

KOGARAH UNITING CHURCH

October 18th, 2026 10:00 am (YA Pentecost 21)

Whose Image Do We Bear?

The Gathering of the People of God

PIANO PRELUDE

Bobbie Miller

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

Joshua Chang

God is here

God is always here

God is with us

God is always with us

WELCOME & GREETING

Good morning and welcome to our Service this morning. We come to worship God with thanksgiving. Remember the steadfast love of God.

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.

Next Sunday's Communion Service will be led by Richard Goodman.

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:

Today we gather on what has always been and always will be the Eora nation. With great respect we acknowledge the Bidjegal people. We honour Elders, leaders, and communities - past, present, and future. May we walk gently and respectfully on this Land, striving for reconciliation between all who share it.

KUC MISSION STATEMENT

Pastor Wynne Cheng

***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

Pastor Wynne Cheng

EXODUS 33: 12-23 The Lord Promises to Be with His People

Moses longs to see God fully, but God offers presence rather than certainty. In the wilderness, even a partial glimpse of God's goodness is enough to sustain a people still learning how to trust.

MATTHEW 22:15-22 The Question about Paying Taxes

As Jesus holds a coin and talks about what belongs to Caesar, and what belongs to God. We wonder what it means to belong to God and to live as God's faithful people.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev Hye Kyoung Lee

Come, you who bear the image of God.

We come, shaped by love.

Come, you who live in a world of many claims.

We come, seeking what is true.

Come, beloved of God.

We come to remember who we are.

We come to remember whose we are.

OPENING PRAYER

Creator God, your Spirit hovers over the earth
and breathes life into all things:

your creative power is continual and everlasting.

Create in us an awareness of your presence

and reminds us of your hopes and dreams for our lives, and for our congregation.

Amen.

SING: Morning has broken TIS 156

Pastor Wynne Cheng playing the piano

1 Morning has broken like the first morning,

blackbird has spoken like the first bird.

Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning

Praise for them, springing fresh from the Word!

2 Sweet the rain's new fall sunlit from heaven,

like the first dewfall on the first grass.

Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden,

sprung in completeness where God's feet pass.

3 Mine is the sunlight! Mine is the morning

born of the one light Eden saw play!

Praise with elation, praise every morning,

God's recreation of the new day!

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev Hye Kyoung Lee

God of justice and truth,
draw us to your self in grace and forgiveness
as we reflect on our discipleship and faithfulness.

***So often we look to 'Caesar' for guidance and authority
rather than dwelling in your truth.***

We acknowledge that, too often,
we seek the ways of the world rather than your way.

***Forgive us, and renew within us
a right spirit of humble service
that we might ever seek your wisdom and truth.***

WORDS OF GRACE

As we walk confidently in a new direction,
the gift of a new beginning always waits for us.
We are forgiven. Gracious God welcomes us again and again.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

PASSING THE PEACE:

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

News from our family and friends
Naming of people who are not able to join us this morning.

Mizpah Benediction (from Genesis 31:49)
***May the Lord watch between me and thee,
whilst we are absent one from the other.***

SING: You are before me, Lord, you are behind TIS 87 *Bobbie Miller*

**You are before me, Lord, you are behind,
and over me You have spread out your hand;
such knowledge is too wonderful for me,
too high to grasp, too great to understand.**

**Then where, Lord, from your presence shall I go,
and from your Spirit where, Lord, shall I fly?**

If I ascend to heaven you are there,
and still are with me if in hell I lie;

and if I take my flight into the dawn,
or if I dwell on ocean's farthest shore,
your mighty hand will rest upon me still,
and your right hand will guard me evermore.

Search me, O God, search me and know my ways;
try me, O God, my mind and spirit try;
Keep me from any path that gives you pain
and lead me in the everlasting way

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The Service of the Word

- **Conversation with Mary:**
My name is Mary, year 10 at St George Girls High school. I love reading books,,,

BIBLE READING:

EXODUS 33: 12-23

Mary Chang

The Lord Promises to Be with His People

¹² Moses said to the Lord, "See, you have said to me, 'Bring up this people,' but you have not let me know whom you will send with me. Yet you have said, 'I know you by name, and you have also found favour in my sight.' ¹³ Now if I have found favour in your sight, please show me your ways, so that I may know you and find favour in your sight. Consider, too, that this nation is your people." ¹⁴ He said, "My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest." ¹⁵ And he said to him, "If your presence will not go, do not bring us up from here. ¹⁶ For how shall it be known that I have found favour in your sight, I and your people, unless you go with us? In this way, we shall be distinct, I and your people, from every people on the face of the earth."

¹⁷ The Lord said to Moses, "I will also do this thing that you have asked, for you have found favour in my sight, and I know you by name." ¹⁸ Moses said, "Please show me your glory." ¹⁹ And he said, "I will make all my goodness pass before you and will proclaim

before you the name, 'The Lord,' and I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy.
²⁰ But," he said, "you cannot see my face, for no one shall see me and live." ²¹ And the Lord continued, "See, there is a place by me where you shall stand on the rock, ²² and while my glory passes by I will put you in a cleft of the rock, and I will cover you with my hand until I have passed by; ²³ then I will take away my hand, and you shall see my back, but my face shall not be seen."

- Conversation with Wynne

My passion is providing pastoral care, supporting the wellbeing of community members and developing Chinese ministry at KUC

BIBLE READING:

Pastor Wynne Cheng

MATTHEW 22:15-22 The Question about Paying Taxes

¹⁵ Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap him in what he said. ¹⁶ So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one, for you do not regard people with partiality. ¹⁷ Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar or not?"
¹⁸ But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? ¹⁹ Show me the coin used for the tax." And they brought him a denarius. ²⁰ Then he said to them, "Whose head is this and whose title?" ²¹ They answered, "Caesar's." Then he said to them, "Give therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's and to God the things that are God's." ²² When they heard this, they were amazed, and they left him and went away.

CHOIR ITEM

Bobbie Miller

"How Great Thou Art "

TIS 155 vs 1,2 & 3

*Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to thee,
How great thou art, how great Thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee,
How great thou art, how great thou art!*

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.*

What is it that God cares about

SING: Great is your faithfulness TIS 154

Bobbie Miller

**Great is your faithfulness, O God my Father,
in you no shadow of turning we see;
you never fail and your love is unchanging:
as you have been you for ever will be.**

Refrain:

***Great is your faithfulness,
great is your faithfulness,
morning by morning new mercies we see;
all we have needed your hand has provided:
great is your faithfulness, Lord God, to me.***

**2 Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,
sun, moon and stars in their courses above,
join with all nature in unspoken witness
to your great faithfulness, mercy and love. [Refrain]**

**3 Pardon for sin and a peace that's enduring,
your living presence to cheer and to guide,
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow --
these are the blessings your love will provide. [Refrain]**

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OFFERING & OFFERING PRAYER

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

Merciful God, we place our gifts into your loving hands. Guide us as we use them for those in need and for the continuing life of your church.

***You take our smallest gift and grow it like a tree with spreading branches
for the sheltering of new life. We are most grateful, and we thank you, Lord.
In Christ' name we pray. Amen.***

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Morning Worship on Sunday 15 November: Remembering those whom we have lost (Lighting Candles for the Loved Ones memory)
- 20 December Bible reading and Singing carols with Indonesian Congregation

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Generous God, we thank you for the many blessings which enrich our lives: for the beauty of the Earth with its mountains and waterfalls, its farmlands and bush, its oceans and beaches and for all the living things that share it. We thank you for food and clean water and clean air. We give thanks for the

people in our lives who love us, challenge us, inspire us and even those who sometimes annoy us. We thank you for the diversity of life and people and relationships and thought.

***Help us not to take these blessings for granted
but to care for and nurture these precious gifts.***

Lord, we are dismayed by the violence and conflict occurring around the world and in our own communities. We pray for a peace and understanding; for negotiations in good faith; for a willingness to see another's point of view and for respect for "the other".

Help us to care for and nurture our own relationships.

At this time of change, we pray for your church around the world and particularly within the Uniting Church. Bless the various initiatives which are proposed at Synod, presbytery and congregation levels and be with us as we step out in faith, exploring partnership with other congregations or agencies.

***Help us to play our part in bringing about
the church you intend us to be.***

Today, Compassionate Lord, we pray for those known to us who are in need of your healing, strength, comfort, restoration and peace and we name them in the silence now...

Help us to share your love with those around us.

We ask all this in the name of Jesus,
who showed us the way and who taught us to pray:

THE LORDS PRAYER

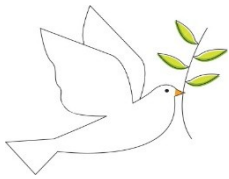
**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us in the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

The Sending Forth of the People of God

BLESSING:

Pastor Wynne Cheng & Rev Hye Kyoung Lee

***The Lord bless you and keep you;
the Lord make his face to shine upon you,
and be gracious unto you;
The Lord lift up his countenance upon you,
and give you peace.***



*Thank you for worshipping with us on this day.
All are welcome to join our friendship morning tea.*

SING: At the name of Jesus TIS 231

Pastor Wynne Cheng playing

**1. At the name of Jesus every knee shall bow,
every tongue confess him King of Glory now;
this the Father's pleasure that we call him Lord,
who from the beginning was the mighty Word.**

**2. Humbled for a season to receive a name
from the lips of sinners unto whom he came,
faithfully he bore it, spotless to the last,
brought it back victorious when from death he passed.**

**3. In your hearts enthrone him, there let him make new
all that is not holy, all that is not true.
He is God the Saviour, he is Christ the Lord,
ever to be worshipped, trusted and adored.**

**4. When this same Lord Jesus shall appear again
in his Father's glory, there with him to reign,
then may we adore him, all before him bow,
as our hearts confess him King of Glory now.**

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