



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.**

6th September 2026 @ 10am

Season of Creation 1

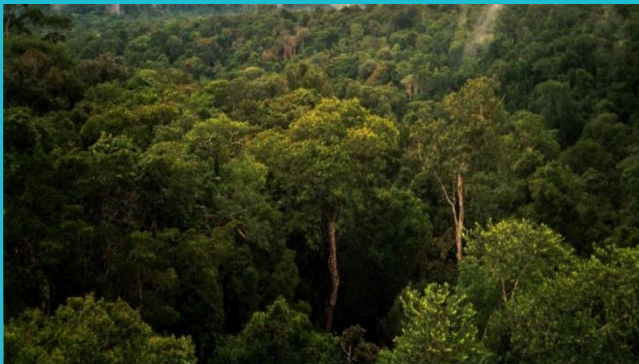
Beneath the Canopy – Forest Sunday

Leader Dinah

Reflection Saltbush

Genesis 2:4b–22; Psalm 139:13–16;

Acts 17:22–28; John 3:1–16



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

Genesis 2:4b–22

Human beings are shaped from the same soil as the trees and rivers. The human vocation is one of befriending, tending and delighting in the creation of which we are a part.

Psalm 139:13–16

The psalmist celebrates being intricately woven together by God. In the context of the season of creation the image expands outward. We are creatures among creatures, each life held in divine imagination.

Acts 17:22–28

In the midst of a busy marketplace, Paul affirms that in God “we live and move and have our being.” Creation is not merely where we happen to live. It is the very place where God is encountered and grace is experienced.

John 3:1–16

Jesus speaks of being born anew, of learning to see the world differently. Perhaps a change of mind and heart towards creation begins here. With new imagination, we might perceive nature not as resources to consume but neighbours to cherish.

Theme Focus

The Season of Creation invites us to rediscover our kinship with creation as we grieve what is being lost and nurture hope through practices of belonging and care.

Word for the Day

The readings for this week invite us to listen to the wisdom at the heart of creation. The story of creation begins with belonging and this thread of communion is woven throughout the readings. Humans emerge from the same earth that nourishes trees and flowers.

Psalm 139 deepens this vision by reminding us that the God who knit us together in our mother's womb is also the God who knows every tree ring, every migrating bird, every seed beneath the soil waiting for spring.

Paul insists that God is not distant from the material world but intimately present within it.

Jesus invites Nicodemus into a new way of seeing. Perhaps being born again includes a renewed relationship with creation shaped less by extraction and more by kinship, less by fear and more by care.

Ideas for Reflection

- Where do you experience the presence of God in creation?
- In what ways are you beginning to see and relate to creation differently?
- What grief for the earth do you carry?
- What acts of care feel possible in this season of your life?

The Dead Sea (Photo from the New York Times)





Living Water

Season of Creation 2026

Immersion in Living Water
EZEKIEL 47:9, 12

“We cannot and should not hope to address climate change without working closely with one another. As we have repeatedly stated, ‘we are all in the same boat.’ Creation care is a collective mandate and responsibility.”

**His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople, Bartholomew,
Holy Orthodox Church**

“Let's clean up every river and finally the seas. Let's campaign to uncover every stream and river in our cities. Let's integrate the rivers back into the urban space and plant trees beside them. Let's enjoy the peace, healing and tranquility they will bring. God made them all to be living waters.”

**Rev. Dr. Reynaldo Ferreira Leão Neto (Léo),
General Secretary of the World Methodist Council**

“Ezekiel’s vision of Living Water, chosen as the Season of Creation theme this year, is not one of despair but of hope for all creation. Even the Dead Sea — a symbol of a devastated ecosystem such as we see today — is healed by the Living Water. This prophetic hope resonates deeply with a key goal of the Ecumenical Decade of Climate Justice Action which has

a thematic focus on climate and biodiversity in 2026: to inspire ecological metanoia and faith-rooted actions for ecological restoration as part of our common Pilgrimage of Justice, Reconciliation, and Unity.”

Rev. Prof. Jerry Pillay,

World Council of Churches General Secretary

Living Water: Water as Life – Ezekial’s Vision

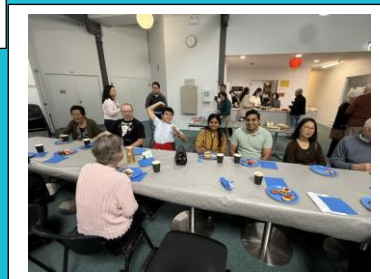
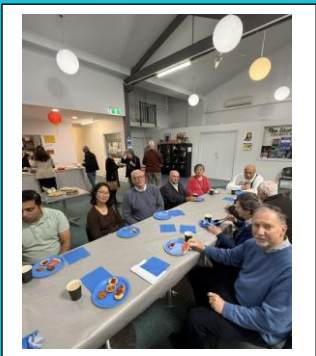
Ezekiel’s vision reframes water — the most basic element of life — as a divine agent of renewal, justice, and hope, a life-giving force flowing from God’s sanctuary. In Ezekiel’s time, water was a symbol of divine presence and blessing. Great civilizations depended on mighty rivers such as the Nile, as well as the Euphrates and the Tigris which were two of the rivers that watered the Garden of Eden (cf. Gen 2:10). The water of the ocean too is teeming with life!

The vision begins with a small trickle — droplets of water flowing from the place of prayer and sacrifice. From a tiny stream it grows to an unstoppable river — the first marvel. The river grows as it flows from the Temple, nourished by the worship and prayers of God’s people.

But the second marvel is greater still. The river does not merely sustain life, it restores entire ecosystems. The prophet saw “on the bank of the river a great many trees on one side and on the other.... This water flows towards the eastern region and goes down into the Arabah, and when it enters the sea, the sea of stagnant waters, the water will become fresh.”

(Ezek 47:7,8) While describing how the river flows into the “sea of stagnant waters” the prophet is referring to the Dead Sea, one of the most lifeless places in his region. So powerful is this river’s water that the saltwaters will become fresh and teem with life.

Deok Hee's Farewell



Planning Ahead

- **8th September Meeting re Supply Minister with Steve Aynsley @ 4pm Kogarah**
- **9th September Kogarah CC meeting with Steve Aynsley and Pablo Nunez 7:30pm in person at Kogarah**
- **TAB September Worship Task Group via Zoom @ 7pm**
- **13th September SoC 2 – Earth (The Ground beneath our Feet)**
- **13th September Book Club at Bobbie's "The Things we never say" by Elizabeth Strout over lunch.**
- **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. Nepal and China

Next Sunday

13th September 2026 @ 10am

Season of Creation 2

The Ground beneath our Feet – Earth Sunday

Leader Richard

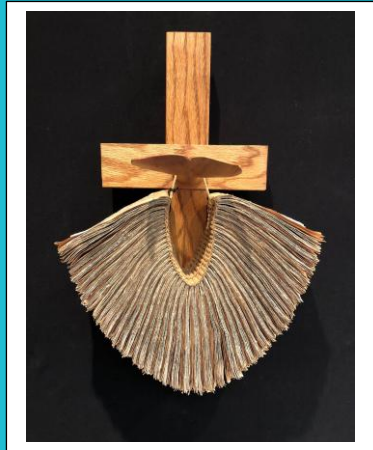
Reflection Saltbush

Holy Communion Richard

Genesis 3:14–19; 4:8–16; Psalm 139:7–10;

Romans 5:12–17; Matthew 12:38–40

**Sign of Jonah by Jim
Baker (See Matthew
Reading)**



Church Council 2025-2026

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Culture of Safety Contact Person

Richard Goodman