



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.**

27th September 2026 @ 10am

Season of Creation 4

Where the River Flows– River Sunday

Leader Richard

Reflection Saltbush

Holy Communion Richard

Genesis 8:20–22; 9:12–17; Psalm 104:27–33;

Psalm 104:27–33; Matthew 28:1–10



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 8:20–22; 9:12–17

After the flood, God's covenant is made with earth, humanity and every living creature. The rainbow becomes a sign of God's enduring love and promise to the whole community of creation.

Psalm 104:27–33

Creation depends upon God's continual generosity. Breath, food, seasons, and life itself are gifts received rather than possessions owned.

Psalm 104:27–33 The biblical vision of fulfillment in time is not escape from earth but a healed creation where the river of life flows through the city and the leaves of the trees are for healing.

Matthew 28:1–10

Resurrection begins in a garden. The women encounter life where they expected death and are sent to tell others that new creation has already begun.

Theme Focus

To imagine God's future as a river running through the community of creation, bringing healing and flourishing wherever it flows.

Word for the Day

The Bible begins with rivers flowing from Eden and ends with a river flowing through the renewed creation. Between those two rivers lies the whole story of God and the world.

In the song of the psalmist we hear that rivers are not the only thing flowing in creation. Spirit, too, flows and is the source of life for all creatures.

The good news of resurrection begins in a garden and flows outward through the joy and courage of the first witnesses.

Scripture affirms that God's love does not help us escape from creation. Instead, it is a source of healing and renewal for earth. Love flows everywhere. Touched by God's love, we are able to participate in the restoration of the community of creation right where we are.

Ideas for Reflection

- When have you experienced the touch of God's love through creation?
- What parts of creation need healing near your community?
- How might you become a source of restoration?
- Where do you sense an invitation to flow with God's love?



**Daylight Saving
begins at 2:00am
on Sunday 4th
October 2026**



Living Water

Season of Creation 2026

Immersion in Living Water

EZEKIEL 47:9, 12

Season of Creation 2026 opened with living water and a new feast – The journey with the World Council Of Churches began here.

Rivers that carry plastic to the sea. Wells turning salt as the ocean rises. Taps that run dry where children walk far for water. These were prayed for on 1 September, at the service opening the 2026 Season of Creation under the theme "Living Water" from Ezekiel 47. "We are surrounded by water," said Rev. James Bhagwan, general secretary of the Pacific Conference of Churches, "but something within humanity has become dry."



15 May 2023, Kakuma, Turkana County, Kenya: A woman from the Turkana community at Nakoyo stops to wash her hands as she works at an LWF-supported farm where the community is learning how to grow diverse crops in order to better sustain themselves as a changing climate and extended dry seasons has made their traditional livelihoods of keeping livestock increasingly difficult. The Turkana – a traditionally pastoralist community – is native to the area, and forms the host community for the hundreds of thousands of refugees living in the nearby Kakuma refugee camp. (Photo: LWF/Albin Hillert 03 September 2026)

The date carried something new. In April 2026 the Consultation on Common Texts added the Feast of Creation in Christ to the Revised Common Lectionary, the shared calendar of readings many churches follow. The first feast added since 1983, it may be kept on 1 September. Dr Louk Andrianos, World Council of Churches (WCC) consultant for Care for Creation, Sustainability, and Climate Justice, opened the service from Crete. He welcomed the fellowship to celebrate it "as a feast of creation in Christ for the first time."

Bhagwan preached on John 7, where Jesus stands in a crowded festival and speaks about thirst. He carried that thirst home. The Pacific, he said, is "a sea of islands that connect by the great ocean" – its rivers carry plastic, its communities face saltwater intrusion, drought, and unsafe water. The ocean that sustains Pacific life "is being treated as a dumping ground, a highway for militarization and a resource to be exploited."

What he offered was not a programme. "Jesus does not offer bottled water. He offers relationship." The ecological crisis, he argued, is not only a crisis around us but a spiritual crisis within us, and the season begins "not with our activity, but with Christ's invitation." He will spend part of it on a paddleboard, circling Viti Levu, collecting plastic.

Abigayle Bolado, WCC programme executive for Young People in the Ecumenical Movement, led the intercessions with a representative of the Laudato Si' Movement, and the invitation turned specific. They

prayed for reefs bleached by warming seas, for whales navigating nylon, for rivers dammed without the consent of those who live beside them, for sacred waters engineered away to supply distant cities and data centres. Others prayed from Nairobi, Beirut, Sami country in northern Finland, and southern Africa.

His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I issued his own message that same day, for the Day of Prayer for the Protection of the Natural Environment, an observance his patriarchate began in 1989, from which the season grew. He called ecological responsibility "a categorical imperative."

The Copernicus Climate Change Service recorded July 2026 as the second warmest measured, 1.47 degrees Celsius above the 1850–1900 average. Writing on 26 August, WCC general secretary Rev. Prof. Dr Jerry Pillay said churches are "called to become part of the river's healing, not to stand at the bank and watch." The season runs to 4 October, when a closing event will mark its end. It is one leg of the Ecumenical Decade of Climate Justice Action (2025–2034), launched in Johannesburg in 2025.

"Each stroke can become a prayer," Bhagwan said.

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*We welcome Rev Hye Kyuong Lee
As our supply minister for the
next three months.*

*She will lead worship on the
1st (HC) and 3rd Sundays of
the month, beginning October 4th.*



Shared From the Wayside Chapel via Jim Bird

Our underlying ethos holds that no one is a problem to be solved, they are a person to be met. This leads us to boldly declare: we are not here to fix people. The labels we use to prescribe, diagnose and divide are all too easily internalised. People become their diagnosis, which only underlines the importance of our approach.

As I was walking down the street I had a chance encounter with a young man, a sports coach and mentor, who a few years ago you might have called an addict and a failed businessman. The spark in his eyes was now for his next appointment, "Sorry, I gotta run, another chance to pay it forward!" He rushed off but my smile lingered, a reminder that amongst the many tasks our people have here is to be on the search for that very sparkle, the spark of life, that signals a shift is about to happen. It is often the subtle but sure vital sign that our presence is paying off. As if to cement this moment, a beautiful woman tapped me on the shoulder, "Remember me?" I honestly couldn't, and she laughed, "I am now in film school, and have been sober for about 6 years since we last met."

After two weeks away, I was full of life at these encounters and was hungry for more.

I then found myself walking behind one of our volunteers, a powerhouse of a woman well into her 80s. She was greeted by one of our regulars, "I've missed you Nan, where have you been?" I hung back, not too far behind, and timed my walk past to give her enough time to reset and give me my own welcome back. I smiled and greeted her good morning, and this regular, who has known me for years, looked me up and down pensively, "Jon, you've gotten fat, you should eat less!"

Spark by spark, memory by memory, loving insult by loving insult – no one here is being fixed, we're all just being met and invited in.

Jon Rev. Jon Owen CEO & Pastor Wayside Chapel

Prayer for peace

The United Nations International Day of Peace, commemorated on 21 September, brings people around the world together to reflect on the urgent work of building and sustaining peace.

The 2026 theme, “Invest in Peace – For Everyone, Everywhere, Every Day” highlights that peace is more than the absence of conflict. It is shaped through everyday actions that strengthen safety, dignity, cooperation, dialogue and community. The United Nations is recognising the “everyday architects of peace” who work in neighbourhoods, classrooms and communities to build a more peaceful future.

For Christians, the day is an opportunity to pray for a world where peace, justice and reconciliation can flourish, and to consider our own calling as people who follow the Prince of Peace.

Uniting Church President Rev Charissa Suli offers this prayer for the International Day of Peace, inviting us to join with people around the world in prayer for peace and for those working to build it.

As communities across the Uniting Church mark the day, may our prayers remind us that peace is not simply something we hope for, but a calling we live out through our relationships, communities and witness.

Creator God of peace,

**Attentive to First Nations and Pacific voices, especially those from
Tuvalu,**

we hear creation groaning and communities crying out

as homes, cultures and futures are threatened by climate change.

Hold in your tender care those who live amid war and violence,
those displaced from their homes, and those longing for safety, dignity
and hope.

Teach us that peace is more than the absence of conflict.

Peace is life in right relationship:

with you, with one another, and with the earth.

Its fruits are justice, reconciliation, belonging, and wholeness.

Turn our prayers into courage.

Move leaders to invest not in fear and destruction,

but in justice, climate action and the common good.

Draw us together, across our different faiths and traditions, as
peacemakers

in our homes, communities and nations.

May your shalom flow throughout all creation—

for everyone, everywhere, every day.

In the name of Christ, the Prince of Peace.

Amen.

Prayer written by Rev Charissa Suli

President, Uniting Church in Australia

Planning Ahead

- 27th September SoC 4 – River (Where the river flows)
- 15th October Kogarah Church Council Meeting @ 7pm via Zoom
- 20th November Book Club @ Bobbie's (11:30am) to discuss *Question 7* by Richard Flanagan

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

4th October 2026 @ 10am

Feast of St Francis – End of Season of Creation

Pentecost 19

Singing in Tune with God's Love

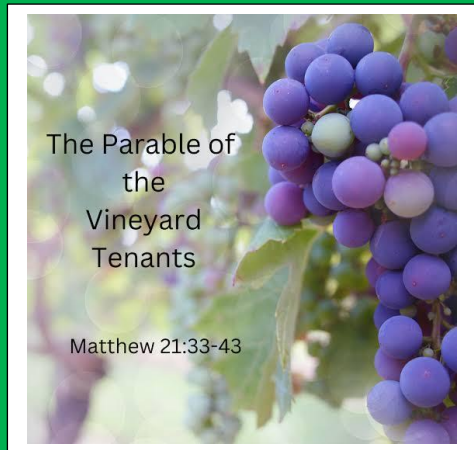
Leader Rev Hye Kyoung Lee

Reflection Hye Kyoung

Holy Communion Hye Kyoung

Exodus 20:1–4, 7–9, 12–20; Psalm 19;

Philippians 3:4b–14; Matthew 21:33–46



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