



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.**

30th August 2026 @ 10am

Pentecost + 14 - Letting Go

Farewell Deok Hee & Family

Leader Richard

Reflection Deok Hee

Closure of Ministry with Rev Steve Aynsley (GRP)

Exodus 3:1–15; Psalm 105:1–6, 23–26, 45b;

Romans 12:9–21; Matthew 16:21–28



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
Richard Goodman on 0434 127 340**

Scriptures

Exodus 3:1–15 Moses encounters God in an unexpected moment of presence. Drawn beyond fear and self-doubt, he is invited into God's work of liberation. Where might God be meeting us in the midst of our everyday lives? How might we be drawn beyond our fears into something larger than ourselves?

Psalms 105:1–6, 23–26, 45b remembers the promises and unwavering faithfulness God makes with Abraham that, in time, lead to freedom through Moses and Aaron. How might we recognise God's involvement in our own lives? In what way might this move us to praise and wonder?

Romans 12:9–21 Paul outlines the essentials of genuine Christian living, emphasising authentic love, hospitality, and patience in the face of suffering. What is it that makes these acts so radical? What might it mean for us to bless our enemies and to overcome evil with good?

Matthew 16:21–28 Jesus predicts his inevitable suffering and death in Jerusalem, then issues the radical command that true followers must deny themselves and take up their cross. How might we hear this call in our own time and place? How might Jesus' words reorient our lives and priorities?

Theme Focus

We hear Jesus call us to let go of what we cling to, and in the presence of the Holy One, discover the freedom to respond: Here I am.

Word for the Day

What does it mean to carry our cross? What did it mean to Jesus' original audience? In the Roman world, the cross was not a metaphor but a public sign of shame and powerlessness. A person carrying a cross had no claim to status, reputation, or possessions—those things that often define our lives no longer carry weight.

Jesus is saying: live as though those old power games no longer define you! Dead to the power games! Dead to the reputation games! Dead to the endless pursuit of more! Dead to the instinct for constant self-preservation! And yet this dying is not the end.

This dying is also a mysterious kind of living. What was designed to be an instrument of imperial terror and public humiliation becomes a call for courageous love. What was thought to be a divine curse (Deuteronomy 21:23) is revealed to be the ultimate means of divine blessing. Jesus calls human beings to join this love-and-resurrection movement.

Imagine people like this in the world. Imagine communities like this, at home in those territories beyond fear and insecurity, learning to live with costly love.

Ideas for Reflection

- Like Peter, we may resist the idea of a suffering Messiah. What stirs within you when you hear Jesus speak of the cross? Resistance? Curiosity? Hope?
- When Jesus calls his followers to take up their cross, what might he be inviting us to release—status, control, certainty, or self-protection? Where do you sense this invitation in your own life?
- The way of the cross loosens the grip of fear and opens space for courageous love. How might this shape the way we live in a culture that prizes comfort and security?
- The cross is also the way of resurrection—the promise that love is stronger than fear. Where in your life or community do you long to see that resurrection life emerging?

Coming soon ...

Wisdom in All Things

Wisdom in All Things

Each year, the Season of Creation invites us into a time of deep listening, thanksgiving, and renewal—not only for creation, but with creation.

In this season, we honour the deep interconnection between all living things and the sacred story that we, along with Earth, are part of. This is not a one-sided ministry of care; it is mutual. As we serve life, we recognise how oceans, trees, winds, and creatures also serve and sustain us. Together, we are held in the web of God's ongoing creation.

Although Season of Creation has its own lectionary, the readings correspond to the threeyear cycle of the Revised Common Lectionary—following the liturgical rhythm of Matthew, Mark, and Luke. This year is Year A, with a focus on the gospel of Matthew. Each week's readings are chosen to be heard not just through a human lens, but through the eyes of Earth herself, asking us to listen for the voices of oceans, flora and fauna, wind, and the cosmos.

This season invites us to grow not only in faith as followers of Christ, but as children of Earth—witnesses to Wisdom woven throughout creation. We unite with Earth and Earth's creatures in praise, in lament, and in hope, as genuine partners of the Spirit who groans with all creation for renewal.

Many communities use the colour aqua during this time—the colour of Earth when seen from space—as a visual reminder of our planet's beauty and fragility. Each Sunday bears a name that invites immediate connection with the natural world, and with deeper spiritual truths.

[The Season of Creation is an ecumenical endeavour coving most mainstream churches across the world. See two invitations following ...]



Living Water

Season of Creation 2026

Immersion in Living Water
EZEKIEL 47:9, 12

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

The Season of Creation is the annual Christian celebration to pray and respond together to the cry of Creation: the ecumenical family around the world unites to contemplate and care for our common home, the Oikos of God.

The Season's "Celebration" begins on September 1, the day that several Christian denominations celebrate as the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, and others celebrate as the Feast of Creation. It ends on October 4, the Feast of Saint Francis of Assisi, who is beloved by many Christian denominations.

This year, we will unite around the theme "Living Water", with the symbol "Immersion in Living Water", inspired by Ezekiel 47:9 and 12

Ecumenical faith leaders from across the world have prepared a special invitation for you and your community to take part in this season.

As a powerful statement to the importance of this ecumenical season of prayer and action for Creation, here are words from faith leaders of our Christian family, summoning us to this special season:

"Season of Creation [is] an ecumenical initiative to be celebrated from 1 September to 4 October (...). Environmental justice – implicitly proclaimed by the prophets – can no longer be regarded as an abstract concept or a distant goal. It is an urgent need that involves much more than simply protecting the environment. For it is a matter of justice – social, economic and human. For believers it is also a duty born of faith,

since the universe reflects the face of Jesus Christ, in whom all things were created and redeemed.”

(Taken from his Message for the World Day of Prayer
for the Care of Creation 2025) His Holiness Pope Leo XIV,
Bishop of Rome, Roman Catholic Church

“In the Season of Creation, we turn again to Christ, through whom all things were made and in whom all things hold together. In his incarnation, death, and resurrection, God’s love is revealed not only for humanity but for the whole created order. To care for creation is therefore an essential expression of Christian discipleship and an integral mark of the Church’s mission: to strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and to sustain and renew the life of the earth. As we follow Christ, we are called to share in his reconciling work, seeking justice, healing, and hope for the earth and for all who dwell within it.”

The Most Reverend and Right Honourable

Dame Sarah Mullally,

Archbishop of Canterbury



(Picture from Action Against Hunger who are on the ground in Nepal)



Pray for the people of Nepal and Tibet as they cope with the devastating flash floods that have affected millions.

Pray and support the Nepali Groups who meet at the Storehouse and in our church on Sunday afternoons.



Farewell from the Ping Pong Group



Mei Mei's Baptism





Ash
Wednesday
2026

Helping at the Kogarah Storehouse



Planning Ahead

- 9th September Worship Task Group via Zoom @ 7pm
- TBA September KUC Church Council via Zoom @ 7pm
- 6th September SoC 1 - Forest (Beneath the Canopy)
- 13th September SoC 2 – Earth (The Ground beneath our Feet)
- 20th September SoC 3 – Outback/Wilderness (When the Earth groans)
- 27th September SoC 4 – River (Where the river flows)
- 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.

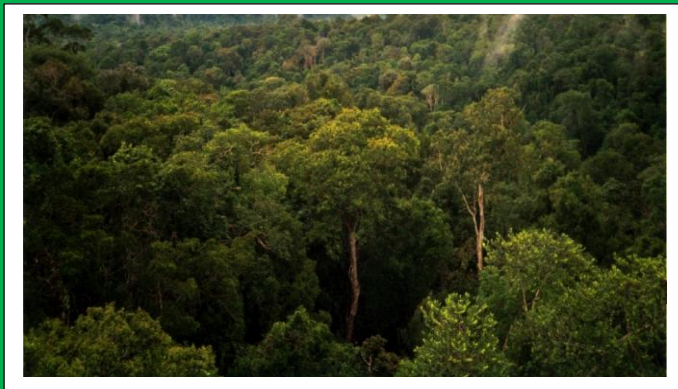
Those who are sick, sad or lonely: We pray especially today for Dennis and Robyn Lyons, Rhonda Chamberlain; Prema and Priya, Denis and Dolly, Ngahuaia, Peter and Sue; Dinah; Ern Edwards; Jim Bird, Cindy, Dorothy and Godfrey, Nives, Mike, Mei Mei;

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
6th September 2026 @ 10am
Season of Creation 1
Beneath the Canopy – Forest Sunday
Leader Dinah
Reflection Saltbush
Genesis 2:4b–22; Psalm 139:13–16;
Acts 17:22–28; John 3:1–16



Church Council 2025-2026

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Richard Goodman

Secretary

Sue Baglin

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Joshua Chang

Councillors

Robert McAlpine (2027)

Sue Baglin (2027)

Joshua Chang (2027)

Elders

Bobbie Miller (2028)

Richard Goodman (2027)

Dorothy Makasa (2027)

Culture of Safety Contact Person

Richard Goodman