

KOGARAH UNITING CHURCH

14 June 2026

Pentecost 3

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

Come, you who wait and wonder.

We come hungry for promise.

Come, you who ache and hope at once.

We come, trusting grace to meet us.

Come, beloved of God.

We come ready to be sent in mercy.

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

God is here

God is always here

God is with us

God is always with us

OPENING PRAYER

Loving God, thank you for bringing us here to worship you today.
Lord, many of us are carrying heavy burdens and tired souls today.
Right now, we put down all our worries.
Please touch our hearts and fill us with your perfect peace.
Open our minds to your Word.
As we worship, let us truly meet you
and experience your deep comfort and grace.
We commit this entire service into your hands.
In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

HYMN: Great is your faithfulness TiS 154

Great is your faithfulness, O God my Father,
in you no shadow of turning we see;
you never fail and your love is unchanging:
as you have been you forever will be.

(Refrain)

*Great is your faithfulness, great is your faithfulness,
morning by morning new mercies we see;
all we have needed your hand has provided:
great is your faithfulness, Lord God, to me.*

Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,
sun, moon and stars in their courses above,
join with all nature in unspoken witness
to your great faithfulness, mercy and love.

(Refrain)

Pardon for sin and a peace that's enduring,
your living presence to cheer and to guide,
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow -
these are the blessings your love will provide.

(Refrain)

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PRAYER OF CONFESSION

*Merciful God,
We confess that we have sinned against you and others.
You look at this world with deep compassion,
but we have often closed our hearts
and been indifferent to the hurts around us.
Lord, forgive our selfishness.
Wash away our sins and heal our cold hearts.
Fill us again with your Holy Spirit,
so that we may see the world through the eyes of Jesus,
and love others with your beautiful heart.
In Jesus' name, Amen.*

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Hear the good news!
God's love is never-ending, and his compassion never fails.
He does not look at our past mistakes; He looks at us with the eyes of grace.
Hear then Christ's word of grace to us:
Your sins are forgiven.
Thanks be to God.

PEACE

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

HYMN: The Servant King TiS 256

From heaven you came helpless babe,
entered our world your glory veiled;
not to be served but to serve,
and give your life that we might live.

(Refrain)

*This is our God, the Servant King,
he calls us now to follow him,
to bring our lives as a daily offering
of worship to the Servant King.*

There in the garden of tears,
my heavy load he chose to bear;
his heart with sorrow was torn,
“Yet not my will, but yours,” he said.
(Refrain)

Come see his hands and his feet,
the scars that speak of sacrifice,
hands that flung stars into space
to cruel nails surrendered.
(Refrain)

So let us learn how to serve
and in our lives enthrone him;
each other’s needs to prefer,
for it is Christ we’re serving.
(Refrain)

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The Service of the Word

BIBLE READINGS

Romans 5:1–8

1 Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, 2 through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand, and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. 3 And not only that, but we also boast in our afflictions, knowing that affliction produces endurance, 4 and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, 5 and hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us. 6 For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. 7 Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. 8 But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us.

Matthew 9:35–10:8

35 Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness. 36 When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. 37 Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; 38 therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.”

1 Then Jesus summoned his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to cure every disease and every sickness. 2 These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon, also known as Peter, and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee and his brother John; 3 Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus and Thaddaeus; 4 Simon the Cananaean and Judas Iscariot, the one who betrayed him. 5 These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: "Do not take a road leading to gentiles, and do not enter a Samaritan town, 6 but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. 7 As you go, proclaim the good news, 'The kingdom of heaven has come near.' 8 Cure the sick; raise the dead; cleanse those with a skin disease; cast out demons. You received without payment; give without payment.

REFLECTION

Every day, I live with many different roles. I am a husband, a father raising my children, and a minister serving our church. Lately, as I care for my family, visit our church members, listen to your real stories, and watch everything happening in this broken world, one big question constantly stays in my mind. And that is: "What is on God's heart?" When God looks at all of this, what does he truly feel? Don't you wonder about it, too? Especially when God looks at people who are going through hard times... What does he feel? Right now, we see so much pain. We hear about wars and conflicts between the US, Israel, Iran, and many countries in the Middle East. When God looks at these wars, what is on his heart? When God looks at these helpless people suffering in war, living in fear and deep sadness, how does God feel? What about our church? We sit together in this place, but we don't know everything about each other. Many of us are carrying heavy burdens. Some of us feel lonely. Some are worried about the future, dealing with pain, or facing broken relationships. We hide our struggles, but God sees them all. When he looks at your private pain, and my private pain, what is on his heart?

As many of us know, my wife is a community nurse. Every day, she visits the homes of elderly and frail people next door to us. Through her eyes, I hear the real stories of our neighbours. She tells me about elderly men and women who are not only in physical pain, but are also deeply lonely. They look at the future with anxiety, wondering, "How can I survive like this? Who will help me tomorrow?" They are carrying a quiet, invisible suffering, just trying to get through each day. When God looks at these people, what is on his heart? This past week, I read today's passage from Matthew over and over again. As I meditated on the scripture, one single word kept coming into my heart. It was the word that describes how Jesus looked at the crowds—tired, helpless, and broken. When he saw them, he felt deep compassion. He felt an overwhelming love. For the past week, this heart of God has been stuck in my mind and shaking my soul. I could not forget it. Today, during our reflection time,

I pray that we can come together, look through the eyes of Jesus, and truly understand the heart of God.

In today's scripture, Jesus was travelling through towns and villages—preaching the good news and healing every sickness. He met people right where they were. But as he walked among them, something stopped him. In Matthew 9:36, we find the exact answer to our question: "When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd." Please think about that phrase for a moment: "Sheep without a shepherd." To understand what this really means, I want to share something I saw in the Korean news recently. There was a terrible car accident in Korea. A father, a mother, and their very young child were in the car. Sadly, the parents in the front seat died instantly at the scene. Only the little child survived. When I heard that news, my heart completely broke. Please, imagine that little child for a moment. Suddenly, in one second, the child lost everything. No father, no mother to hold their hand, protect them, or guide them. Think about the fear, the confusion, and the deep loneliness that child will have to face without parents. Without anyone to care for them, that child is completely helpless. This is exactly what Jesus meant by "sheep without a shepherd." He saw that people were spiritually and emotionally just like that lost child. They were wandering through life. They were being beaten down by their heavy problems, and there was no one to truly care for their hurting souls. But what is truly amazing is how Jesus reacted to them. He didn't look at these tired people and feel annoyed. He didn't look at them and say, "Well, it's their own fault for getting lost." No. The Bible says: he had compassion on them.

In our English language today, the word "compassion" is a very nice, polite word. It just means we feel a bit sorry for someone. But in the original Greek language of the New Testament, the word used here is incredibly deep and powerful. The word is "Splanchnizomai" (σπλαγχνίζομαι). This word comes from a root word that literally means your internal organs—your heart, your lungs, and your stomach. To the ancient people, the stomach was the centre of the deepest human emotions. So, when the Bible says Jesus had splanchnizomai, it means he felt a physical pain deep in his gut. It means his heart was literally breaking into pieces. His stomach was turning. This was not a shallow, polite sympathy. It was a deep, agonizing love that felt the pain of the other person inside his own body.

This exact same Greek word, Splanchnizomai, is used in another famous story: The Parable of the Prodigal Son. The younger son wasted everything and walked back home in deep shame. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him. For months, that father had stood by the road, watching the horizon. Finally, he sees his broken boy limping home. The Bible says the father was moved with compassion—with Splanchnizomai. His gut physically ached for his boy. He didn't wait for an apology or lecture him. The old father broke into a run, threw his arms around his

dirty son, and kissed him. That is Splugchnizomai. That is the gut-wrenching love of God. It is the exact same heart Jesus had for the helpless crowds, and the exact same heart God has for you and me today.

Now, let us look at Matthew chapter 10. What does Jesus do after his heart breaks for the helpless crowds? He doesn't just sit there and cry. He takes action. Jesus calls his twelve disciples. The Bible says he gives them his power and authority. And then, he sends them out directly to the lost sheep. He tells them: "Go, preach the good news. Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, and comfort the broken-hearted."

Brothers and sisters, this is the turning point for us today. Jesus is not just asking us to feel sorry for the world. True splugchnizomai—the gut-wrenching love of God—always leads to action. Jesus gave his disciples his power, and today, he is sending YOU and ME to be his hands and his feet in this broken world. Look around us. Our neighbourhood is full of lost sheep. Some are suffering in physical sickness. Some are fighting invisible mental pain. There are people around us who are deeply lonely, starving for love, and living without any hope. God is asking us today: "Will you look at them with my heart?" Jesus wants us to step out of our comfort zones, go into their lives, listen to their hidden stories, and touch their pain with the love of the Gospel.

Let me close with a powerful, true story. On September 11, 2001, when the World Trade Centre towers in New York were hit by planes, a terrible disaster happened. The buildings were covered in black smoke and burning with intense fire. Everyone inside knew the buildings were going to collapse. At that moment, thousands of terrified people were running down the stairs, screaming, desperately trying to escape the building to save their lives. But television cameras captured a dynamic image. While thousands of people were rushing down the stairs to get out, there was a group of people running up the stairs, directly into the fire and smoke. They were the firefighters. Everyone else was running away from the danger, but these firefighters were running toward the pain, toward the cries of the trapped people. Why? Because they heard the screams of the helpless. They couldn't just ignore them. Their hearts ached for them. Sadly, many of those brave firefighters never came back down.

Friends in Christ, this is exactly what Jesus did for us. When we were dying in sin and despair, Jesus didn't stay in the safety of heaven. He ran straight into our broken world, into our pain, and he gave his life on the cross to save us. And today, Jesus looks at Kogarah Church and says: "Who will go for me? Who will run into the pain of this world with my heart?" Let us not be a church that just sits comfortably inside these walls. Let us look around our neighbourhood this week. Let us find the lonely, the hurting, and those who have never heard the beautiful Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Let us go to them. Let us share his love through our lives. Let our hearts break for what breaks the heart of God, and let us bring his healing and comfort to this world. Amen.

HYMN: Here I am, Lord TiS 658

I, the Lord of sea and sky,
I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in dark and sin
my hand will save.

I who made the stars of night,
I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them?
Whom shall I send?

(Refrain)

*Here I am, Lord; is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night;
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.*

I the Lord of snow and rain,
I have borne my people's pain;
I have wept for love of them.
They turn away.

I will break their hearts of stone,
give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my word to them.
Whom shall I send?

(Refrain)

I, the Lord of wind and flame,
I will tend the poor and lame;
I will set a feast for them.
My hand will save.

Finest bread I will provide
till their hearts are satisfied.
I will give my life to them.
Whom shall I send?

(Refrain)

OFFERING & OFFERING PRAYER

Loving God,
Thank you for your endless blessings.
Today, we joyfully bring our offerings to you,
giving not just our money, but our hearts and our lives.
Please bless these gifts.
Use them to share your love,
comfort the broken, and grow your kingdom.
In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENT

PRAYERS FOR OTHERS

Loving God,
You look at this world with a heart of compassion.
Today, we bring the brokenness of our world before you.
We pray for places torn by war, violence, and disaster.
Comfort those who have lost their homes and loved ones.
Lord, touch the hearts of world leaders with your wisdom,
and bring your perfect peace to this hurting world.

Lord, we also pray for our Kogarah Church family.
Sometimes, we look into the future
and feel anxious or worried about what is ahead.
Forgive our lack of faith.
Remind us that our future is securely in your hands.
Please bless all the ministries and programs of our church.
Use our community to be a lighthouse of hope
and a channel of your deep love.

We pray for every member of our congregation.
Especially, we lift up those who are going through difficult times.
Lord, be near to those who are suffering in pain,
those who are in hospitals,
and those who are facing loneliness and despair.
Wrap them in your healing arms
and let them feel your comforting presence today.

Finally, Lord, we ask for your divine blessing upon everything we are and everything we do. Bless our families, our workplaces, and our daily lives. May your grace overflow in us throughout the week, so that we can go out into the world and live as a blessing to others. 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

INVITATION

Come, all you who thirst,
all you who hunger for the bread of life,
all you whose souls cry out for healing;
Come, come to the feast of life.

The Table of Jesus is our place of gathering;
here we are welcomed, wanted, loved,
here there is a place set for us;
Let us come to the feast of life.

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.

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, Father 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 today at your table
and renewing our strength through the bread of life.

As we leave this place, fill us with your Holy Spirit.

Help us to carry your deep love and compassion into the world,
sharing Jesus with everyone we meet.

In Jesus' powerful name, we pray. Amen.

The Sending Forth of the People of God
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HYMN: Beauty for brokenness TiS 690

Beauty for brokenness, hope for despair,
Lord in the suffering, this is our prayer,
bread for the children, justice, joy, peace,
sunrise to sunset your kingdom increase.

Shelter for fragile lives, cures for their ills,
work for the craftsmen, trade for their skills;
land for the dispossessed, rights for the weak,
voices to plead the cause of those who can't speak.

(Refrain)

*God of the poor, friend of the weak,
give us compassion, we pray;
melt our cold hearts, let tears fall like rain.
Come change our love from a spark to a flame.*

Refuge from cruel wars, havens from fear,
cities for sanctuary, freedoms to share,
peace to the killing-fields, scorched earth to green;
Christ for the bitterness, his cross for the pain.

Rest for the ravaged earth, oceans and streams,

plundered and poisoned, our future, our dreams.
Lord, end our madness, carelessness, greed;
make us content with the things that we need.
(Refrain)

Lighten our darkness, breathe on this flame,
until your justice burns brightly again;
until the nations learn of your ways,
seek your salvation and bring you their praise.
(Refrain)

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BLESSING

Go forth into the world in peace.
Remember who you are:
a community called to welcome the stranger,
to heal the brokenhearted,
and to send disciples into the world.
Look at this world through the eyes of Jesus,
and share his deep compassion with everyone you meet.

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: Behold, behold Season 6-10

Behold (behold), behold (behold),
I make all things new,
beginning with you and starting from today.
Behold (behold), behold (behold),
I make all things new,
my promise is true, for I am Christ the way.

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