KOGARAH UNITING CHURCH

November 1, 2026 at 10:00 am (YA Pentecost 23) **All Saints Day**

Step into the River of Faith

The Gathering of the People of God

PIANO PRELUDE *Sue Baglin*

WELCOME & GREETING
Good morning and welcome to our service this morning. 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 Dinah Roepers.

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 Biddegal 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.

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE *Dorothy Makasa*
God is here
God is always here
God is with us
God is always with us

KUC MISSION STATEMENT *Dorothy Makasa*
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 Lectionary readings come from Joshua 3:7-17 The People of God Cross the Jordan- A way is provided to cross the Jordan river, just as a way was provided when their ancestors fled across the Red Sea.

Gospel reading Matthew 23:1-12 Jesus Warns against the Teachers of the Law and the Pharisees- The pathway to real growth lies in humility and service rather than by strict obedience.
Revelation 7:9-17 All Saints' Day passage offers hope to those suffering through persecution. They are the people who have come safely through the terrible persecution. And God will wipe away every tear.

CALL TO WORSHIP
We bear witness to the God of steadfast love who conceived our community in goodness and promised to be with us forever.
We will give thanks to God!

Challenges become opportunities, obstacles bring fresh direction,
with the Spirit we grow in strength.
We will give thanks to God!

Let us step into the river of life, safe in the company of Christ Jesus.
The waters could look deep, with currents of ambiguity and risk,
but God will part them with grace and hope.
Mindful of our past and hopeful for our future
we give thanks to God!

OPENING PRAYER
As we come together, we bring to mind all that brought us to this holy place,
to this community and to this pilgrimage of faith.
In and through all things we see evidence of your Spirit
for you are at the heart of everything.
It is your faithful guidance which carries us towards the deep waters of life.
Be with us now. Be to us like the source of life running through our veins
renewing and sustaining for love's sake. ***Amen.***

SING: This is a day of new beginnings TIS 653

1 This is a day of new beginnings,
time to remember and move on,
time to believe what love is bringing,
laying to rest the pain that's gone.

2 For by the life and death of Jesus,
God's mighty Spirit, now as then,
can make for us a world of difference,
as faith and hope are born again.
3 Then let us, with the Spirit's daring,
step from the past and leave behind
our disappointment, guilt and grieving,
seeking new paths, and sure to find.

4 In faith we'll gather round the table,
to taste and share what love can do.
This is a day of new beginnings;
our God is making all things new.

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PRAYER OF CONFESSION
O God who travels with us in deep waters, you know who we are.
In our failure to be the church of love and grace, justice and peace,
we drink a common cup and break the common loaf.
Forgive us, O God,
and help us to renew our commitment
to live out the hope to which we are called.

WORDS OF GRACE
We remember people who have shared God's love with us, and whose light still helps us find the way. In Christ, our hope is new every day. We are held within a story of love that stretches across generations.
We are not alone. We are part of the communion of saints.
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: The Lord is my shepherd TIS 659
1. The Lord is my shepherd, and I want to follow wherever he leads me, wherever he goes. Over the mountains, the waters and byways, valleys and highways, he's waiting for me.

Chorus:
I want to go to meet him there, to lay myself down in his love.
The Lord is my Shepherd and I want to follow
wherever he leads me, wherever he goes.

2. And while on the journey to where we are going he promised to be there to help us along, and over the mountains we'll walk on together, to know all the wonders he's given to me.

Chorus:
I want to go to meet him there, to lay myself down in his love.
The Lord is my Shepherd and I want to follow
wherever he leads me, wherever he goes.

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The Service of the Word

BIBLE READING: *John*
JOSHUA 3:7-17 The People of God Cross the Jordan

7 The Lord said to Joshua, "This day I will begin to exalt you in the sight of all Israel, so that they may know that I will be with you as I was with Moses. 8 You are the one who shall command the priests who bear the ark of the covenant, 'When you come to the edge of the waters of the Jordan, you shall stand still in the Jordan.' "
9 Joshua then said to the Israelites, "Draw near and hear the words of the Lord your God." 10 Joshua said, "By this you shall know that among you is the living God who without fail will drive out from before you the Canaanites, Hittites, Hivites, Perizzites, Girgashites, Amorites, and Jebusites: 11 the ark of the covenant of the Lord of all the earth is going to pass before you into the Jordan. 12 So now select twelve men from the tribes of Israel, one from each tribe. 13 When the soles of the feet of the priests who bear the ark of the Lord, the Lord of all the earth, come to rest in the waters of the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan flowing from above shall be cut off; they shall stand in a single heap."

14 When the people set out from their tents to cross over the Jordan, the priests bearing the ark of the covenant were in front of the people. 15 Now the Jordan overflows all its banks throughout the time of harvest. So when those who bore the ark had come to the Jordan and the feet of the priests bearing the ark were dipped in the edge of the water, 16 the waters flowing from above stood still, rising up in a single heap far off at Adam, the city that is beside Zarethan, while those flowing toward the sea of the Arabah, the Dead Sea,[a] were wholly cut off. Then the people crossed over opposite Jericho. 17 While all Israel were crossing over on dry ground, the priests who bore the ark of the covenant of the Lord

stood firmly on dry ground in the middle of the Jordan, until the entire nation finished crossing over the Jordan.

BIBLE READING: *Dorothy Makasa*
MATTHEW 23:1-12
Jesus Warns against the Teachers of the Law and the Pharisees

Then Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples, [2] "The scribes and the Pharisees sit on Moses' seat; [3] therefore, do whatever they teach you and follow it; but do not do as they do, for they do not practice what they teach. [4] They tie up heavy burdens, hard to bear, [1] and lay them on the shoulders of others; but they themselves are unwilling to lift a finger to move them. [5] They do all their deeds to be seen by others; for they make their phylacteries broad and their fringes long. [6] They love to have the place of honour at banquets and the best seats in the synagogues, [7] and to be greeted with respect in the marketplaces, and to have people call them rabbi. [8] But you are not to be called rabbi, for you have one teacher, and you are all students. [2] [9] And call no one your father on earth, for you have one Father--the one in heaven. [10] Nor are you to be called instructors, for you have one instructor, the Messiah. [3] [11] The greatest among you will be your servant. [12] All who exalt themselves will be humbled, and all who humble themselves will be exalted.

BIBLE READING: *Dorothy Makasa*
REVELATION 7:9-17 A Great Cloud of Witnesses

After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. [10] They cried out in a loud voice, saying,

"Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!"

[11] And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshipped God, [12] singing,

"Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom
and thanksgiving and honour

and power and might
be to our God forever and ever! Amen."

[13] Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?" [14] I said to him, "Sir, you are the one that knows." Then he said to me, "These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

[15] For this reason they are before the throne of God,
and worship him day and night within his temple,
and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them.
[16] They will hunger no more, and thirst no more;
the sun will not strike them,
nor any scorching heat;
[17] for the Lamb at the centre of the throne will be their shepherd,
and he will guide them to springs of the water of life,
and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

REFLECTION OF THE WORD *Hye Kyoung Lee*

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

Step into the river of faith

SING: Guide me, O thou great Redeemer TIS 569

1 Guide me, O thou great Redeemer,
pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak, but thou art mighty;
hold me with thy powerful hand:
bread of heaven, bread of heaven,
feed me now and evermore,
feed me now and evermore.

2 Open now the crystal fountain
whence the living waters flow:
let the fiery, cloudy pillar
lead me all my journey through:
strong deliverer, strong deliverer,
be thou still my strength and shield,
be thou still my strength and shield.

3 When I tread the verge of Jordan
bid my anxious fears subside:
death of death, and hell's destruction,
land me safe on Canaan's side:
songs of praises, songs of praises
I will ever give to thee,
I will ever give to thee.

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OFFERING & OFFERING PRAYER

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

We have received abundantly and we gladly share them with others.
With your blessings, our offering will nurture the faith community,
and provide warm care for the lives of the struggling people,
in the name of Christ, ***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

- The Storehouse Christmas Market on Thursday 19th & Friday 20th November

- The Storehouse Community Christmas Celebration 27 November at Kogarah Town Square from 4-9pm

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE *Dorothy Makasa*

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.

SING: THE SUMMONS

Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown?
Will you let my name be known?
Will you let my life be grown in you,
and you in me?

Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare,
should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer prayer in you
and you in me?

Will you let the blinded man see if I but call your name?
Will you set the prisoners free and never be the same?
Will you kiss the leper clean,
and do such as this unseen?
And admit to what I mean in you,
and you in me?

Will you love the "you" you hide if I but call your name?
Will you quell that fear inside and never be the same?
Will you use the faith you've found
to reshape the world around
through my sight and touch and sound in you,
and you in me?

Lord, your summons echoes true when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.
In your company I'll go,
where your love and footsteps show,
thus I'll move and live and grow in you,
and you in me.

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Celebrating the Lord's Supper

INVITATION
Christ our Lord invites to his table all who love him.
We come, not because we are strong,
but because we need God's mercy and help.
On the night before he died, Jesus sat at supper
with those he loved. While they were eating, he took bread,
gave thanks, broke it and gave it to them with the words,
'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 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.

It is indeed right to give you our thanks and praise, O God of lasting love and Lord of goodness, for you created the earth, both dry lands and fertile valleys, and entrusted it to us to tend and harvest.
We are most grateful, and we thank you, Lord.

You parted the waters and the Israelites moved towards the land of promise. You ended their wilderness pilgrimage and now you lead us to go forth our pilgrimage of faith with confidence.
We are most grateful, and we thank you, Lord.

We give you thanks for your child Jesus who, having humbled himself even to the death on a cross, was raised by you, and now lives to bring life to your thirsty people on the journey towards a hopeful future.
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 the world.
Therefore, with our hearts lifted high,
we offer you thanks and praise at all times
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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.
With thanksgiving we take this bread and this cup,
walk humbly with our Lord, and commit our life
for the sake of others just as Jesus has done.

LAMB OF GOD
Jesus, Lamb of God, ***Have mercy on us.***
Jesus, bearer of our sings, ***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.

(Sue plays the Piano Music 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.
We are refreshed and renewed in the eternal love of God.
May we who share Christ's body, live his risen life.
May we who drink his cup, bring new life to others. Amen.

The Sending Forth of the People of God

BLESSING:
Let us go in faith. Step into the deep waters of life,
confident that the Christ is walking there ahead of us.
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, and give you peace.

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, Companion God,
to choose again the pilgrim way
and help us to accept with joy
the challenge of tomorrow's day.

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