

*Sunday at
St Michael's*

7TH SUNDAY OF EASTER
24 MAY 2020

“PRAYING A NEW STORY”

MINISTER: REV DR MARGARET MAYMAN

MUSIC: DR. ELYANE LAUSSADE (PIANO)
DR. KIM TAN (FLUTE) & RHYS BOAK (PIANO & ORGAN)

CANTORS: GEORGIA WILKINSON & CHRISTOPHER WATSON

WELCOME TO ST MICHAEL'S

St Michael's is a unique church. We are proud of our independent spirit; seeking continually to discover new ways to understand faith and to demonstrate it in our lives, and in the heart of the city.

As part of the Uniting Church in Australia, St Michael's is committed to involvement in social and national affairs. We hold foundational Christian values of the importance of every human being, the need for integrity in public life and concern for the welfare of the whole human race irrespective of race, creed, gender, sexuality, status or age.

OFFICE BEARERS

Chair of Congregation: Ian Smith
Church Council Chair: Laura Beckett
Treasurer: Ian Cox
Secretary: Maree McDonald
Deanery I: Household
Dean: Peter Anderson
Deputy Dean: Jack Morgan
Deanery II: Church Services
Dean: Graeme Adamson
Deputy Dean: Albert Phillips

Deanery III: Contact and Care
Dean: Lyndell O'Brien
Deputy Dean: Joy Arnot
Deanery IV: Programs
Dean: Lorraine Woolley
Deputy Dean: Val Gill

Culture of Safety Contact Person
(Keeping Children Safe)
Val Gill
Organist & Manager of Music
Rhys Boak

ST MICHAEL'S UNITING CHURCH OFFICE

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 <https://www.facebook.com/stmichaelsmelbourne/>

 <https://www.youtube.com/user/StMichaelsChurch/videos>

Podcast: www.soundcloud.com/stmichaelsunitingchurch

Weekly eNews: reception@stmichaels.org.au

Please send notices to office@stmichaels.org.au by 11.30am Wednesday

MEDITATIONS

St Michael's is a vibrant, progressive, inclusive church with a long tradition of nurturing the spiritual well-being of the human person and working for the common good in society.

♥ **Our buildings may be closed, but our hearts are open.** ♥

During the COVID-19 virus pandemic, we are offering Sunday Gatherings online – Reflections by our minister Rev Dr Margaret Mayman; biblical and contemporary readings from congregation members; beautiful music by organist, Rhys Boak and guest musicians; and prayers for these challenging times.

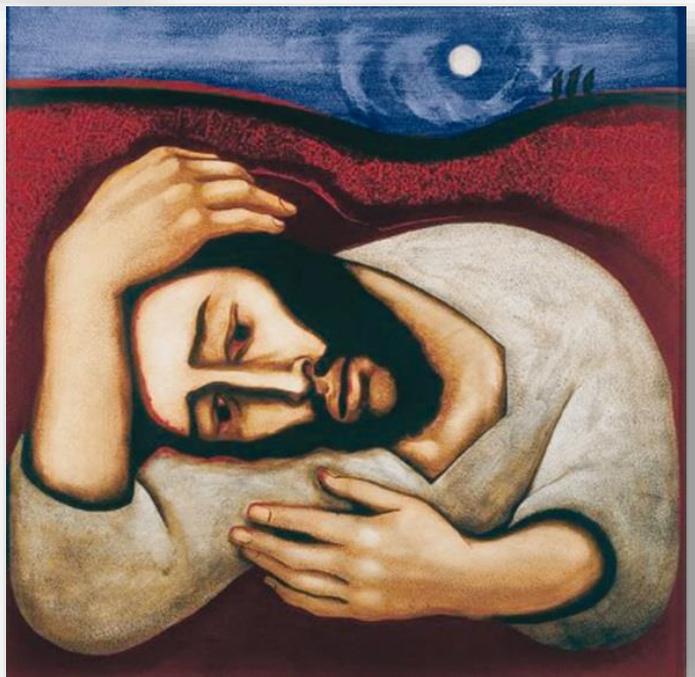
A video of this service will be available on the website and YouTube on Sunday.

<http://www.stmichaels.org.au/>

<https://www.youtube.com/user/StMichaelsChurch/videos>



Embrace, George Clair Tooker



Jesus Praying, Michael O'Brien

GATHERING AS PEOPLE OF EARTH AND SPIRIT

WELCOME & ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY REV DR MARGARET MAYMAN

Welcome to St Michaels Uniting Church online gathering
I'm Margaret Mayman, minister at St Michael's.
Wherever you have come from, wherever you are going to;
whatever you believe, whatever you do not believe;
you are welcome.

*At St Michael's we acknowledge the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nation,
traditional owners of the land on which our church stands.*

*Today we also acknowledge other Indigenous People on whose land
you and others who are participating in this gathering live.*

*We honour their elders past and present and emerging,
and with Indigenous people we pray for justice
for the people and for the land.*

This Sunday is the last Sunday before Pentecost, the day that the church celebrates the continuing Divine Presence. The gospel reading is a prayer that the writer of John uses to help his readers understand the purpose of Jesus' life and teaching, and the meaning of his death. It invites us into eternal life, not life that goes on and on beyond death, but life in all its fullness lived in awareness of the purpose of our lives.

As we move out of strict isolation, we may look anew at our lives, the life of the community in which we live, and the global community in which we are connected to all of life.

Over the past ten days, many of us have spent time with people close to us, family or friends, who we have not been able to meet with, apart from online, for six weeks. We have travelled a little further from home, walked in different places, and recognised anew the wonder of life on earth.

We cannot meet physically as church, but still we gather, apart and yet together. As we enter a time of communion and reflection, be aware...of other people who are participating in this online gathering, be thankful for community experienced in many ways, and know that your one precious life is held in love in the fabric of creation, in the weaving of life.

GATHERING WORDS

In this time we gather together apart.
Together we weave the threads of our lives
into a wondrous vision;
a bright new tapestry of dreams
of times to come.
Let us celebrate life in Divine Presence.

GATHERING HYMN

GEORGIA WILKINSON

Here in this place, new light is streaming,
now is the darkness vanished away.
See, in this space, our fears and our dreamings,
brought here to you in the light of this day.
Gather us in - the lost and forsaken,

gather us in - the blind and the lame.
Call to us now, and we shall awaken,
we shall arise at the sound of our name.

We are the young - our lives are a mystery,
we are the old - who yearn for your face.
We have been sung throughout all of history,
called to be light to the whole human race.
Gather us in - the rich and the haughty,
gather us in - the proud and the strong.
Give us a heart so meek and so lowly,
give us the courage to enter the song.

Here we will take the wine and the water,
here we will take the bread of new birth.
Here you shall call your sons and your daughters,
call us anew to be salt of the earth.
Give us to drink the wine of compassion,
give us to eat the bread that is you.
Nourish us well, and teach us to fashion
lives that are holy and hearts that are true.

Not in the dark of buildings confining,
not in some heaven, light years away,
but here in this space, the new light is shining;
now is the Kingdom, now is the day.
Gather us in - and hold us forever,
gather us in - and make us your own.
Gather us in - all peoples together,
fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

Tune: Gather us in
Words and Music: Marty Haugen (1950-)

PRAYER OF AWARENESS

We have gathered in our homes,
ordinary, yet sacred places.
May we continue to create here a circle of love,
ever expanding,
ever growing.

A place of wisdom.
A place of connection.
A place of hope.

Spinner, weaver of our lives,
whose loom is love.
May we who are gathered
apart and yet connected
be empowered by that love
to weave new patterns of truth and justice
into a web of life that is strong,
beautiful, and everlasting.

In considering eternal life
we embrace the gift
not of endless time

but of the gift of endless love
present in each moment
Sacred Presence
earthly, earthy, grounded, ,
here and now.

In our living
may we give human expression
to the greatest of all mysteries
a mystery known by many names:
“God”
“Breath of Life”
“Creator Spirit”
“All that Is”
“Ground of our being”
“Creative Energy”
“Eternal Light”
Life!

JESUS' PRAYER

***Abba God, you are life for us,
holy be your name.
Your new day come, your will be done,
on earth as in your vision.
Give us this day our bread for the morrow;
and forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Strengthen us in the time of test,
and deliver us from evil.
For the power and the splendour
and the fulfilment are yours,
now and forever. Amen.***

SHARING A SIGN OF PEACE

May the peace of Divine Presence be with you!
And also with you!

People are invited to send peaceful thoughts to members of our community.

MUSIC FOR REFLECTION

‘Reflections in the water’ - Claude Debussy (1862-1918)

This piece comes from a collection published in 1905 known as ‘Images’. The beautiful, life giving complexity of water was a favourite subject of impressionist painters of the time. In 1911, Debussy wrote to a colleague, Edgard Varèse, “I love pictures almost as much as music”. This statement does not quite do justice the French composer’s unique ability to paint pictures with tones and to create visions that have never been rivalled in music.
Dr. Elyane Laussade (Piano)

LISTENING FOR WORDS OF SPIRIT

GOSPEL READING: JOHN 17:1-11

IAN COX

After Jesus had spoken these words, he looked up to heaven and said, "Abba God, the hour has come; glorify your Chosen One so that this One may glorify you, since you have given authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given me.

And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do.

So now, Abba, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.

"I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word.

Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me.

I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours.

All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them.

And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy One, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one."

For the beloved community that prays with us for God's reign,

We give thanks.

CONTEMPORARY READING

IAN COX

"The Opening of Eyes" by David Whyte

That day I saw beneath dark clouds
the passing light over the water
and I heard the voice of the world speak out,
I knew then, as I had before
life is no passing memory of what has been
nor the remaining pages in a great book
waiting to be read.

It is the opening of eyes long closed.

It is the vision of far off things
seen for the silence they hold.

It is the heart after years
of secret conversing
speaking out loud in the clear air.

It is Moses in the desert
fallen to his knees before the lit bush.

It is the man throwing away his shoes
as if to enter heaven

and finding himself astonished,
opened at last,

fallen in love with solid ground.

For the Mystery that is here and everywhere.

We give thanks.

"PRAYING A NEW STORY"

RESPONDING IN LOVE

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

God of grace,
we look to your love and light
to shine in our lives and our world.

In our prayers we share our concerns for:
the state of world politics;
the division of peoples;
the effects of climate change;
the growing disparity between rich and poor;
the prevalence of violence in our homes;
the increase in mental illness;
the gap between First and Second Peoples,
and the need for reconciliation between us.

We pray for the places in the world
where the coronavirus is spreading,
for places where sanitation is a daily challenge
because of lack of running.

We remember countries where leaders
are not willing or able to protect people from illness
and where health systems do not have the capacity to treat them.

We think of the pressures on people
in our own communities
who are returning to a world
where they face joblessness and poverty;
where businesses face an uncertain future.

We pray for churches and other religious communities
making decisions about re-opening that will affect the safety
and health of their members.

For ourselves, for those named or remembered,
and in solidarity with those
who have not the freedom to express their concern or celebration
for fear of discrimination or condemnation.

We pray trusting in the care of Spirit for all of life.
We seek courage in the face of fear;
to be agents of change and love
steadfast in faith
held in light that heals our wounds
and the wounds of the world.

Amen.

HYMN

CHRISTOPHER WATSON

When in our music, God is glorified,
And adoration leaves no room for pride,
It is as though the whole creation cried:
Alleluia! Alleluia!

How often, making music, we have found
A new dimension in the world of sound,
As worship moved us to a more profound
Alleluia! Alleluia!

So has the Church, in liturgy and song,
In faith and love, through centuries of wrong,
Borne witness to the truth in every tongue:
Alleluia! Alleluia!

Let every instrument be tuned for praise!
Let all rejoice who have a voice to raise!
And may God give us faith to sing always:
Alleluia! Alleluia!

Words: Frederick Pratt Green (1903-2000)

Tune: Sine Nomine. R. Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

SENDING AND BLESSING

BLESSING

Be wholly present in your own life,
ready to be surprised by the wonder
of each ordinary moment.

Go in peace.
May the earth be warm under your feet,
the rain bring the gentle flowers of the bush bright around you,
and the wind blows as the breath of the Spirit before you.

Amen. May it be so.

POSTLUDE

'The enchanted garden' - Maurice Ravel (1875-1937)

This exquisite piece dates from just 3 years after Debussy's 'Reflections in the water'. It comes from the 'Mother Goose' suite of 1908. This short piece takes us on a journey from quiet expectation to an exuberant, joyful conclusion.

Dr. Kim Tan (Flute) & Rhys Boak (Piano)

OFFERINGS – AN INVITATION

People have been asking how they can support the mission and ministry of St Michael's when they are not able to make their offerings at church on Sunday. A 'Supporting Us' button has been added to the St Michael's website. We are very grateful for donations that have already been received in the last week from members and from the wider audience of people who are appreciating our online videos. If you would like to contribute, you can make an offering through the website by credit card or use online banking. A downloadable donation form is also available. Thank you!

The online banking details are:

St Michaels Uniting Church

BSB: 083004

A/C: 515113338

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

David Whyte, "The Opening of Eyes." From *Songs for Coming Home* (Many Rivers Press, 1984)

"Here in this place new life is streaming (gather us in)." Words and Music Marty Haugen (1950-). Tune: Gather us in.

"When in our music God is glorified." Words: Frederick Pratt Green (1903-2000).
Tune: Sine Nomine. R. Vaughan Williams (1872-1958).

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GUEST MUSICIANS

Dr. Elyane Laussade:

A graduate of the Juilliard school in New York City, pianist Elyane Laussade has delighted audiences on five continents with her imaginative and strongly individual playing. The New York Times has said she is "a pianist with a powerful, polished technique and many an original interpretive notion....with an impeccable sense of style and dazzling power."

Originally from the USA, she has now established herself as one of Australia's finest performers. She has performed on numerous occasions with the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra and has been featured by ABC Classic FM and 3MBS in studio recordings and live broadcasts.

As a soloist, Elyane has performed in Australia, New Zealand, Singapore, China, Japan, South Africa, the USA, Taiwan and Europe.

As a recording artist Elyane has recorded "Just for You," a solo CD, "These Little Things" with Sydney-based violinist Jemima Littlemore, and "Humanation" with Melbourne cellist Luke Severn.

Elyane's most recent endeavour is the Mozart Project which will see her perform all 27 Mozart piano concertos with orchestras around Australia. She enjoys a rich chamber music involvement along with her solo career.

Her love for the musical experience as a close encounter has inspired her to run a special series of intimate recitals at the Laussade Studio in Melbourne. Elyane enjoys performing in her studio as a soloist and in collaboration with Australian and international musicians.

"A pianist with a powerful, polished technique and many an original interpretive notion."

– Allan Kozinn

[Laussade, Pianist, In Recital](#) / *The New York Times*

Dr. Kim Tan:

Kim Tan is a Melbourne based interdisciplinary musician and teacher whose practice is defined by the creative diversity of contemporary music performance. Studying with local teachers such as Mardi McCullea, Greg Dikmans, Lawrence Whiffin, and Margaret Crawford, Kim has developed an approach to her craft that embraces the cross-section between several musical disciplines. She studied in Germany in 2009 under the tutelage of flautist, Camille Hoitenga (Cologne) and during this time she had lessons with international soloists including; Andras Adorjan (Musikhochschule Munich), Felix Renggli (Musikhochschule Freiburg), and Renate Greiss-Armin (Musikhochschule Karlsruhe). Kim has also performed in masterclasses and lessons with international soloists including Michael Cox (the Royal Academy of Music, London) and Katherine Kemler (Louisiana State University).

Kim completed a PhD at the University of Melbourne; her thesis is a philosophical inquiry into music performance with the aim of establishing a more inclusive and creative discourse at the academic level. Kim has been employed as casual staff by the Conservatorium of Music at the University where she tutored a range of academic music subjects including history and theory. In 2014, she was employed by the Australian Music Examinations Board Victoria as a proof player/proof reader for the recently released Series 3 flute exam syllabus. Kim has a 17-year teaching career that includes students from preschool to tertiary ages through a range of different schools across Victoria. She is currently working in the Performing Arts Unit team as a woodwind tutor for The Victorian State Schools Spectacular. Since 2017, Kim has been involved with the Piano Project, a Melbourne-based charity that sponsors piano lessons for children who are new immigrants.

Kim is in constant search for challenges or ways to renew her approach to practice. With violinist Lizzy Welsh, Kim has commissioned and performed acoustic and electro-acoustic compositions for baroque violin and flauto traverso by composers including Peter de Jager and Alexander Garsden. She also performs regularly with Melbourne based ensembles such as Golden Fur and Astra Music Society, and with The Argonaut Ensemble at The Bendigo International Festival of Exploratory Music. She has performed world premieres of works by Thomas Meadowcroft and Klaus Lang, her repertoire also includes local premiers of works by Salvatore Sciarrino, Clarence Barlow, Liza Lim, Elliot Carter, and Morton Feldman.

NOTICES

CONTACT AND CARE TEAM

During this time we are unable to meet together in person, we have put in place a program to assist everyone to continue to feel connected and supported.

We have a team of members of Contact and Care and Church Council who are each keeping in touch with a group of people by telephone, to keep the important lines of communication open. If you would like to have someone get in touch with you for a chat during these times, please contact the St Michael's office and leave your phone number or email address.

The members of the Contact and Care Team are also available to talk with, or assist people, who are experiencing difficult times for any reason. If you would like to speak with a member of Contact and Care, please contact the St Michael's office.

All matters remain confidential.

Lyndell O'Brien: Dean of Contact and Care

Joy Arnot: Deputy Dean

PRAYER TREE

Living in the time of a global pandemic can feel as if our known world has turned upside down and inside out. The St Michael's Prayer Tree (a small group within Contact and Care) is available to support you, during this different and difficult time. We are striving to ensure that everyone is cared for. We extend an offer to pray for you or someone you know. All prayer requests are treated with sensitivity and respect. We do ask that you seek permission from the person concerned, if the request for prayer is not for yourself.

If you wish for us to pray for you, or someone dear to you, please contact the St Michael's office (9654 5120) and ask for a message to be forwarded, or speak with Catherine Jones directly.

There is no breath of prayer or intention of thought for another in Love that is not answered No cry for help goes unheard and at the end of the darkest night a new day is always born. (Sylvia Briault in Precious Words)

Catherine Jones, Prayer Tree Leader

PASTORAL CARE

Our minister, Rev Dr Margaret is available for pastoral care meetings by phone. Please phone the office to arrange a time for Margaret to call.

ST MICHAEL'S SOCIAL MEDIA

 <https://www.facebook.com/stmichaelsmelbourne/>

 <https://www.youtube.com/user/StMichaelsChurch/videos>

Podcast www.soundcloud.com/stmichaelsunitingchurch

PROGRAMS & EVENTS

SUNDAY GATHERINGS @ ST MICHAEL'S – ONLINE

In light of the COVID-19 State of Emergency in Victoria, St Michael's Sunday Gatherings will be offered online for the foreseeable future. Links to videos, orders of service and the latest eNews are on the front page of our website.

PROGRAMS & EVENTS at St Michael's are postponed until further notice.

THE MINGARY COUNSELLING SERVICE is currently suspended. However, we will begin offering Telehealth services (with the counsellors working from home) for existing clients within the next two weeks. If you require counselling, please contact the office and we will get back to you as soon as possible.

SUNDAY 31 MAY @ ST MICHAEL'S ONLINE

Day of Pentecost

“Presence: always and everywhere”

Rev Dr Margaret Mayman

Music: Peter Sheridan (Flute)
& Rhys Boak (Organ & Piano)