

*Sunday at
St Michael's*

10TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
9 AUGUST 2020

“WALKING ON WATER:
FEAR OF FALLING/FAILING”

MINISTER: REV DR MARGARET MAYMAN

MUSIC: ANNABELLE FARID (OBOE),
AMIR FARID (PIANO), DR. KIM TAN (FLUTE)
& RHYS BOAK (ORGAN & PIANO)

CANTORS: GEORGIA WILKINSON
& TIMOTHY REYNOLDS

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

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>

Maya Angelou, 21st century

Courage is the most important of all the virtues, because without courage you can't practice any other virtue consistently. You can practice any virtue erratically, but nothing consistently without courage.

A.A. Milne, 20th century

"Piglet sidled up to Pooh from behind. 'Pooh?' he whispered.

'Yes, Piglet?' 'Nothing,' said Piglet, taking Pooh's hand. 'I just wanted to be sure of you.'"

Arthur Conan Doyle, 20th century

"I felt Holmes's hand steal into mine and give me a reassuring shake.' - Watson"

Sylvia Plath, 20th century

"I talk to God but the sky is empty."

Paul Tillich, 20th century

"Doubt isn't the opposite of faith; it is an element of faith."



Frederick Buechner, 21st century

"Doubts are the ants in the pants of faith. They keep it awake and moving."

J.M. Barrie, 20th century

"For to have faith, is to have wings."

Stephen Batchelor, 21st century

"The problem with certainty is that it is static; it can do little but endlessly reassert itself. Uncertainty, by contrast, is full of unknowns, possibilities, and risks."

Walking on water

Image: <http://countryside-catchup.blogspot.com.au/2013/11/walking-on-water.html>

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.***

As many of you will be aware last week Melbourne's COVID restrictions were raised to level four and all the rest of Victoria returned to Level 3. For Melburnians this means a curfew from 8pm to 5am, staying home unless you are an essential worker or providing care, limited outdoor time for exercise within 5km of home. The range of businesses that remain open has been drastically curtailed.

This has been instituted after the level 3 restrictions failed to reduce the number of new cases daily, which are in the hundreds, and tragically the number of deaths has continued to rise, particularly among people living in residential aged care. I know that some residents of some nursing homes watch our services, and that others have family members who are in aged care. People in residential aged care are every day in the thoughts and prayers of the St Michael's community. Your lives matter, and I fervently hope that this new level of lockdown turns the corner for keeping older people safe.

Friday was Aged Care Employee Day. There has never been a more appropriate time to thank everyone who is involved in the care of elderly people in residential and community care – care workers, nurses, administrators and support staff, chaplains, and social workers. As significant as the level four lockdown will be for controlling the virus, possibly the most significant change that has occurred over recent weeks is that finally there is financial support and sick leave provisions for casual workers and people working in Australia on visas, people who make up the majority of the aged care work force. Saying thank you is important. Acting thankfully even more so.

As we record, restrictions on work are still being introduced. We expect that this service may be the last one in which Jackson is able to come in to video record, and in which Rhys our organist and music manager, and his musicians and singers, are able to come to play and sing.

However, six weeks of music and many hymns have already been recorded. It is fortunate that at present the front door of my apartment building is less than two minutes' walk away from the door the of the church. So I will still be able to lead the liturgy and reflection from the church building.

Sharing in online worship that is recorded in the church means a lot to many people in our regular congregation and to our online congregation. This beautiful space invites everyone beyond the walls of the homes into connection with others and with the Sacred source of life and love, the Divine Presence with us here and everywhere.

GATHERING WORDS

In our humanity we bring our longings:
for connection with the Spirit of Life,
for connection with others,
and for connection with our selves.
Let us honour our lives, in the Presence that is Life.

HYMN

TIMOTHY REYNOLDS

A traditional hymn with words adapted to speak to our time and place by songwriters from the Iona Community in Scotland.

Praise with joy the world's Creator,
God of justice, love and peace,
source and end of human knowledge,
force of greatness 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 Christians to embody
oneness and diversity,
Thus the world shall yet believe,
when shown Christ's vibrant unity.

*Words: John L. Bell (1949-)
and Graham Maule (1958-2020)
Tune: Praise, my soul. John Goss (1800-80)*

PRAYER OF AWARENESS

Spirit of God,
brooding over the waters of our chaos:
Inspire us to generous living.

Wind of God,
dancing over the deserts of our reluctance:
Lead us to the oasis of celebration.

Breath of God,
inspiring communication among strangers:
Make us channels of your peace.

God of Presence,
the story of Jesus walking on water towards the fearful disciples
reminds us that you meet us in the midst of the storms of our lives.

Spirit of Renewal,
as Peter was lifted from the water:
lift us from despair to hope,
from distraction to focus,
from emptiness to fullness of life.

Source of Hope for the Journey,
we seek to live in the way of Jesus:
living our lives with gratitude, grace, wonder and love.

JESUS' PRAYER

***Eternal Spirit, Life-giver, Pain-bearer, Love-maker,
source of all that is and that shall be,
Father and Mother of us all,
loving God, in whom is heaven.
The hallowing of your name echo through the universe!
The way of your justice be followed by all created beings!
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom come on earth!***

***With the bread that we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.
From trials too great to endure, spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.
For you reign in the glory of the power that is love,
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 family, friends, and wider community.

LISTENING FOR WORDS OF SPIRIT

GOSPEL: MATTHEW 14: 22-33

IAN COX

Immediately Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. And after Jesus had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them.

And early in the morning Jesus came walking toward them on the sea.

But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out in fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid."

Peter answered him, "If it is really you, command me to come to you on the water."

Jesus said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus. But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, "Save me!"

Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught Peter, saying, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?" When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. And those in the boat showed great reverence, saying to him, "Truly, you are God's own."

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

MUSIC FOR REFLECTION

Aubade – Gabriel Pierne (1863-1927)

Gabriel Pierne was in his time a highly successful composer and organist, having succeeded the great Cesar Franck as organist at the much celebrated Parisienne church of St. Clothilde. However, he seems to have fallen through the cracks of history and his music is seldom heard today. Pierne wrote several operas, symphonic pieces and other music and was the recipient of many awards during his life. There is today, even a Gabriel Pierne square in Paris named in his honour.

Annabelle Farid (Oboe) & Amir Farid (Piano)

CONTEMPORARY READING

IAN COX

"Present moment" by Thich Nhat Hanh

When I was a young monk in Vietnam, each village temple had a big bell, like those in Christian church in Europe and America. Whenever the bell was invited to sound (in Buddhist circles, we never say 'hit' or 'strike' a bell), all the villagers would stop what they were doing and pause for a few moments to breathe in and out in mindfulness. At Plum Village [a Buddhist community], every time we hear the bell, we do the same. We go back to ourselves and enjoy our breathing. Breathing in, we say silently, 'Listen, listen,' and breathing out, we say, 'This wonderful sound brings me back to my true home.'

Our true home is the present moment. The miracle is not to walk on water. The miracle is to walk on the green earth in the present moment. Peace is all around us-in the world and in nature-and within us-in our bodies and spirits. Once we learn to touch this peace, we will be healed and transformed. It is not a matter of faith; it is a matter of practice. We need only to bring our body and mind into the present moment, and we will touch what is refreshing, healing and wondrous.

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

“Walking on water – fear of falling/failing”

RESPONDING IN LOVE

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

In the midst of all that is difficult in our lives and in our world
we reach out with all who are suffering, have lost hope,
or are living on the edge of life.
May we seek the common good
as we look out for the many who are vulnerable,
physically, mentally, socially, or spiritually.

We come in prayer,
praying that we may be moved beyond our own preoccupations
to respond with love and action.

***We pray for the church,
both gathered here and worldwide.
May it be a voice for the marginalised and oppressed,
offering the embrace of welcome to all people.***

We pray for our nation and all nations.
May our leaders not seek their own fame and fortune,
but truly have vision for a world in which the poor are cared for
and no one is trodden on in the guise of progress.

***We pray for the whole creation,
all life on this earth and the whole amazing universe.
May we learn to attend to and care for creation***

We pray for our world in turmoil because of the coronavirus pandemic:
for doctors and nurses and paramedics treating and caring for people with COVID-19,
for all who live and work in aged care settings,
for the refugees in detention, and for prisoners,
at risk because of institutional overcrowding.
For everyone whose mental health is affected by isolation, change,
fear or economic vulnerability.

***We grieve with those who mourn the loss of loved ones,
from whom they were separated at the time of dying.
We pray for courage and cooperation for political leaders and officials
working under unimaginable pressure to keep us safe.
May we, as church, community and nation,
work together in harmony toward the Common Good.***

And now let us pray in silence for people and places known to us,
where comfort, justice and healing are needed.

*Time of silence for prayer for people and places
where comfort, justice and healing are needed.*

Holy Spirit, God in us and with us, enable us to be a Pentecost people.

Empower us to be a community where people find hope and new life.

Amen.

HYMN

GEORGIA WILKINSON

The Spirit is with us in all we are called to be and do.

As the wind song through the trees,
as the stirring of the breeze,
so it is with the Spirit of God,
as the heart made strangely warm,
as the voice within the storm,
so it is with the Spirit of God.
Never seen, ever known
where this wind has blown
bringing life, bringing power to the world,
as the dancing tongues of fire,
as the soul's most deep desire,
so it with the Spirit of God.

As the rainbow after rain,
as the hope that's born again,
so it is with the Spirit of God,
as the green in the spring,
as a kite on a string,
so it is with the Spirit of God,
Making worlds that are new,
making peace come true,
bringing gifts, bringing love to the world,
as the rising of the yeast,
as the wine at the feast,
so it is with the Spirit of God.

Words: Shirley Erena Murray (1932-2020)

Tune: Wairua Tapu. Swee Hong Lim

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.

***May we be surrounded each day
with a spirit of generosity and strength,
so we may respond to life
with generosity and strength.
Amen.***

SENDING AND BLESSING

BLESSING

May we leave this time:
thankful for the life that sustains and renews us,
and open to the grace that surrounds and surprises us.

May we go into the week
with openness and with thanksgiving.

May there be awakened in us
long held hopes
and a deepening of our longing for the Spirit of Life
– which creates, liberates and inspires us.

And the blessing of the Holy One,
be with us and with all creation,
this day and forever more.

Amen

POSTLUDE

Scherzo from Petit Suite - Henri Busser (1872-1973)

Like Gabriel Pierne, Henri Busser was also a highly successful composer based in Paris in the early 20th century. This petit suite for flute and piano was written when Busser was just a mere 14 years old in 1886. Remarkably, Busser who lived to be 101 years old, revised and orchestrated the suite in the mid 1950s when in enjoyed renewed success.

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. 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. Jim Cotter, *Prayer at Night*, Cairns Publications, Sheffield. Also in *Uniting in Worship 2*.

"Present moment," by Thich Nhat Hanh

"Praise with joy the world's creator," Words: John L. Bell and Graham Maule.
Tune: Praise, my soul. John Goss.

"As the wind song through the trees," Words: Shirley Erena Murray.
Tune: Wairua Tapu. Swee Hong Lim.

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GUEST MUSICIANS

Annabelle Farid Annabelle Farid is an Australian freelance oboist who has been based in New York City since 2017. She has performed with the American Symphony Orchestra in Carnegie Hall, the American Ballet Theatre Orchestra at the Lincoln Center, and performed in the popular Christmas Eve concert at The Cathedral of St. John the Divine. Annabelle has performed across Australia with the Melbourne, West Australian, Canberra, Sydney, Adelaide, Darwin, and Tasmanian Symphony Orchestras, also with the Opera Australia and Victorian Opera Orchestras. She has appeared as soloist with Orchestra Victoria and Stonnington Symphony playing the Strauss and Mozart Oboe Concertos, and has performed orchestral and chamber music in Malaysia, Hong Kong, Taiwan, South Korea, the Middle East, Europe, New Zealand and in many centres in China, including a performance at the 2016 Beijing Music Festival on tour with the West Australian Symphony Orchestra. Annabelle has a Bachelor of Music from Monash University, a Master of Music from the Sydney Conservatorium of Music, and attended the Australian National Academy of Music in Melbourne.

Amir Farid

Winner of the 2006 Australian National Piano Award, US born Iranian-Australian pianist Amir Farid has been described as “a highly creative musician – a pianist of great intelligence and integrity”. Since graduating with 1st class honours from the Royal College of Music London, Amir has performed as soloist with the major Australian symphony orchestras and is a sought after performer around the world. Recital collaborations include Ian Bostridge, Claude Delangle, Wolfgang Holzmair, Nikki Chooi, Arabella Steinbacher. His numerous acclaimed recordings are heard frequently on radio stations in Australia and internationally, including “The Aussie Album”, his latest release as pianist of the Benaud Trio on the ABC Classics label. Amir is currently based in New York City, and is a vocal arts staff pianist at the Juilliard School. He will be making his Lincoln Center debut in August 2018 in collaboration with the Mark Morris Dance Group as part of the Mostly Mozart Festival. Please visit www.amirfarid.com.

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 McSullea, 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.

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=NnIrWFA4VIN2bEEvcE4vRUhnb1pudz09>

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 16 AUGUST @ ST MICHAEL'S ONLINE

“Crumbs of Love”

Rev Dr Margaret Mayman

Music: Dr. Elyane Laussade (Piano)& Rhys Boak (Organ)