

*Sunday at  
St Michael's*

9<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST  
2 AUGUST 2020

“THE LOVE PROJECT: BE THE CHANGE”

MINISTER: REV DR MARGARET MAYMAN

MUSIC: MICHELLE NELSON & MEREDITH CONNIE  
(GUITARS), GEORGIA WILKINSON (SOPRANO)  
& RHYS BOAK (ORGAN & PIANO)

CANTOR: 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.

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## OFFICE BEARERS

**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

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## 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](http://www.soundcloud.com/stmichaelsunitingchurch)

Weekly eNews: [reception@stmichaels.org.au](mailto:reception@stmichaels.org.au)

*Please send notices to [office@stmichaels.org.au](mailto: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>

*M. F. K. Fisher, 20th century*

"People ask me: 'Why do you write about food, and eating, and drinking? Why don't you write about the struggle for power and security, and about love, the way the others do?'...The easiest answer is to say that, like most other humans, I am hungry."

*Beatrice Stoner, 21st century*

"In the church we have overemphasized one's 'response-ability,' the capability and inclination to respond, almost to the exclusion of one's 'receive-ability,' the capability and inclination to receive. A reluctant receiver gives reluctantly, while a conscious receiver is more likely to give generously."



*James Russell Lowell, 20th century*

"All the beautiful sentiments in the world weigh less than a single lovely action."

*Shannon L. Alder, 21st century*

"You will face your greatest opposition when you are closest to your biggest miracle."

'Loaves and Fishes' by Annika

<http://appletreecat.wordpress.com/2011/01/23/loaves-and-fishes/>

# GATHERING AS PEOPLE OF EARTH AND SPIRIT

## WELCOME & ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY    REV DR MARGARET MAYMAN

Welcome to our online gathering at St Michaels Uniting Church in Melbourne.  
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.

For thousands of years, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people  
have walked in this land.  
People participating in our gathering today stand on the lands of the First Peoples of many  
nations. I invite you to name, the people on whose land you live or work.

***We honour the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nation,  
on whose land St Michael's Uniting Church was built.  
We acknowledge that land was taken  
from Indigenous people  
without their consent, treaty or compensation.  
We honour their elders,  
past, present and emerging  
and join in prayers for justice and reconciliation.***

This week just past has disturbed and distressed.  
I am not going to recount what has happened...the details of illness and death,  
the disagreements and discomforts of daily living in lockdown.  
We cannot deny our reality, but we can choose who we will be  
in the midst of it.  
But first let us take time to be still,  
to know and be known,  
by one another and by the One who is with us always  
the One who is Love.

## GATHERING WORDS

So for now, let it go:  
the worries of the week just gone,  
the thoughts for the days ahead,  
the wonderings about today's news...

Here in this time and this space,  
simply sit with the One who calls you,  
open to listen and to learn,  
to receive the good news  
to share love and find pathways of peace.  
Seek the Spirit who gathers and holds us  
together and apart.

Today we give space  
in the rush of human existence  
to feel what we feel,  
find the hope within us  
and be open to the receiving of love.

## INTRODUCTION TO THE HYMN

Let us sing together, "Be still my soul"

## HYMN

CHRISTOPHER WATSON

A traditional hymn of trust and hope.

Be still, my soul: the Lord is on your side;  
bear patiently the cross of grief or pain;  
leave to your God to order and provide;  
in ev'ry change God faithful will remain.  
Be still, my soul: your best, your heav'nly Friend  
through thorny ways leads to a joyful end.

Be still, my soul: your God will undertake  
to guide the future just as in the past.  
Your hope, your confidence let nothing shake;  
all now mysterious shall be bright at last.  
Be still, my soul: the waves and winds still know  
Christ's voice who calmed them while he dwelt below.

Be still, my soul: the hour is hast'ning on  
when we shall be forever one with God,  
when disappointment, grief, and fear are gone,  
sorrow forgot, love's purest joys restored.  
Be still, my soul: when change and tears are past,  
All safe and blessed we shall meet at last.

*Words: Kathrina von Schlegel  
Translator: Jane Borthwick (1855)  
Tune: Finlandia, Jean Sebelius (1865-1957)*

## PRAYER OF AWARENESS

During this time together,  
may our minds be open to new truth, our hearts receptive to love  
and may we give thanks for the blessing of sharing this life together.

Loving God  
as we gather this morning  
we open our hearts  
and acknowledge the struggles within ourselves  
as we seek to live in your way.

We know of Divine abundance  
loaves and fishes, enough to feed five thousand  
and yet we have moments of doubt.  
We wonder if we are enough  
to nurture each other  
and feed our sisters, brothers, siblings  
the young and the old.

We admit that sometimes we get trapped into thinking  
our offerings are far too small to make a difference.  
Open our eyes gracious God  
unbind our hearts  
show us again how to live generously.

Be with us loving God  
as we face our lack of awareness  
as we struggle to 'see' who is in need before our very eyes.  
Transform us this day  
so we may become for one another the bread of life  
and the cup of blessing.

## JESUS' PRAYER

*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.*

## LISTENING FOR WORDS OF SPIRIT

GOSPEL: MATTHEW 14: 13-21

LAURA BECKETT

Now when Jesus heard about (the beheading of John the Baptist), he left Nazareth by boat and went to a deserted place to be alone. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. When he went ashore, Jesus saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them and healed their sick.

When it was evening, the disciples came Jesus and said, "This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves."

Jesus said to them, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat." They replied, "We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish." And Jesus said, "Bring them here to me."

Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. And all ate and were filled; and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. About five thousand families were fed.

For the stories of Jesus and the beloved community,  
***We give thanks.***

## MUSIC FOR REFLECTION

*Sombrio* - Máximo Diego Pujol (1957-)

Born in Argentina, Máximo Diego Pujol is a world famous guitarist and composer for the guitar as well as other instruments. Pujol is the recipient of many awards and studied with many great teachers, however his works primarily reflect the style and tradition of the great Ástor Piazzolla..

Michelle Nelson & Meredith Connie (Guitars)

## CONTEMPORARY READING

LAURA BECKETT

“Just a housewife”, Cordelia Baker-Pearce in *Celebrating Women*

I packed five cakes of bread and two small fishes,  
Sent him off, my youngest lad,  
to take his father's dinner to the field.  
Came back alone he did, all goggle-eyed.  
My fresh-baked bread that varmint gave away  
to some young travelling preacher out of Galilee.  
It fed five thousand people.  
What a tale!  
It can't be true... but if it is.  
What kind of dough did these hands knead  
This morning?

For the word that was in the beginning,  
For the word that invites and inspires,  
For the word of embodied in us,  
***We give thanks.***

## REFLECTION

REV DR MARGARET MAYMAN

“The love project: be the change”

## RESPONDING IN LOVE

### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

We gather in gratitude for Sacred presence,  
with us through all the seasons of life...  
through the times of milk and honey,  
through our wanderings in the wilderness,  
and though unexpected heartache and change.

***We give thanks for children;  
for their boundless energy,  
their curiosity, their love,  
their openness, their joy of life.***

We give thanks for young adults;  
for their growing search to build meaningful lives,  
for their new ideas and approaches to the problems facing the earth,  
for friends and lovers,  
and for their nurturing of young children  
who are embarking on life's adventure.

***We give thanks for those in middle life;  
for the children they have guided into adulthood  
as parents or godparents, friends or relatives,  
for the life work they have built and sustained,  
for the faith they have nurtured in others,  
for the presence they provide as they walk life's path  
with their parents and older friends.***

We give thanks for the adults who have grown older;  
for the experiences they have survived,  
for the wisdom with which they have been blessed,  
for the spiritual richness of their lives, for their witness of faith.  
We give thanks too for the cloud of witnesses  
who have gone before us,  
leaving their imprint of life and faith upon each of us,  
and upon our world.

***We give thanks that in each stage of life's journey,  
we are blessed with Divine Presence,  
that in our lives, no matter the abilities of our bodies and minds,  
no matter that our energy ebbs and flows,  
we are always growing and becoming.  
At every age,  
we are people with purpose and value  
who can be seen and known  
as we touch, and are touched by, love.***

In solidarity we pray for the life of the world.  
We bring the cries of our hearts  
to the Sacred Source of being.

***We pray that we may live with compassion  
even when the resources available to us seem inadequate.  
May the little we have but loaves and fishes bring hope and healing.***

We pray for people who have been wounded in life –  
by those who should have loved and protected them;  
for people who have been wounded by injustice and discrimination  
at work, at school or in the community.

***We pray with all our hearts for those who are sick  
because of coronavirus or just during coronavirus.  
We pray for our political leaders and officials  
working to find ways that will restore safety and well-being.***

We pray for doctors, nurses, paramedics,  
chaplains, carers, and all who work in aged care.  
We pray for the spirits of those who have died,  
and for the wounded hearts of all who grieve.  
May the little we have but loaves and fishes bring hope and healing.

*Let us pray in silence for people and places known to us,  
where comfort, justice and healing are needed.*

We pray together,  
***that we may hear one another into speech,  
and inspire one another into action.  
In your many names, O God, we pray.  
Amen.***

## HYMN INTRODUCTION

As we seek understanding about who Jesus was, and what following the Way of Jesus means for our lives, let us sing together “Who is this Man?”

## HYMN

CHRISTOPHER WATSON

Reflecting on who Jesus was, and what following the Way of Jesus means for us.

Who is this man, who gathered people to him  
and touched their lives along each dusty way,  
who spoke to all with passion and with peacefulness  
and valued all their ordinary days?

Who is this man, who at the day's long ending,  
would draw apart to wait on God and pray?

Who, in the mystery that knows no ending,  
would find God's wisdom  
and would know God's words to say?

Who is this man, who gave to women dignity  
in partnership of worth and equal grace?  
Who listened to the stories that they told him,  
and honoured each whatever was their place;  
who let them choose to come and join his company  
and learned with them God's love of every race,  
who showed to each the courage of their nature  
to care and tend each lonely and each suffering face?

Who is this man, who spoke to men of gentleness  
and showed them all the children at his side;  
who taught of love and justice for all people,  
and took a towel and washed away their pride?  
In him they saw the strength of truth and mercy,  
and how he trusted God to be his guide,  
knew how he led them through misunderstanding,  
and then forgave them when they ran away to hide.

Who is this man, who calls us now to follow,  
a shadow presence asking us to be  
companions on the way through this life journey,  
to live in truth, to set our tired world free?  
So, let us find each other now in partnership,  
with ears to hear and eyes awake to see,  
that we might grow in grace and understanding,  
and walk beside that man who comes from Galilee.

*Words: Mary Pearson  
Tune: Londonderry Air*

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF OFFERING

Each week, we dedicate the gifts of time, money and energy  
given over this past week in various ways  
to sustain the ministry, mission and music of St Michael's Church  
and the Mingary Counselling Service.  
Though we cannot gather face to face, we continue to be the church.

***Creative One,  
as we bring our gifts of hand and heart,  
inspire us to bring to life our vision of a church  
where everyone has a place to be,  
a society where everyone is valued and understood,  
where the gifts of the Spirit bud and flower  
and bear the Spirit's fruit.  
Amen.***

## SENDING AND BLESSING

### BLESSING

Each in our own way, no matter our age:  
The passion for living and loving  
The courage for daring and hoping  
The freedom for growing  
The capacity for giving and receiving  
The humility for learning  
The tenderness for understanding  
The strength for enduring  
And trust for believing.

May God's grace and peace  
the presence of all that makes life whole  
be with us and go with us.

## POSTLUDE

*Addio del Passato from La Traviata* – Giuseppe Verdi (1813-1901)

Verdi is often described as being the king of melody. This unforgettable melody comes from one of the greatest operas of the 19th century, *La Traviata*.

Georgia Wilkinson (Soprano) 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. There is a 'Supporting Us' button on the St Michael's website. We are very grateful for offerings that have been received 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

Lord's Prayer paraphrase by David B Royer and Jonathan C Nelson. *Flames of the Spirit: Resources for Worship*. Edited by Ruth C Duck.

"Just a housewife" Cordelia Baker-Pearce in *Celebrating Women*, p. 44.

"Be still my soul," Words: Kathrina von Schlegel. Translator: Jane Borthwick Tune: Finlandia, Jean Sebelius.

"Who is this man?" Words: Mary Pearson. Tune: Londonderry Air.

Hymns are printed and streamed with permission.

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## GUEST MUSICIANS

**Meredith Connie** has been active as a Classical Guitar performer, composer and teacher for over thirty years in the USA and in Australia.

In 2017 she released her most recent CD on Move Records *Fairy Tales Monsters and Wild Animals*, a solo recording of her own compositions and fantasy themed works. Previous releases include *Sol Y Sombras* (Light and Shadow), a recording of solo and chamber works, and *Imaginary Landscapes* (duo with flute as Duo Rubicund). Meredith is very pleased to be working with Michelle Nelson as a duo, exploring the vast riches of guitar chamber music.

**Michelle Nelson**, a professional musician since the early 1980s, has extensive experience in performing and composing, teaching, assessing and guitar education writing. As a composer Michelle has written several works that have been featured and broadcast regularly on Australian classical music radio networks. These include the *Brolga Dances* suite recorded by the Melbourne Mandolin Orchestra on their 2009 album *Brolga Dances* [Move MCD 410], *Sonata for Flute & Guitar* on Michelle's 2012 album *After The Fire* [Move MCD 492], *The Guitarist's Bach* from her 2016 album *Return To The Dance* [Move MCD 531], and the popular *Midsummer Dance and Strawberry Fair*, from the *Midsummer Bagatelles* suite, on the 2017 album *Ringling The Strings* [Move MCD 557] by the Concordia Mandolin & Guitar Ensemble. Current projects include writing duet material for the Nelson Connie Duo.

## Georgia Wilkinson

With over 14 years of experience performing, Georgia Wilkinson is making a name for herself as one of Australia's most versatile young sopranos. Since beginning her classical voice training at the Victorian College of the Arts Secondary School, Georgia has progressively built her repertoire of operatic and musical theatre credits. Companies she has worked with include Victorian Opera, Left Bauer Productions, Gippsland Opera, Weimar Lyric Opera Studio (Germany) and Gertrude Opera. Georgia has had the pleasure of performing alongside some of Australia's most celebrated and illustrious artists, including Yvonne Kenny, Marina Prior, David Hobson, Sylvie Paladino, Roy Best, Kahmahl, and James Morrison. She also works regularly with Teddy Tahu Rhodes. In addition to opera, Georgia has also taken on many musical theatre roles. These include the roles of Christine in Phantom of the Opera, Belle in Beauty and the Beast, and Maria in West Side Story. For her impressive musical theatre performances, Georgia has been recognised with a Guild Award and four Lyrebird Awards. Georgia graduated from the University of Melbourne's Conservatorium of Music with a Bachelor of Music and has studied opera abroad in Italy, Germany, the United Kingdom and the United States. Georgia's studies in London and New York, where she had the opportunity to learn from some of the world's most renowned vocal coaches, were supported by grants from the Ian Potter Foundation and the Australia Council for the Arts. Through her operatic career, Georgia has received various awards, including 'Opera Scholar of the Year' through the illustrious Opera Scholars Australia program and first place in the Ringwood Aria Competition. She was the youngest Opera Scholar of the Year and Robert Salzer Voice Awardee. Georgia's career highlights of 2018 included being a part of Victorian Opera's 2018 Young Artist program, performing in Gertrude Opera's Yarra Valley Opera Festival, performing on her first Bravo Cruise: Radiance of the Seas, and being featured in Sydney's Carols in the Domain in December 2018 (televised on Channel Seven) as one of Australia's finest upcoming opera singers. 2019 has seen Georgia perform in Victorian Opera's Parsifal, become a young artist with Gertrude Opera, star in her 5th Opera by the Lakes, perform at Sydney Town Hall, present the title role in Victorian Opera's Alice Through the Opera Glass, and perform at Opera Under the Stars in Broome. She will soon be stepping onto the stage of Hamer Hall for the first time in Concert Work's production of Jekyll and Hyde starring Anthony Warlow, before taking part in Opera Australia's production of Turandot. On October 23rd, Georgia won Australia's prestigious Herald Sun Aria competition.

## 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](http://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.

### ST MICHAEL'S ZOOM CHAT



Thursdays at 11am- noon (join anytime)

Meeting ID: 834 6407 7308. Password: 000405

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83464077308?pwd=NnIrWFA4VIN2bEEvcE4vRUhnbJpudz09>

One tap mobile: +61731853730,,83464077308#,1#,000405# Australia

Telephone audio only: +61 3 7018 2005 Australia (use meeting ID and password)

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

## SUNDAY 9 AUGUST @ ST MICHAEL'S ONLINE

“Walking on water – fear of falling/failing”

Rev Dr Margaret Mayman

Music: Annabelle Farid (Oboe), Amir Farid (Piano), Kim Tan (Flute)  
& Rhys Boak (Organ & Piano)