

KOGARAH UNITING CHURCH

October 4th, 2026 10:00 am (YA Pentecost 19)

Singing in Tune with God's Love

The Gathering of the People of God

PIANO PRELUDE

Bobbie Miller

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

God is here

God is always here

God is with us

God is always with us

WELCOME & GREETING

Good morning and a warm welcome to this Communion Service. We especially welcome any visitors with us today and trust we will all be blessed by joining in worship together. Everyone is invited to join us for morning tea in the hall after the service. Our service next Sunday will be led by Robert McAlpine.

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ
and the love of God
and the communion of the Holy Spirit
be with you all.

And also with you.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY:

We acknowledge that this land is God's land, and God's Spirit dwells here. We pay our respects to the elders past, present and emerging of the Bidjegal people of the Eora nation, who have cared for this land in time beyond our dreaming. This land on which we live and move was and always will be Aboriginal Land and we pray that we might together be faithful stewards of the land, striving for reconciliation between all who share it.

KUC MISSION STATEMENT

***We are a congregation
who welcome people of all cultures and lifestyles,
who create a safe place for the community
and who share the journey of life and faith.***

Introduction to Theme

Today's God's words to us comes from some verses of Exodus 20: The Ten Commandments, Psalm 19: God's Glory in Creation and The Law of the LORD, Philippians 3: Running towards the Goal, and Gospel reading Matthew 21: The Parable of the Tenants in the Vineyard.

As we gather, let us listen for God's song of justice and learn to live in tune with love. It is the song of the Creator, sounding out God's dream of a world where everything and everyone flourishes. In today's readings, God's people receive words that shape life in freedom, the psalmist hears creation singing praise, and Jesus calls for the fruit of justice from God's vineyard.

CALL TO WORSHIP

The Great Composer has written a song upon the earth.

We come to listen for our place in the melody.

The Vineyard-Maker has planted seeds of justice and joy.

We come to bear good fruit.

Though we have sometimes lost the rhythm,

God's music of love continues.

Come, let us join the song of God's relentless love.

Let us worship God.

OPENING PRAYER

God of the soil and the sun,
you have planted us in a world of beauty and abundance.

We thank you for the air we breathe,
the ground beneath us,
and the music of creation that hums in our hearts.
Help us to feel the earth beneath our feet
and your Spirit within us,
reminding us that we belong to you
and to each other.

Amen.

SING: For the fruits of all creation, thanks be to God TIS 168

**For the fruit of all creation, thanks be to God.
gifts bestowed on every nation, thanks be to God.
For the ploughing, sowing, reaping,
silent growth while we are sleeping,
future needs in earth's safekeeping,
thanks be to God.**

In the just reward of labour, God's will is done.
In the help we give our neighbour, God's will is done.
In our worldwide task of caring
for the hungry and despairing,
in the harvests we are sharing,
God's will is done.

For the harvests of the Spirit, thanks be to God.
For the good we all inherit, thanks be to God.
For the wonders that astound us,
for the truths that still confound us,
most of all that love has found us,
thanks be to God.

Words: Frederick Pratt Green

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PSALM 19 (*Responsive Reading*)

¹ The heavens are telling the glory of God,
and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.

² **Day to day pours forth speech,
and night to night declares knowledge.**

³ There is no speech, nor are there words;
their voice is not heard;

⁴ **yet their voice goes out through all the earth
and their words to the end of the world.**

In the heavens he has set a tent for the sun,

⁵ which comes out like a bridegroom from his wedding canopy,
and like a strong man runs its course with joy.

⁶ **Its rising is from the end of the heavens
and its circuit to the end of them,
and nothing is hid from its heat.**

⁷ The law of the Lord is perfect,
reviving the soul;
the decrees of the Lord are sure,
making wise the simple;

⁸ **the precepts of the Lord are right,
rejoicing the heart;
the commandment of the Lord is clear,
enlightening the eyes;**

⁹ the fear of the Lord is pure,
enduring forever;
the ordinances of the Lord are true
and righteous altogether.
¹⁰ **More to be desired are they than gold,
even much fine gold;
sweeter also than honey
and drippings of the honeycomb.**

¹¹ Moreover, by them is your servant warned;
in keeping them there is great reward.

¹² **But who can detect one's own errors?
Clear me from hidden faults.**

¹³ Keep back your servant also from the insolent;
do not let them have dominion over me.

Then I shall be blameless
and innocent of great transgression.

¹⁴ **Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart
be acceptable to you,
O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God,

we are sorry for the times when we think that we have not much left to share,
leaving many of those marginalised to suffer,
lacking our loving care and protection.

We are sorry for the times when we don't pay enough attention
that God's precious planet earth needs to be restored
and protected for the generations to come.

***Forgive us and grant us deeper loving care and justice,
we pray in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.***

WORDS OF GRACE

As we walk confidently in a new direction,
the gift of a new beginning always waits for us.

We are forgiven, we are loved,
and we are invited back into the harmony of God's grace.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

PEACE:

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

SING: Make me a channel of your peace TIS 607

**Make me a channel of your peace
Where there is hatred let me bring your love
Where there is injury your pardon, Lord,
And where there's doubt, true faith in you**

Chorus:

***Oh, Master, grant that I may never seek
So much to be consoled as to console
To be understood as to understand
To be loved, as to love with all my soul***

**Make me a channel of your peace
Where there's despair in life let me bring hope
Where there is darkness, only light
And where there's sadness ever joy**

Chorus:

***Oh, Master, grant that I may never seek
So much to be consoled as to console
To be understood as to understand
To be loved, as to love with all my soul***

**Make me a channel of your peace
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned
In giving of ourselves that we receive
And in dying that we're born to eternal life**

Words: Sebastian Temple

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The Service of the Word

BIBLE READING:

EXODUS 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-17

The Ten Commandments

20 Then God spoke all these words,

² “I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; ³ you shall have no other gods before me.

⁴ “You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above or that is on the earth beneath or

that is in the water under the earth. ⁵ You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me ⁶ but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments.

⁷ “You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.

⁸ “Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy. ⁹ Six days you shall labour and do all your work. ¹⁰ But the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. ¹¹ For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and consecrated it.

¹² “Honour your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you.

¹³ “You shall not murder.

¹⁴ “You shall not commit adultery.

¹⁵ “You shall not steal.

¹⁶ “You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour.

¹⁷ “You shall not covet your neighbour’s house; you shall not covet your neighbour’s wife, male or female slave, ox, donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbour.”

BIBLE READING:

PHILIPPIANS 3: 10-14 Running Towards the Goal

10 I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death,

11 if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

12 Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal, but I press on to lay hold of that for which Christ has laid hold of me.

13 Brothers and sisters, I do not consider that I have laid hold of it, but one thing I have laid hold of:

14 I press on toward the goal, toward the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

BIBLE READING:*Bobbie Miller***MATTHEW 21: 33-45 The Parable of the Tenants in the Vineyard**

³³ “Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went away. ³⁴ When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. ³⁵ But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. ³⁶ Again he sent other slaves, more than the first, and they treated them in the same way. ³⁷ Then he sent his son to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’ ³⁸ But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, ‘This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.’ ³⁹ So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. ⁴⁰ Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?” ⁴¹ They said to him, “He will put those wretches to a miserable death and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time.”

⁴² Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the scriptures: ‘The stone that the builders rejected

has become the cornerstone;
this was the Lord’s doing,
and it is amazing in our eyes’?”

⁴³ “Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces its fruits. ⁴⁴ The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces, and it will crush anyone on whom it falls.”

⁴⁵ When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. ⁴⁶ They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

REFLECTION OF THE WORD

*Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart
be acceptable to you, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.*

Faithful Tenants of God’s Vineyard

SING: Praise with joy the world’s creator TIS 179

Praise with joy the world's creator,
God of justice, love and peace,
Source and end of human knowledge,
Force of goodness without cease.
Celebrate the Maker's glory,
Power to rescue and release.

**Praise the Son who feeds the hungry,
Frees the captive, finds the lost,
Heals the sick, upsets religion,
Fearless both of fate and cost.
Celebrate Christ's constant presence -
Friend and Stranger, Guest and Host.**

**Praise the Spirit sent among us
Liberating truth from pride,
Forging bonds where race or gender,
Age or nation dare divide.
Celebrate the Spirit's treasure -
Foolishness none dare deride.**

**Praise the Maker, Son and Spirit,
One God in Community,
Calling us to leave behind
Faith's ghettos and obscurity.
Thus the world shall yet believe
When shown Christ's vibrant unity.**

Words: John L. Bell and Graham Maule

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OFFERING & OFFERING PRAYER

Let us now share the harvest of our lives with others. Our offering will now be received.

Generous God, with your blessings upon our gifts, comfort will be experienced, neighbours will be discovered, our environment will flourish, and those who struggle will find courage and hope. Use what we give to show the world that your vineyard is open to everyone.

Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYERS FOR OTHERS

We thank you for your beautiful, life-sustaining gift of Creation. We give thanks for our own gardens and the bush lands. We pray that, as individuals and communities, we become better stewards of what you have entrusted to us. We pray for stronger international action on climate change. We pray for those who will be most affected by climate change, especially the most vulnerable people in our world.

God, hear our prayer.

There are members of our own Church who are ill, seeking help and recovering from illness. We pray for them and for those who care for them. Now in the silence we name those known to us who need your blessing at this time.....May they feel the power of our prayers, the gift of your healing and the comfort of your Holy Spirit.

God, hear our prayer.

We pray for those entrusted with power – leaders, teachers, decision-makers, and communities like ours – that we may stewards what has been given with humility, courage, and care for the vulnerable, especially people of war-torn countries involved in the current war; Ukraine, Russia, Israel and Palestine, the people of Gaza and Lebanon.

God, hear our prayer.

We pray for our Church leaders and all members as we seek to do your will. Help us to discern deeply your mission and ministry of our congregation at this time of transition towards your sustainable future.

We pray for Kogarah Storehouse and its many clients, and many other mission activities. May you guide us as we seek to serve you in our own church family and in the wider community.

God, hear our prayer.

Celebrating the Lord's Supper

SING: An upper room did our Lord prepare TIS 536 (vs 1 & 2)

**An upper room did our Lord prepare
for those he loved until the end:
and his disciples still gather there,
to celebrate their risen friend.**

**A lasting gift Jesus gave his own,
to share his bread, his loving cup.
Whatever burdens may bow us down,
he by his Cross shall lift us up.**

Words: Frederick Pratt Green

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INVITATION

Christ our LORD invites to his table all who love him,
who earnestly turn to God and seek to live in peace with one another.
On the night before he died for us,
Jesus came to the table with those he loved.

He took bread, and when he had given thanks,
he broke it and gave it to his friends and said:

***‘This is my body which is broken for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.’***

After the meal, he took a cup of wine, gave thanks to God, and said:

***‘This cup is the new agreement in my blood.
Do this as often as you drink it, for the remembrance of me.’***

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.
And also be with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

We give you all thanks and praise that in time beyond our dreaming you
brought forth life out of darkness and created us in your loving image.
We are most grateful, and we thank you, Lord.

You have given us this beautiful earth to care for and delight in and with its
bounty you preserve and bless our life.
We are most grateful, and we thank you, Lord.

We give thanks that you raised Jesus from death and through him
you invite all people to look with new courage at all the possibilities of life and
become a Faithful Tenants of your Vineyard.
We are most grateful, and we thank you, Lord.

We thank you for the Holy Spirit of compassion
who enables us to deeply respect each other, to help protect anyone
in danger or need, and to share justly the resources of our world.
***Therefore, with our hearts lifted high,
we offer you thanks and praise at all times
through Jesus Christ our Lord.***

THE LORDS PRAYER

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done on earth as in heaven.

**Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us in the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever.
Amen.**

BREAKING OF THE BREAD *(Let us break the bread)*

The Bread we break is a sharing in the body of Christ.

The Cup we take is a sharing in the blood of Christ.

***The gifts of God for us, the People of God.
We take this holy sacrament with humble thanksgiving
and feed on him in our hearts by faith with thanksgiving.***

LAMB OF GOD

Jesus, Lamb of God, ***Have mercy on us.***

Jesus, bearer of our sins, ***Have mercy on us.***

Jesus, redeemer of the world, ***Grant us peace.***

DISTRIBUTION OF THE ELEMENTS

All are welcome to receive the bread and wine in your own seats
and share in the Holy Communion.
First, the bread is distributed for all to hold so that we can eat together.

The body of Christ broken for you.

The grape juice is distributed for all to hold and share together.

The blood of Christ shed for you.

*(Bobbie Miller plays TIS 342 "When I survey the wondrous cross"
during the communion)*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

*We thank you God that through word and sacrament
you have given us Jesus Christ
who is the Bread of Life.*

*May we who share Christ's body,
live his risen life.*

*May we who drink his cup,
bring new life to others.*

*We are refreshed and renewed in the eternal love of God.
Thanks be to God! Amen.*

The Sending Forth of the People of God

BLESSING:

Let us leave here rejoicing in all that we have to offer
and to give that to the world in gratitude for all that we have been given.

May the great creator God take our hands and lead us on,
God in Jesus Christ be found around each bend in the road
and the Holy Spirit who breathes the music through all creation,
keep you in perfect harmony, now and forever.

Amen.

SING: Now let us from this table rise TIS 530

**Now let us from this table rise
renewed in body, mind, and soul;
with Christ we die and live again,
his selfless love has made us whole.**

**With minds alert, upheld by grace,
to spread the word in speech and deed,
we follow in the steps of Christ,
at one with all in hope and need.**

**To fill each human house with love,
it is the sacrament of care;
the work that Christ began to do
we humbly pledge ourselves to share.**

**Then grant us courage, Father God,
to choose again the pilgrim way
and help us to accept with joy
the challenge of tomorrow's day.**

Words: Frederik Herman Kaan

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Thank you for worshipping with us on this day.

All are welcome to join our friendship morning tea.