



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.**

9th August 2026 @ 10am

Pentecost + 11 - Jesus meets us in the storm

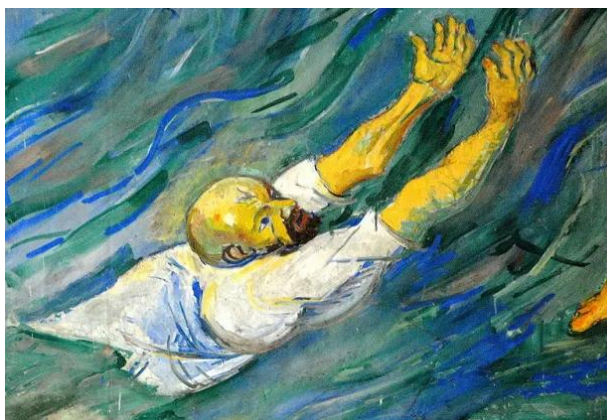
Leader Deok Hee

Reflection Deok Hee

Holy Communion Deok Hee

Genesis 37:1–4, 12–28; Psalm 105:1–6, 16–22, 45b;

Romans 10:5–15; Matthew 14:22–33



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/>

New email address for Kogarah Uniting Church: kogarahuc@gmail.com

For pastoral concerns, please contact

Rev Deok Hee Cho on 0401 975 745.

Scriptures

Genesis 37:1–4, 12–28

Jacob's favouritism and Joseph's robe ignite jealousy that fractures a family. What begins as betrayal becomes the first step of a long journey and a hidden story of God's providence. How might God be at work even in moments that seem defined by harm or loss?

Psalms 105:1–6, 16–22, 45b is a joyful call to remember the ways God worked through Joseph's suffering to bring life and wisdom. Remembering becomes an act of trust in God's faithfulness across generations.

Romans 10:5–15

Paul argues that God's saving work is not distant or inaccessible but close. It is spoken, heard, and lived among ordinary people. Faith grows as good news is shared from one person to another.

Matthew 14:22–33

Before dawn, Jesus walks across the stormy waters, calling fearful disciples to trust. Peter's brief steps reveal both the courage and fragility of faith. What does it mean for us to step toward Christ in the midst of uncertainty?

Theme Focus

We hold our breath as Peter steps out of the boat, and we listen for Christ calling us to take heart and step forward in trust.

Word for the Day

In the book of Job, we hear that God alone stretches out the heavens and tramples the waves of the sea (Job 9:8). This suggests that the image of Jesus as the wave-trampler is significant. Jesus glides across chaos and disorder (the sea, in biblical symbolism, represents the forces of chaos). And in the midst of overwhelm and fear, Jesus says, 'It is I.' These are words that evoke the same 'I AM' name God offers to Moses. Peter is moved. Peter sees what Jesus is up to and wants to join in. Peter grasps that this divine life and presence carry significant implications for human lives, that by faith one can even participate in divine activity. Peter's steps on the water show both courage and vulnerability of faith. Trust opens the possibility of participating in God's activity, yet fear can quickly overwhelm us. Even so, Christ reaches out before we are overwhelmed by the waves. This whole episode evokes wonder and awe among the discipleship who worship Jesus as the Son of God.

Ideas for Reflection

- Where might we be experiencing the 'forces of chaos and disorder' in our lives?
- What are the forces of chaos and disorder that exist outside of us?
- Which of these live inside of us?
- What are the ways God has become present in our lives in the midst of overwhelm or fear?
- How does recognising God's identity and presence in our lives change our perspective on our circumstances?
- Where might Christ be inviting us to step out in trust right now?
- What are the 'winds and waves' that might draw our attention away from Jesus at this time?
- How have we experienced Christ's grace during times of sinking, distractions, or failure?



Dear Inner Circle,

Sitting out the front of our centre in Bondi just before it opened was a great chance to have a yarn on the pavement with a few who had gathered awaiting its opening. Football results from the weekend had not landed my way in either code, so I copped the expected haranguing. It is a great reminder of how to not be a sore winner, not that I am getting much chance lately. My phone rang interrupting my dressing down and I gladly leapt to answer it to escape momentarily, pleading with one of the guys on the pavement, *"I don't know who is calling, but it is very important that I interrupt your abuse to take this call, can you hold the sledging?"* I was reassured the tirade would not be forgotten, and that right after he'd had his morning coffee and shower inside, he was going to give me a fresher perspective on how poor my teams are. I asked if he could be given some of the calming soap. *"Soap's not gonna help Rev, it's your team that needs cleaning up"*.

Thankfully, my respite came in the form of a particularly delightful call. Someone ringing to tell me all the news of his new lease on life and the plans he and his partner have for the future. One of the greatest disciplines I was ever taught, by a wise old elder, was to be a "Non-Idiot" — by which he meant the kind of person people can share their hopes and dreams with, without you crapping on them.

This morning, Wayside Chapel hosted an event at our Kings Cross Centre called "A Shower Shouldn't Be a Luxury". A warm shower can look like one of the simplest things we offer. Turn the tap, wash away the grime, dry off... but anyone who has lived without one knows it is never just about getting clean.

There is something profoundly human about being able to close a door, feel warm water on your skin, and know that for ten minutes you don't have to brace yourself against the world. A shower marks the quiet

transition from surviving the day to imagining there might be another one worth showing up for.

The mark of someone's health is how far out in front their future point sits. In crisis, the future shrinks to the next moment — the next meal, the next score, the next deal. When a life is flourishing, it's spoken of in terms of months and years, like the dream of one day having a place with a yard and play equipment, for a family they never thought possible only a little while ago. I like to imagine that the thoughts the new life detailed in that delightful call might have begun under a showerhead at Wayside Chapel. I do know for certain though that it helped my other friend redouble his commitment to poking fun at my sporting teams' misfortunes.

Thank you for being part of the Inner Circle,



Rev. Jon Owen

CEO & Pastor

Wayside Chapel

(Submitted by Jim Bird)

Planning Ahead

- **12th August TKS Board of Management meeting 4pm Kogarah**
- **August 30 – Closure of Ministry service for Deok Hee (organised with Presbytery)**
- **September 18 Chinese Community Health Seminar 10:30-12**

Please pray for ...

The mission and ministry of our congregation at this time of great need and uncertainty, 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; Prema and Priya, Denis and Dolly, Ngahuia, Peter and Sue; Dinah; Ern Edwards; Jim Bird, Cindy, Dorothy and Godfrey, Nives, Mike, Mei Mei;

Deok Hee and his family as they prepare to move to Moss Vale to take up ministry there.

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. Venezuela.

Next Sunday

16th August 2026 @ 10am

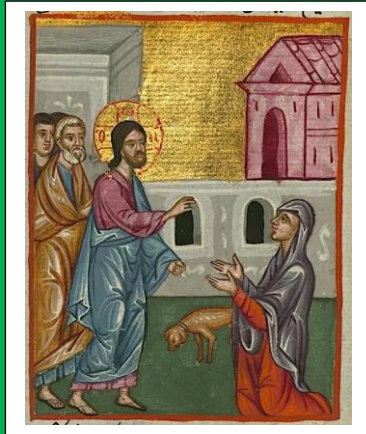
Pentecost + 12 - Making Room

Leader Robert

Reflection Deok Hee

Genesis 45:1–15; Psalm 133;

Romans 11:1–2a, 29–32; Matthew 15: (10–20), 21–28



Church Council 2025-2026

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Culture of Safety Contact Person

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