

# KOGARAH UNITING CHURCH

24 May 2026

Pentecost

The Gathering of the People of God

## WELCOME & GREETING

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ  
and the love of God  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit  
be with you all.

*And also with you.*

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY:

As we gather on this land, we pay our respects to the Bidjegal people of the Eora nation, who have lived, worked and played on this country for thousands of years. We bring to mind their elders, past and present, and their place in passing on story and song, language and lore. May we commit ourselves to ongoing peace, joy, love, and hope as we grow in relationship as First and Second Peoples of this land.

## KUC VISION STATEMENTS

*Our vision is to be a loving and caring community,  
sharing God's love with the world.*

*We are a congregation  
who welcome people of all cultures and lifestyles.  
We are creating a safe place for the community  
and sharing the journey of life and faith.*

## CALL TO WORSHIP

We are the Easter people!

*We have witnessed the Resurrection of our Lord.*

We are now called to be people of the Pentecost.

*We are called to boldly share the good news of God's love.*

Open your hearts, O people, to God's great power and love.

*We open our hearts to hear God's word for us and to joyfully proclaim Jesus Christ  
as our Savior. AMEN.*

## LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

God is here

*God is always here*

God is with us

*God is always with us*

## OPENING PRAYER

Come, Holy Spirit, come.

Come into our place of worship this day.

Come into each heart, each family, each friendship,  
each song, each life here today,

so that we may love with purpose, courage,  
and enthusiasm, transforming our world. Amen.

**HYMN:** Come, Holy Spirit, come TiS 422 (1, 3, 5 and 6)

Come, Holy Spirit, come!

in flame our souls with love,  
transforming every heart and home  
with wisdom from above.

O let us not despise  
the humble path Christ trod,  
but choose, to shame the worldly-wise,  
the foolishness of God.

Come with the gift to heal  
the wounds of guilt and fear,  
and to oppression's face reveal  
the kingdom drawing near.

Where chaos longs to reign,  
Descend, O holy dove,  
and free us all to work again  
the miracles of love.

Give us the tongues to speak,  
in every time and place,  
to rich and poor, to strong and weak,  
the words of love and grace.

Enable us to hear  
the words that others bring,  
interpreting with open ear  
the special song they sing.

Come, Holy Spirit, dance  
within our hearts today,  
our earth-bound spirits to entrance,  
our mortal fears allay;  
and teach us to desire  
all other things above,  
that self-consuming holy fire,  
the perfect gift of love.

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## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

*Almighty God,  
we confess that we have put you in a box.  
We have decided who you are, what you do,  
and what you will or will not do.  
We have put Love in a box,  
deciding who is worthy and who is not.*

*Break open the box.  
Tear down the walls and blow open the lid.  
May the Spirit move in us  
to new understandings and insights.  
May the Spirit move in us to love one another  
as you have loved us, in limitless ways.  
In the name of Christ, whose love never ends, we pray. Amen.*

## DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners, Christ died for us.  
The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting.  
I declare to you, in the name of Jesus Christ,  
Your sins are forgiven.  
*Thanks be to God.*

## PEACE

The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
*And also with you.*

**HYMN:** Spirit of the Living God Scripture in Song 303

Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me.

Spirit of the Living God, fall fresh on me.  
Break me, melt me,  
mould me, fill me.  
Spirit of the Living God, fall fresh on me.

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**HYMN:** Wa wa wa Emimimo TiS 711 (Nigerian language)

Wa wa wa Emimimo. (Emi oloye)  
*Come, O Holy Spirit, come. (O wise Spirit, come)*

Wa wa wa Alagbara. (Alagbara meta)  
*Come, almighty Spirit, come. (Almighty Trinity).*

Wao, wao, wao. (Emimimo)  
*Come, come, come. (O Spirit, come)*

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The Service of the Word
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## BIBLE READINGS

### John 20:19–23

19 When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors were locked where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” 20 After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. 21 Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” 22 When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. 23 If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”

### John 7:37–39

37 On the last day of the festival, the great day, while Jesus was standing there, he cried out, “Let anyone who is thirsty come to me, 38 and let the one who believes in me drink. As the scripture has said, ‘Out of the believer’s heart shall flow rivers of living water.’ ” 39 Now he said this about the Spirit, which believers in him were to receive, for as yet there was no Spirit because Jesus was not yet glorified.

### Acts 2:1-21

## REFLECTION

Today, as you know, is Pentecost Sunday. It is one of the most important days in the Christian calendar. Every year, around this time, churches all over the world come together on this specific Sunday to celebrate. But let me ask you a very honest question as we begin: Why are we here doing this today? Why do we still celebrate something that happened 2,000 years ago in a small, faraway room in Jerusalem? Is this just a historical birthday party for the church? Is it just a tradition we repeat every year because we are supposed to? Or does it actually mean something powerful for your life and my life today, right here, right now? Let's be real about our reality for a moment. These days, wherever we go, we hear a lot of worrying news about the future of the church. People look at the statistics, they look at the culture around us, and they say the church is in decline. They say the future looks dark, difficult, and uncertain. And honestly, this is our story, too. We did the "Life and Witness Consultation" and "Mission Planning" because we worry about our future. We look at next year and ask, "What do we do?" Our workers are few, and the burden is heavy. Because of this fear, many churches today are working overtime. We try so hard to survive. We sit in meetings, we brainstorm, we stress out, and we try to come up with good strategies and better programs to bring people into the church. We think, "If we just have a better event, if we just change our system, then the church will grow." Now, please don't misunderstand me. Planning good programs is important. Using our wisdom to organize the church is a good thing. But today, on this Pentecost Sunday, we need to stop running for a moment and look at the bottom floor of our faith. We need to ask ourselves a fundamental question: Is it our human programs that truly grow the church and change people's lives, or is it something else? What is the absolute foundation of the church?

When we look at Acts chapter 2, the Bible gives us a completely different answer. Before the day of Pentecost, the disciples were not planning a big strategy. In fact, they were completely broken and terrified. They were hiding behind locked doors, shaking with fear after Jesus was crucified. They didn't have money, social status, or a smart marketing plan to change the world. They were completely powerless. But then, something incredible happened. As they gathered and prayed, a sound like a rushing, mighty wind filled the house, and tongues of fire rested on each of them. In that exact moment, the Christian church was born. The Holy Spirit moved so powerfully that Peter—the same Peter who had denied Jesus three times out of fear—stood up boldly and preached a simple sermon. And the Bible says 3,000 people repented, were baptized, and accepted Jesus as their Savior in a single day! Think about that number for a moment. Three thousand people! How is that even possible? It did not happen because the disciples put on a great show. It didn't happen because they had comfortable seats, great coffee, or a perfectly planned service. It happened because the Holy Spirit was alive, active, and working mightily inside them. This reveals a beautiful, non-negotiable spiritual truth to us today: true

growth, true life, and true revival in the church can only happen when the Holy Spirit moves. Our human ideas, our structures, and our programs are just the cups, but the Holy Spirit is the living water. If there is no water, the cup is just an empty piece of plastic. At the very bottom of everything we do, we absolutely need the presence and the power of the Holy Spirit.

To help us understand this, let me share a simple analogy that I think many of us can relate to these days. As I look around the roads today, I see more and more electric cars—EVs—driving around. They are beautiful, aren't they? They are packed with the most advanced technology you can imagine. They have huge touchscreen dashboards, autopilot features, heated seats, and luxury designs. They look like the future. But let me tell you a quick story. I was driving recently, and I began to think about what happens when we get too busy. We get distracted by our schedules. We drive around, doing the grocery shopping, going to work, doing this and that. And sometimes, we miss the warning signs on the dashboard. We miss the opportunity or the right place to plug in and charge the battery. And what happens when an electric car completely runs out of power? What happens when it is fully discharged? It doesn't matter if that car cost \$100,000. It doesn't matter how beautiful the paint is, or how smart the computer inside is. The moment that electricity is gone, that car becomes nothing more than a giant, heavy piece of metal stuck in the middle of the road. It cannot move a single meter on its own. It is completely useless until it is plugged back into the power source.

My dear friends, our spiritual life and our church life work exactly the same way. Sometimes, we become just like a busy driver in an electric car. We run around doing so many things for God. We organize church events, we attend meetings, we do our duties, and we keep ourselves incredibly busy. But in the midst of all our busyness, we forget to plug in. We miss the time and place for quiet prayer. We neglect our personal connection with God, and we fail to refill our spiritual batteries with the Holy Spirit. And then, we wonder why we feel so exhausted. We wonder why our ministries feel heavy and why our joy is gone. It is because we are trying to run the church on human willpower instead of Holy Spirit power. Today, God is reminding us: we cannot do this alone. We need to stop, look at our spiritual dashboards, and plug ourselves back into the power of the Holy Spirit. And you might ask, "Well, Deok Hee, that sounds good, but that Pentecost story was 2,000 years ago. We don't see literal fire on people's heads, and we don't hear rushing winds in our church building today. How do we know the Spirit is still here?" It is true that the outward, physical signs look different today, but hear me clearly: the exact same Holy Spirit that filled that upper room is the very same Spirit living inside you and me this morning. If you have confessed Jesus Christ as your Lord, the Holy Spirit lives inside your heart right now. When we celebrate Pentecost, we are celebrating a living reality. The church is alive because the Holy Spirit is still here, breathing life into us today.

And when that Holy Spirit came down, something beautiful happened. The disciples began to speak in different languages, and foreign visitors from all over the world could understand them perfectly in their own native tongues. This carries an incredibly powerful message. It means that the Good News of Jesus Christ is not just for one group of people, one culture, or one social class. The Gospel is God's passionate invitation for absolutely everyone in this world! Just look around this room right now. We have just heard God's word read aloud in so many different languages. In our church, we have different cultures, different generations, and different backgrounds. In the eyes of the world, we are too different to hang out together. But look at us today. Here we are, sitting next to each other, singing the same praises, and worshipping the exact same Savior, Jesus Christ. We call each other brothers and sisters. This itself is the miracle! The fact that a diverse group of people like us can come together in true unity and love under the name of Jesus is the greatest evidence of the Holy Spirit's work in our church today. We don't need to see physical fire to know God is here. The love and unity in this room is the fire of the Holy Spirit.

Brothers and sisters in Christ! This Pentecost Sunday is our wake-up call to go back to the basics. It is time for us to kneel down, just like the disciples did, and pray honestly for a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit in our lives and our community. When the Holy Spirit fills a church, the atmosphere changes. Suddenly, a cold and quiet church building becomes full of warmth, life, and welcoming smiles. Where the world sees no answer and no hope, the Holy Spirit opens our eyes to see God's beautiful hope. Let us open our hearts wide today. Let us step out of our empty electric cars and plug back into the endless power of the Holy Spirit. Let us trust that the very same Spirit who started the church 2,000 years ago is holding us in his hands right now, and he will faithfully guide us into a glorious future. Amen.

**HYMN:** O breath of life, come sweeping through us TiS 409

O breath of life, come sweeping through us,  
revive your church with life and power;  
O breath of life, come cleanse, renew us,  
and fit your church to meet this hour.

O wind of God, come bend us, break us,  
till humbly we confess our need;  
then in your tenderness remake us,  
revive, restore: for this we plead.

O breath of love, come breathe within us,  
renewing thought and will and heart;

come, love of Christ, afresh to win us  
revive your church in every part.

Revive us, Lord! Is zeal abating  
while harvest fields are vast and white?  
Revive us, Lord, the world is waiting,  
equip your church to spread the light.

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## OFFERING & OFFERING PRAYER

May these good gifts,  
and all the other offerings we bring,  
be acceptable in your sight, O God,  
and be used to do good things in this place. Amen.

## ANNOUNCEMENT

### PRAYERS FOR OTHERS

Loving God, on this Pentecost Sunday,  
you poured out your Holy Spirit to bring life and hope to the world.  
Today, we bring our prayers to you.

Holy Spirit, comfort and heal our world.  
We pray for places torn apart by war and violence,  
for those who are hungry, and for those who live in fear.  
Bring your peace where there is conflict.  
Lord, in your mercy,  
*Hear our prayer.*

Holy Spirit, guide and bless our church.  
We commit all our programs, activities, and missions into your hands.  
Fire up our hearts so that we may go out and share your love with our community.  
Lord, in your mercy,  
*Hear our prayer.*

Holy Spirit, friend of the lonely, comfort the suffering.  
We pray for the members of our church family  
who are sick at home or in the hospital,  
and those whose hearts are deeply hurting.  
Give strength to them and their families.

Lord, in your mercy,  
*Hear our prayer.*

Holy Spirit, breath of life, you hold our future.  
Help our church to look ahead not with worry or fear,  
but with the eyes of faith and beautiful hope.  
Fill us afresh today.  
Lord, in your mercy,  
*Hear our prayer.*

Merciful God, accept these prayers of our hearts.  
May your Holy Spirit move powerfully in us and through us this week.  
In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

*Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us in the time of trial and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours  
now and for ever. Amen.*

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper
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## INVITATION

Come, because the Lord is calling us today.  
Come, whether you have deep faith or many questions,  
whether you have been here for years  
or are visiting for the very first time.  
In the Holy Spirit, there are no strangers at this table—  
only brothers and sisters.

So, come to this table.  
Let us take this holy meal together.  
Let us receive the grace of Jesus,  
and let the Holy Spirit fill our hearts with fresh life and love.

**COMMUNION HYMN:** Be known to us in breaking bread TiS 514

Be known to us in breaking bread,  
but do not then depart;  
Saviour, abide with us, and spread  
your table in our heart.

There share with us in love divine;  
your body and your blood,  
that living bread, that heavenly wine,  
be our immortal food.

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## PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

*And also be with you.*

Lift up your hearts.

*We lift them to the Lord.*

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*It is right to give our thanks and praise.*

Thanks and praise, glory and honour are rightly yours,  
our Lord and God, for you alone are worthy.

In time beyond our dreaming you brought forth life out of darkness,  
and in the love of Christ your Son

you set man and woman at the heart of your creation.

For this we praise you with the faithful of every time  
and place joining with the whole creation in the eternal hymn:

*Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,*

*heaven and earth are full of your glory.*

*Hosanna in the highest.*

*Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.*

*Hosanna in the highest.*

We thank you that you called a covenant people  
to be a light to the nations.

Through Moses you taught us to love your law,  
and in the prophets you cried out for justice.

In the fullness of your mercy  
you became one with us in Jesus Christ,  
who gave himself up for us on the cross.

You make us alive together with him,  
that we may rejoice in his presence and share his peace.

*By water and the Spirit  
you open the kingdom to all who believe,  
and welcome us to your table:  
for by grace we are saved, through faith.*

We remember, on the night of his betrayal, that Jesus took bread,  
giving thanks, and broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take, eat. This is my body given for you.  
Do this in remembrance of me.”

In the same way, after supper, he also took the cup and said:

Drink from this all of you.  
This is my blood shed for you  
and for the whole world  
for the forgiveness of sins.  
Do this in remembrance of me.”

With this bread and this cup  
we do as our Saviour commands:  
we celebrate the redemption he has won for us.

*Christ has died.  
Christ is risen.  
Christ will come again.*

Pour out the Holy Spirit on us  
and on these gifts of bread and wine,  
that they may be for us the body and blood of Christ.

Make us one with him, one with each other,  
and one in ministry in the world,  
until at last we feast with him in the kingdom.

Through your Son, Jesus Christ,  
in your holy church,  
all honour and glory are yours, God almighty,  
now and for ever.

*Amen.*

## Breaking of the Bread

### Lamb of God

Jesus, Lamb of God,

*Have mercy on us.*

Jesus, bearer of our sins,

*Have mercy on us.*

Jesus, redeemer of the world,

*Grant us peace.*

### The Communion

### Prayer after Communion

Gracious God,

Thank you for feeding us at your table today.

Through this holy meal,

you have filled our hearts with your love and grace.

Now, as we leave this table,

send us out in the power of your Holy Spirit.

Help us to share your peace, your joy, and your hope

with our families, our neighbors, and our community.

In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

The Sending Forth of the People of God
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**HYMN:** Over my head, I hear music in the air

Refrain:

*Over my head, I hear music in the air;*

*over my head, I hear music in the air;*

*over my head, I hear music in the air;*

*there must be a God somewhere.*

Leader: Oh, when the world is silent,

People: I hear music in the air;

Leader: oh, when the world is silent,

People: I hear music in the air;

Leader: Oh, when the world is silent,

People: I hear music in the air;

All: there must be a God somewhere.

(Refrain)

Leader: And when I'm feeling lonely,  
People: I hear music in the air;  
Leader: and when I'm feeling lonely,  
People: I hear music in the air;  
Leader: and when I'm feeling lonely,  
People: I hear music in the air;  
All: there must be a God somewhere.  
(Refrain)

Leader: Now when I think on Jesus,  
People: I hear music in the air;  
Leader: now when I think on Jesus,  
People: I hear music in the air;  
Leader: now when I think on Jesus,  
People: I hear music in the air;  
All: there must be a God somewhere.  
(Refrain)

## **BLESSING**

In our service this morning,  
God has poured out on us again the fire and the storm wind of the Spirit.  
May the Spirit move us to take the risk of committing ourselves fully  
to God and to people.  
May he give us the courage to change ourselves and the Church we love,  
that we may be living signs to all the world of God's goodness and presence.

And the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be upon you and remain with you always. Amen.

**SENDING SONG:** May God's blessing (Benediction)

May God's blessing surround you each day,  
as you trust Him and walk in His way.  
May His presence within  
guard and keep you from sin,  
go in peace, go in joy, go in love.

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