



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.**

24th May 2026 @ 10am

Pentecost

May All God's People Be Prophets

Leader Deok Hee

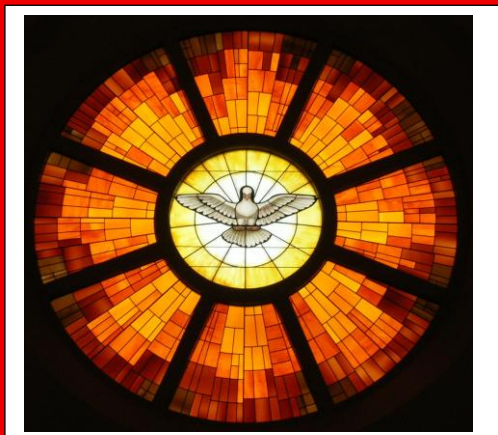
Reflection Deok Hee

Holy Communion

Acts 2:1–21; Numbers 11:24–30;

Psalm 104:24–34, 35b;

(John 20:19–23) or John 7:37–39



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

Pentecost is a celebration of God's expansive Spirit—a Spirit that refuses to be contained.

Numbers 11:24–30 Two men prophesy outside of the seventy elders who have been appointed by Moses. Instead of chastising them, Moses prays that the Spirit would descend on all the people, so that all of God's people may become prophets.

Psalms 104:24–34, 35b contains the delightful image of the Leviathan—or sea creature—playing in the sea which God created. The psalmist sings of a creation alive with God's breath.

Acts 2:1–21 The feast of Pentecost (or Shavuot in the Jewish calendar) was a time of drawing together despite differences in language, customs, and history. The longing expressed by Moses bursts into life as the Spirit comes upon people from every place and language.

(John 20:19–23) or John 7:37–39 While the psalmist sings of a creation alive with God's breath, Jesus speaks of living water flowing from the hearts of believers.

Together, the readings on Pentecost Sunday invite us to imagine a community where the Spirit is poured out widely and generously, calling each of us to speak truth, dream boldly, and join God's renewing work in the world.

Theme Focus

As the Spirit's fire falls on people of every age and place, we are invited to dream new dreams and to become bearers of God's hope in our world.

Word for the Day

Pentecost invites us into a moment when God's Spirit moved with such power that everyone—young and old, insiders and outsiders, expected and unexpected voices—became bearers of the Good News. Moses longed for and dreamed that God's people would be prophets. At Pentecost, this dream ignites into reality. The Spirit breaks through barriers of language and custom, offering gifts to every person.

That same Spirit still surprises, still speaks through unlikely people and in unlikely places, and still empowers us to join God's work in the world with courage and imagination.

Ideas for Reflection

- In Numbers, two unexpected voices prophesy in an unexpected place. The Pentecost experience went even further as the Spirit filled people in ways no one planned. Where might the Spirit be moving today in surprising ways?
- The Pentecost story breaks open the idea that there is one correct way to speak, worship or understand God. How might we practise deeper listening—to stories, customs, and people whose lives differ from ours? What steps might we take to encourage prophetic witness within our faith communities? Whose voice do we need to prioritise, and who is playing the gatekeeper to real growth?
- The prophet Joel imagines old and young, women and men, empowered to dream boldly. What dreams are stirring individually or in our community that might be the Spirit's invitation toward new life, justice, and change? What are the

dreams that we are afraid to dream? What are the dreams that we are reluctant to share? What are the dreams that we have held close to our hearts?

- Pentecost empowers speech, but it also creates a community that listens in wonder. What might it look like for us to speak truth with courage, and also hear truth with humility, especially when it comes through unexpected voices and in unexpected places? How would you know that the Spirit is speaking into your life? What might God's inspiration lead you to today?
- In the readings on this Pentecost Day, the Spirit is abundant, free, uncontained. How might we—as individuals and as a community—participate in the same generosity? What might it look like to live open-handedly with our presence and gifts?

[Pentecost](#) (Malcolm Guite)

*Today we feel the wind beneath our wings
Today the hidden fountain flows and plays
Today the church draws breath at last and sings
As every flame becomes a Tongue of praise.
This is the feast of fire, air, and water
Poured out and breathed and kindled into earth.
The earth herself awakens to her maker
And is translated out of death to birth.
The right words come today in their right order
And every word spells freedom and release
Today the gospel crosses every border
All tongues are loosened by the Prince of Peace
Today the lost are found in His translation.*

Whose mother tongue is Love in every nation.

Drawn from '[Sounding the Seasons](#)', my cycle of sonnets for the Church Year, this is a sonnet reflecting on and celebrating the themes and readings of Pentecost. Throughout the cycle, and more widely, I have been reflecting on the traditional 'four elements' of earth, air, water and fire. I have been considering how each of them expresses and embodies different aspects of the Gospel and of God's goodness, as though the four elements were, in

their own way, another four evangelists. In that context I was very struck by the way Scripture expresses the presence of the Holy Spirit through the three most dynamic of the four elements, the air, (a mighty rushing wind, but also the breath of the spirit) water, (the waters of baptism, the river of life, the fountain springing up to eternal life promised by Jesus) and of course fire, the tongues of flame at Pentecost. Three out of four ain't bad, but I was wondering, where is the fourth? Where is earth? And then I realised that we ourselves are earth, the 'Adam' made of the red clay, and we become living beings, fully alive, when the Holy Spirit, clothed in the three other elements comes upon us and becomes a part of who we are. So something of that reflection is embodied in the sonnet.



Pentecost Banner, St Michael's Bartley Green

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 31 Trinity Sunday**
- **June 11 Next Kogarah Church Council meeting via Zoom @ 7pm**
- **June 21 – AGM for our Congregation. Election of Elders and Church Councillors**
- **August 6 – 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

31st May 2026 @ 10am

Pentecost + 1 – Trinity Sunday

Breath, Word, and Welcome

Leader Robert

Reflection Robert

Genesis 1:1—2:4a;

Psalm 8; Matthew 28:16–20

Today is Deok Hee's Rostered Day Off.



Church Council 2025-2026

Chair

Secretary

Treasurer

Councillors

Richard Goodman

Sue Baglin

John Baglin (2027)

Robert M^cAlpine (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