



**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.**

**13<sup>th</sup> 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)**



Information about our church activities and The Kogarah Storehouse, check out the websites: [kogarah.uca.org.au](http://kogarah.uca.org.au) and <https://www.kogarahstorehouse.org.au/>  
New email address for Kogarah Uniting Church: [kogarahuc@gmail.com](mailto:kogarahuc@gmail.com)

**For pastoral concerns, please contact  
Richard Goodman on 0434 127 340**

### **Scriptures**

#### **Genesis 3:14–19; 4:8–16**

Alienation from God becomes alienation from soil, and violence between brothers leaves its mark upon the earth. The land participates in God's unfolding story and bears witness to human choices.

#### **Psalms 139:7–10**

For a world experiencing ecological disruption, it brings profound comfort to remember there is no damaged landscape and no wounded ecosystem beyond God's presence or concern.

#### **Romans 5:12–17**

Paul reflects on the ways brokenness spreads through human communities and through creation itself. Grace spreads too, not merely repairing what was lost but overflowing beyond it with the possibility of renewal and new life.

#### **Matthew 12:38–40**

Transformation often happens underground, hidden from view, like seeds germinating beneath the surface of the earth.

### **Theme Focus**

The land remembers both our wounds and our care, inviting us to become people whose lives leave traces of healing rather than harm.

## Word for the Day

Genesis tells difficult truths. Human choices damage relationships not only with one another but with the land. Abel's blood cries out from the ground because the earth remembers what happened upon it. Climate crisis and ecological degradation invite us to hear that cry again, not as condemnation but as invitation. The land is telling the truth about how we live. What do you see? What do you hear?

The gospel's sign of Jonah reminds us that some of God's most important work happens underground and unseen. Seeds germinate in darkness. Soil restores itself slowly. Forests recover over generations. Hope is choosing to become part of restoration, trusting that God is already at work even if we have yet to perceive it. What helps to raise your awareness of the slow, hidden work of God in creation?

### Ideas for Reflection

- What stories does the land beneath your feet carry?
- Where have you seen places restored after damage?
- What does it mean to inherit land responsibly?
- What story do you hope your life leaves in the land?





# Living Water

## Season of Creation 2026

Immersion in Living Water  
EZEKIEL 47:9, 12

To mark the beginning of the season, Uniting Church President Rev Charissa Suli has released a video message reflecting on this year's theme, 'Living Water', inspired by Ezekiel 47.

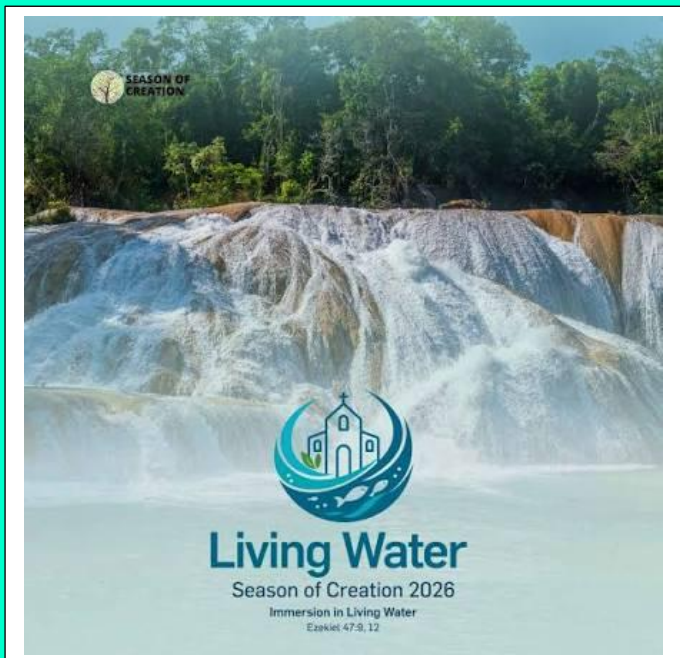
Following is a transcript of the video.

*Grace and peace to you as we begin the season of creation. We join Christians around the world in giving thanks for God's beautiful creation and in renewing our commitment to care for it, alongside people of many faiths and communities who share this concern for our common home.*

*This year's theme, Living Water, draws us to Ezekiel 47. Amid devastation and displacement, Ezekiel sees a river flowing from the presence of God, bringing healing, renewal, and life. We hold in prayer the people of Nepal and Tibet following the devastating floods, and the communities across Asia, the Pacific, and around the world who live with the realities of a changing climate.*

*Here in Australia, our response begins on country. Our covenant with Congress reminds us that justice for creation and justice for First Nations people are inseparable. God calls us towards right relationship with one another, with country, and with all creation. And this season, the Pacific Conference of Churches has invited me as president to journey with Pacific churches in Tuvalu and Fiji in the lead up to COP31, to listen to their leadership and their call for climate justice, and to bring what I hear back to our church. With Australia holding the COP31 presidency, we have a particular responsibility to listen to our Pacific neighbors and to use our voice in Australia to advocate for climate justice. Because*

***Christian love is never only private, it has a public voice. Our shared response is one way we weave Christ's love into the life and witness of our church. Across our church, important work is already underway through the Assembly, our synods, agencies, congregations, and communities. We are strengthening our shared commitments to care for creation by taking action towards net zero emissions while standing in solidarity with vulnerable communities. I invite you to connect with the opportunities and resources being shared across our church, and to consider how you and your community can take part. Together, we seek to respond with faith, justice, and hope for the flourishing of all creation. During this season of creation, let us pray, learn, act, and advocate, and may the living water of Christ renew us and flow through us, bringing healing and hope to all of creation.***



## Planning Ahead

- 13<sup>th</sup> September Worship Task Group after church
- 13<sup>th</sup> September SoC 2 – Earth (The Ground beneath our Feet)
- 13<sup>th</sup> September Book Club at Bobbie's "The Things we never say" by Elizabeth Strout over lunch.
- 20<sup>th</sup> September SoC 3 – Outback/Wilderness (When the Earth groans)
- 27<sup>th</sup> 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, 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. Nepal and China

**Next Sunday**

**20<sup>th</sup> September 2026 @ 10am**

**Season of Creation 3**

**When the Earth Groans– Wilderness/Outback Sunday**

**Leader Robert**

**Reflection Saltbush**

**Joel 1:8–10, 17–20; Psalm 18:6–19;**

**Romans 8:18–27;**

**Matthew 3:13— 4:1-11 (and Mark 1:9–13)**



**Church Council 2025-2026**

***Chair***

**Richard Goodman**

***Secretary***

**Sue Baglin**

***Treasurer***

**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**