



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.**

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

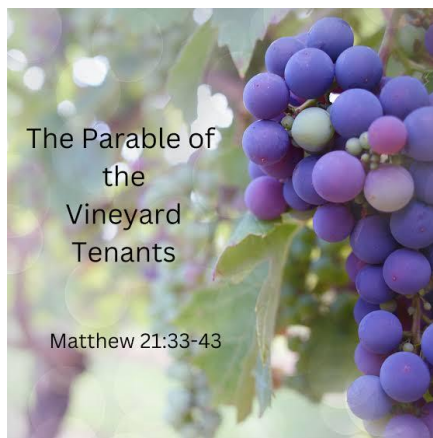
Holy Communion Hye Kyoung

Exodus 20:1–4, 7–9, 12–20; Psalm 19;

Philippians 3:4b–14; Matthew 21:33–46

The Parable of
the
Vineyard
Tenants

Matthew 21:33–43



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 20:1–4, 7–9, 12–20

In the wilderness journey from slavery toward freedom, the Israelites arrive at Sinai, where Moses receives words that will shape life with God and one another. These commandments are not given to burden the people, but to form them as a free community grounded in worship, rest, truthfulness, and care for neighbour. They invite us to consider how God’s wisdom can guide our shared lives and tune us toward love.

Psalm 19

The psalmist listens to creation’s wordless praise and delights in God’s law as wisdom that revives the soul. The same divine rhythm governing the galaxies is intended to govern the human heart. All are invited into God’s life-giving rhythm. How might awe, wonder, and scripture shape the way we live?

Philippians 3:4b–14

Paul knows the value of his religious inheritance, yet he now sees everything through the surpassing worth of knowing Christ. He no longer focuses on what lies behind; but presses on toward a life bound to a love that suffers and rises. His words invite us to ask what we may need to release so that our lives can be more fully tuned to Christ.

Matthew 21:33–46 draws on the image of God’s vineyard to confront those entrusted with leadership and care. The parable asks searching questions about stewardship, entitlement, violence, and the fruit God desires. As the rejected stone becomes the cornerstone, we are invited to examine whether our communities are grounded in Christ and bearing the fruit of God’s reign.

Theme Focus

From Sinai's words of life to the vineyard's call for fruit, we listen for God's song of justice and learn to live in tune with love.

Word for the Day

Jesus' parable in Matthew 21:33–46 invites us to hear echoes of Isaiah's 'Song of the Vineyard' (Isaiah 5:1–7). There, God's people are pictured as a carefully tended vineyard, planted for the good fruit of justice and righteousness. When the vineyard bears wild grapes instead, Isaiah's song becomes a lament over violence, greed, and the failure to protect the vulnerable. Yet, even in Isaiah's lament, the invitation remains for all creation to move into a life-giving harmony that protects the vulnerable and ensures the walls of peace remain standing.

Matthew 21:33–46 takes up this vineyard image in a more confrontational way. The tenants forget that the vineyard is a gift and trust, not possession. They try to seize what was never theirs to own, rejecting the messengers and finally the son. Jesus' parable asks every community entrusted with God's gifts to consider what kind of fruit we are bearing.

Yet the rejected stone becomes the cornerstone. God's purpose is not silenced by violence, refusal, or failed stewardship. In Christ, God continues to form a community tuned to mercy, justice, and peace—a community where the fruit of the reign of God may grow. The invitation is not to claim ownership of God's song, but to join it with humility, courage, and love.

Ideas for Reflection

- In our daily lives or as a church community, where might we be tempted to act as owners of God's gifts rather than stewards of what has been entrusted to us?
- Where do we see the fruits of God's reign among us: justice, mercy, welcome, care for creation, and love of neighbour?
- When do our schedules, priorities, or habits feel out of tune with the way of Christ?
- Whose voices have been overlooked, silenced, or not yet welcomed among us?
- Where do you see God's persistent love still humming in the background of a difficult situation in your life?
- What might help us live more fully in tune with God's dream of love, justice, and peace?

Peace with Creation: Celebrating the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi during the Season of Creation The feast of St Francis marks the end of the Season of creation. It takes place today.
By Laudato Si' Movement |

The Season of Creation 2026 has brought together thousands of Christians worldwide in prayer, reflection, and action for the care of our common home. Under the theme “Peace with Creation,” believers have joined in ecumenical solidarity to seek reconciliation with God, one another, and the Earth.

This sacred season culminates on October 4, the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi—the patron saint of ecology and a symbol of harmony between humanity and nature.

Why St. Francis of Assisi is Central to the Season of Creation?

St. Francis of Assisi embodied a deep relationship with creation. He affectionately called the sun, moon, and earth his brothers and sisters, recognizing the intrinsic value of all living beings and the natural world. His *Canticle of the Sun*, a song of praise for creation, continues to inspire Christians across denominations today.

In *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis refers to St. Francis as the “example par excellence of care for the vulnerable and of an integral ecology lived out joyfully and authentically.” His example perfectly reflects the mission of the Season of Creation: restoring justice, healing broken relationships, and fostering peace with creation.

Ecumenical Celebrations on October 4: Peace with Creation

The Feast of St. Francis of Assisi has become a focal point for ecumenical celebrations at the close of the Season of Creation. Christians of many traditions come together in prayer services filled with music, scripture, intercessions, and reflections on climate justice, the future of our planet, and the hope for a renewed Earth.

This year's closing event reminds us that peace with creation is only possible when justice is restored and when we act in solidarity with the Earth and the poor.

The Canticle of the Sun (Marty Haugen based on the poem by St Francis)

Refrain

The heavens are telling the glory of God,
and all creation is shouting for joy.

Come, dance in the forest,
come, play in the field,
and sing, sing to the glory of the Lord.

1. Sing to the sun, the bringer of day,

he carries the light of the Lord in his rays;
the moon and the stars who light up the way
unto your throne.

2. Praise to the wind that blows through the trees,

the seas mighty storms, the gentlest breeze;
they blow where they will, they blow where they please
to please the Lord.

3, Praise to the rain that waters our fields,

and blesses our crops so all the earth yields;
from death unto life her myst'ry revealed
springs forth in joy.

4. Praise to the fire who gives us his light,

the warmth of the sun to brighten our night;
he dances with joy, his spirit so bright,
he sings of you.

5. Sing to the earth who makes life to grow,

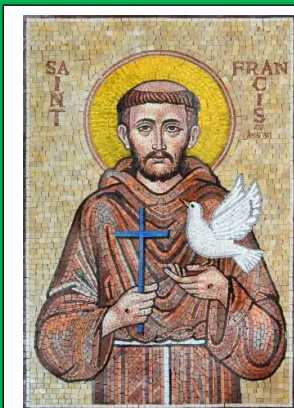
the creatures you made to let your life show;
the flowers and trees that help us to know
the heart of love.

**6. Praise to our death that makes our life real,
the knowledge of loss that helps us to feel;
the gift of yourself, your presence revealed
to lead us home.**

**The heavens are telling the glory of God,
and all creation is shouting for joy.**

**Come, dance in the forest,
come, play in the field,
and sing, sing to the glory of the Lord.**

Sing, sing to the glory of the Lord.



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Loving God,

You care for your creatures large and
small.

Their songs - and cries - resound
across the Earth.

May they be no longer silenced or
ignored,

As we too seek to attend to their
voices.

When we are distracted,

Delight us with the diversity of your
kin-dom.

God of the least,

You are found among the oppressed,
the dispossessed

and the destitute.

We long for the flourishing of all.

Open the hearts of those who side

with the wealthy to

abide with the poor,

Just as we commit to join those who
cry for justice.

If we hang on to our privilege,

Provoke us with the vision of your
kin-dom.

Living God,

You breathe new life amidst death
and decay.

We look for your resurrection in this
world.

As Earth's support systems unravel,

We pray for urgent action across the
globe,

And redouble our efforts for Earth
and her creatures.

Through despondency and distress,

Sustain us in the joy of your kin-dom.

In the name of Christ,

Amen.

*(Prayer at the end of the Season of Creation by Dr Miriam Pepper,
shared from Common Grace.)*

Planning Ahead

- **15th October Kogarah Church Council Meeting @ 7pm via Zoom**
- **18th October @ 2pm at Moss Vale UC – Induction of Rev Deok Hee Cho**
- **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 Wynne Cheng as they make links to the Chinese community.

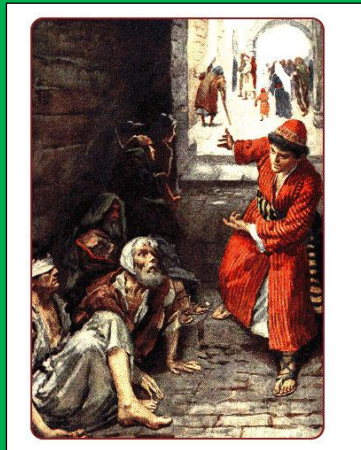
Worship leaders; helpers, leaders, followers The Kogarah Storehouse and its many clients; Lala and staff and volunteers at the Storehouse. Dorothy and Godfrey and the work of LACLA. The team, parents and children in the Early Learning Centre.

Those who are sick, sad or lonely: We pray especially today for Dennis and Robyn Lyons, Rhonda Chamberlain; Prema and Priya, Denis and Dolly, Ngahua, Peter and Sue; Dinah; Ern Edwards; Jim Bird, Cindy, Dorothy and Godfrey, Nives, Mike, Mei Mei; and 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
11th October 2026 @ 10am
Pentecost 20
Singing in Tune with God's Love

Leader Robert
Reflection Saltbush
Exodus 32:1–14; Psalm 106:1–6, 19–23;
Philippians 4:1–9; Matthew 22:1–14



Church Council 2025-2026

Chair
Secretary
Treasurer
Councillors

Richard Goodman
Sue Baglin
Joshua Chang
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