year, while Sue will continue until 2027.

## **The elders at present are**

- John Baglin (2026)
- Dorothy Makasa (2026)
- Bobbie Miller (2028)
- Richard Goodman (2027)

John's and Dorothy's terms expire this year while Bobbie and Richard will continue as elders next year.

**Nomination forms for these positions are available from Sunday, May 10. Completed forms need to be in Richard Goodman's by the end of May.**

## Planning Ahead

- **May 24 Pentecost**
- **June 21 – AGM for our Congregation. Election of Elders and Church Councillors**

### **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**

**24th May 2026 @ 10am**

**Pentecost**

**May All God's People Be Prophets**

**Leader Deok Hee**

**Reflection Deok Hee**

**Holy Communion**

**Acts 2:1–21; Numbers 11:24–30;**

**Psalm 104:24–34, 35b;**

**(John 20:19–23) or John 7:37–39**



***Chair***

***Secretary***

***Treasurer***

***Councillors***

**Richard Goodman**

**Sue Baglin**

**John Baglin (2027)**

**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**