

*Sunday at
St Michael's*

16TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

20 SEPTEMBER 2020

“LOVE AND WORK”

MINISTER: REV DR MARGARET MAYMAN

MUSIC: HELEN BOWER (VIOLIN)
& RHYS BOAK (ORGAN & PIANO)

CANTORS: CHRISTOPHER WATSON
& GEORGIA WILKINSON

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/playlist/SundayatStMichaels>

From a penitential prayer offered in Jewish homes at the start of Sabbath:
"Days pass and years vanish, and we walk sightless among miracles."

Marilynne Robinson, Gilead, 21st century

"Sometimes I have loved the peacefulness of an ordinary Sunday. It is like standing in a newly planted garden after a warm rain. You can feel the silent and invisible life."

Henry Ward Beecher, 19th century

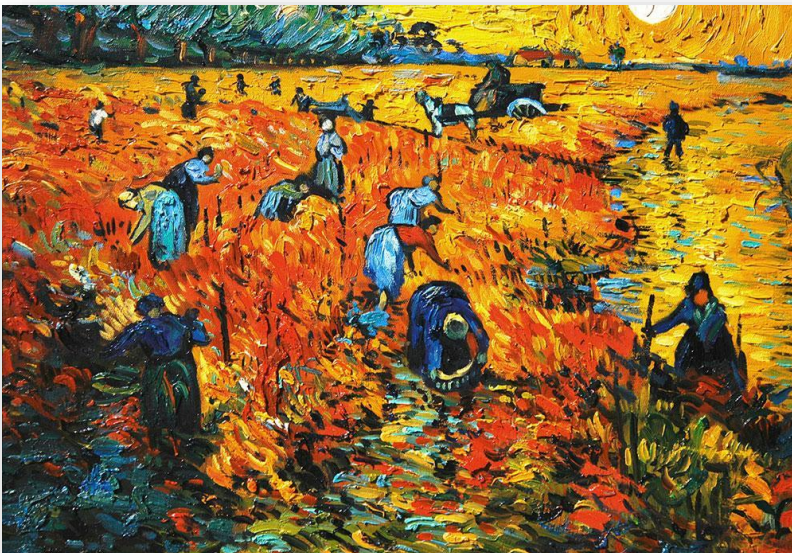
"A world without a Sabbath would be like a man without a smile, like summer without flowers, and like a homestead without a garden. It is the most joyous day of the week."

Wendell Berry, 21st century

"Sabbath observance invites us to stop. It invites us to rest. It asks us to notice that while we rest, the world continues without our help. It invites us to delight in the world's beauty and abundance."

Mahatma Gandhi, 20th century

"There are people in the world so hungry, that God cannot appear to them except in the form of bread."



Red Vineyard in Arles
Vincent Van Gogh

GATHERING AS PEOPLE OF EARTH AND SPIRIT

WELCOME & ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY REV DR MARGARET MAYMAN

Welcome to this online gathering.

I'm Margaret Mayman, minister at St Michael's Uniting Church in Melbourne.

Wherever you have come from, wherever you are going to;
whatever you believe, whatever you do not believe;
you are welcome.

We begin our worship, acknowledging Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who have dwelled in this land since time before dreaming.

At St Michael's we acknowledge the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nation, on whose land this church was built.

We acknowledge that land was taken from Indigenous people without their consent, treaty or compensation.

We honour the elders of the Wurundjeri people, past, present and emerging, and join with them, in hope for justice and reconciliation.

I invite you to acknowledge the First Peoples, on whose land you live.

A warm greeting to you, St Michael's members and friends, to you our community online companions, and especially to you who checking out St Michael's and joining us for the first time.

At St Michael's online we are gathering, connecting, nurturing our spirits in these anxious times. We come recognising the distress in personal and collective lives. We bring the spiritual tradition of Christian faith, the wisdom of other spiritual paths, the insights of poets, and the glories of music into dialogue with the realities of our lives, seeking companionship and beauty so that in company with the Sacred and each other, we may live well for ourselves, our communities, our social and ecological worlds.

In this gathering today we reflect on work – paid or unpaid, recognised or unrecognised, remunerated or exploited. Work that is part of our identity but experienced differently. We will hear the parable of the labourers in the vineyard and a contemporary poem that draws us to reflect on the trust we place in people whose work is caring and healing.

I also want to foreshadow next week's gathering – the celebration of St Michael's Day, an annual ritual for our community. This year it will be different, but we will still celebrate in a focus on "our stories, our spirit, our strength".

Next Sunday will also be our first Sunday @ St Michael's Zoom Cuppa –at 11:15am on Sunday. Information about joining that will be included in the YouTube notes, on the website, in the eNews or email the church office.

GATHERING WORDS

In the love,
in the power,
in the presence,
let us celebrate life
in the company of one another
and the presence of the Sacred.

HYMN INTRO

In awe and wonder, in love and gratitude, we sing together, "For the beauty of the earth"

HYMN

CHRISTOPHER WATSON

For the beauty of the earth,
for the beauty of the skies,
for the love which from our birth
over and around us lies.

*Holy One, our song we raise,
this our testament of praise.*

For the beauty of each hour
of the day and of the night,
hill and vale, and tree and flower,
sun and moon and stars of light,

*Holy One, our song we raise,
this our testament of praise.*

For the joy of ear and eye,
for the heart and mind's delight,
for the mystic harmony
linking sense to sound and sight.

*Holy One, our song we raise,
this our testament of praise.*

For the joy of human love,
brother, sister, parent, child,
friends on earth and friends above,
for all gentle thoughts and mild,

*Holy One, our song we raise,
this our testament of praise.*

For each perfect gift of thine
to our world so freely given,
graces human and divine,
flowers of earth and buds of heaven,

*Holy One, our song we raise,
this our testament of praise.*

*Words: Folliott Sandford Pierpoint (1835-1917) alt.
Tune: Lucerna Laudoniae
David Evans (1874-1958)*

PRAYER OF AWARENESS

We come in prayer
Time to breathe...
Time to be...

Let us pray
God our Lover
You draw us to search for you;
You give us clues to your presence in creation;
in the rich religious traditions of the human community,
We find you in each other's faces,
in the challenge and the intimacy of human love.

Yet always you elude our grasp;
familiar and yet always strange,
you comfort and disturb our lives.
We surrender all our images of you,
and offer ourselves to your darkness;
that you may enable us to become your likeness
more than we can conceive or imagine.

A time for silent reflection...

We are known to the Sacred...and we are loved.

JESUS' PRAYER PARAPHRASE

Remembering Jesus, who invites us on the Way, we pray together

***Spirit of the Universe,
we respect and cherish your creativity,
we long to live according to your ways,
choosing and doing what is just and right.
Sustain our physical and spiritual needs.
In acknowledging our own imperfections,
we accept the frailties of others.
We seek to make good choices,
through your Wisdom
made known through the generations,
and your eternal Presence
with all creation.
Amen.***

SHARING A SIGN OF PEACE

There is grace in the midst of life,
grace that finds and frees us
grace that liberates and leads us to love.

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 SPIRIT

GOSPEL: MATTHEW 20: 1-16

IAN COX

'For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire labourers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the labourers for the usual daily wage, the landowner sent them into the vineyard.

When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the market-place; and he said to them, "You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right." So they went.

When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same.

And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, "Why are you standing here idle all day?" They said to him, "Because no one has hired us." He said to them, "You also go into the vineyard."

When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, "Call the labourers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first."

When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, "These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat."

But he replied to one of them, "Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?" So the last will be first, and the first will be last.'

For the challenging stories of Jesus,

We give thanks.

MUSIC FOR REFLECTION

Ave Maria - J.S. Bach (1685-1750) and Charles Gounod (1818-1893)

This intriguing work, by two composers who never met, and whose lives did not even overlap, dates from 1853. The accompaniment part, is actually a prelude by the German master, Johann Sebastian Bach, whilst the melody, written some 137 years after the accompaniment, is by one of the great operatic composers of the 19th century, Charles Gounod. Like many works, the words Ave Maria were given to it, as they are easy to set and carried great appeal in largely Roman Catholic 19th Century Paris. Gounod originally published the work as 'Méditation sur le Premier Prélude de Piano de S. Bach'.

Helen Bower (Violin) & Rhys Boak (Piano)

CONTEMPORARY READING

IAN COX

"Leaving early" by Leanne O'Sullivan

"My Love,
tonight Fionnuala is your nurse.
You'll hear her voice sing-song around the ward
lifting a wing at the shore of your darkness.
I heard that, in another life, she too journeyed
through a storm, a kind of curse, with the ocean
rising darkly around her, fierce with cold,
and no resting place, only the frozen
rocks that tore her feet, the light on her shoulders.

And no cure there but to wait it out.
If, while I'm gone, your fever comes down —
if the small, salt-laden shapes of her song
appear to you as a first glimmer of earth-light,
follow the sweet, hopeful voice of that landing.
She will keep you safe beneath her wing."

For the Spirit speaking still,

We give thanks.

REFLECTION

REV DR MARGARET MAYMAN

"Love and work"

RESPONDING IN LOVE

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Our prayers of thanksgiving and solidarity, for compassion, justice and peace.

Spirit of grace and goodness,
we have received peace and hope in our lives
and so we choose to live ways
that bring good news to our world.

We give thanks for the earth,
the mothering planet that nourishes and sustains us,
the beauty and wonder that brings so much joy.
We rejoice in the ever-changing sky,
the cycle of the sun and moon,
eucalypt forest and coastline bush,
rock wallabies, cockatoos, and orcas,
artesian rivers and coral seas.

With the encouragement of the Spirit,
may we courageously speak out against all wrongs:
the destruction of the earth,
the propagation of war and conflict,
the exploitation of workers,
the imprisonment of children,
the stealing of land and the poisoning of water.

May each one in accordance with our capacity
work toward a better future:
for the restoration of wastelands,
economies of shared wealth,
clean water and air, the elimination of disease,
and the steady supply of nutritious food.
May we create a community where no one is excluded,
one where gifts are acknowledged
no matter who holds them,
and where wisdom is recognised, no matter who speaks.

*In silence, let us pray for the earth and its people,
for particular people, places and situations known to us,
where comfort, justice and healing are needed.*

In words, and in sighs too deep for human words, we pray

Amen.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF OFFERING

We continue to be the church – in our gathering together,
in connecting and sustaining one another,
in our shared mission of love and justice.
This work is sustained by the gifts of many and in gratitude.
We dedicate gifts given to support the mission and vision of St Michael's
and the work of the Mingary Counselling Service,
and we rededicate our lives in response to gifts received.

***Spirit of life and love,
receive our offering.
Guide those who use it
that it may help to bring fullness of life,
inclusive community,
support for people who are struggling,
and relief to people who live in need
and long for justice and compassion.
Amen.***

HYMN INTRO

Facing the pain of the world, we commit to hope that restores and heals. We sing together
“Wounded world that cries for healing--

HYMN

GEORGIA WILKINSON

Wounded world that cries for healing--
here we hold each other's pain,
wounded systems, bruised and bleeding
bear the load, the scars of strain;
dollars ration out compassion,
hard decisions rule the day,
Jesus of the healing Spirit,
free us to another way.

Through our nation's pent frustration,
through the corridors of stress
may there move a kindlier wisdom
all may feel, and all may bless;
tax and tithe are for a purpose
shared to shield the poor and weak:
past the symptoms of our sickness
let the voice of justice speak.

Honour those whose loving spirit
nurses hope, restores and heals,
towel and basin used in service
like the Christ who comes and kneels
in the tending, in the mending
may we see the right and fair,
in our common quest for wholeness
heal each other by our care.

*Words: Shirley Erena Murray (1931 – 2020)
Tune: Hyfrydol
Rowland Huw Pritchard (1811-1887)*

SENDING AND BLESSING

BLESSING

In our working and our loving,
may our days be marked by kindness.
As we have been the blessed
by divine grace in this time,
may we respond with good will to all.

May Sacred Energy go with us in wisdom and grace.
May the example of Jesus shape our living.
May the Holy Spirit hold us
and all creation
in love and justice
this day and for evermore.

Amen.

SUNG BLESSING

GEORGIA WILKINSON

For you, deep stillness of the silent inland
For you, deep blue of the desert skies
For you, flame red of the rocks and stones
For you, sweet water from hidden springs.

From the edges seek the heartlands
and when you're burnt by the journey
may the cool winds of the hovering
Spirit soothe and replenish you.
In the name of Love, In the name of Love.

*Words: Julie Perrin
Music: Robin Mann*

POSTLUDE

Toccatà and Fugue in D minor BWV 565 – J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

Along with the Bach/Gounod Ave Maria, the Toccata and Fugue in D minor for organ by J.S. Bach is one of the most well known pieces of classical music in history. Many historians claim that the work is in fact not by J.S. Bach but by one of his many students. Regardless of its provenance, it is a wonderful and much loved work that is continuously requested by members of St. Michael's. Whilst still in this season of Pentecost, it rouses the spirit and is a fitting start to St. Michael's week.

Rhys Boak (Organ)

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

“Leaving early” by Leanne O’Sullivan.

“For the beauty of the earth,” Words: Folliott Sandford Pierpoint alt.
Tune: Lucerna Laudoniae. David Evans.

“Wounded world that cries for healing,” Words: Shirley Erena Murray.
Tune: Hyfrydol. Rowland Huw Pritchard.

“For you, deep stillness,” Words: Julie Perrin. Music: Robin Mann.

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GUEST MUSICIAN

Helen Bower

UK born violinist Helen Bower studied at Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance in London, and upon graduation was awarded the Vivian Prindl Outreach Prize for her music/dance collaboration In the Loop. Alongside her classical music background, she is passionate about commissioning and performing new music and collaborating with artists from a wide variety of disciplines. Helen has spent several years exploring the use of live electronic looping equipment within the context of contemporary classical music with her project The Looping Glass, which has been performed in Australia, New Zealand and the UK.

Since relocating from London to Melbourne in 2012, Helen has forged a prominent name for herself in both the classical and contemporary Australian music scenes, with performances at venues such as Melbourne Recital Centre, Melbourne State Theatre, The Forum and La Mama Theatre, and for festivals including Melbourne Festival and WHITE NIGHT. She currently performs in Australia with new music ensemble Forest Collective and contemporary improvisation group Ensemble Density, and across China with Australian International Productions.

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

We are a group within the Contact and Care team, here to support you, during this difficult and often concerning time. We extend a commitment to pray for yourself, or someone known to you, who is facing personal challenges. All requests are treated with confidentiality, sensitivity and respect. Kindly ask permission from the person/s concerned, if the prayer is not for yourself. To request prayer, please contact the St. Michael's office (9654 5120) and ask for a message to be forwarded, or speak with Catherine Jones directly. Meanwhile, please join us, as we pray for all the many concerns Covid has created.

Also, light a candle and place in a safe window location, at 8.p.m curfew, to unite in prayerful hope with other Christians.

Thank you.

'Dear God, these circumstances will change. This situation shall pass.'

'God give us strength. Strength to hold on and strength to let go.'

Amen'

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. Passcode: 000405

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83464077308?pwd=NnIrWFA4VIN2bEEvcE4vRUhnbIpudz09>

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

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

SUNDAY @ ST MICHAEL'S ZOOM CUPPA



Sundays at 11:15am- 11:45am (join anytime)
Meeting ID: 922 9211 8658. Passcode: 494938

<https://zoom.us/j/92292118658?pwd=YkJLS25jYmVZekxKRG9nRXpTNUZFUT09>

One tap mobile: +61731853730,,92292118658#,,,,,0#,494938# Australia

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

MINGARY

The Mingary Counselling Service is now offering services via Zoom in addition to telephone services (with the counsellors working from home) for new and existing clients. If you require counselling, please contact the office and we will arrange an appointment.

SUNDAY 27 SEPTEMBER @ ST MICHAEL'S ONLINE

“St Michael's Day – our stories, our spirit, our strength”

Rev Dr Margaret Mayman and St Michael's Community

Music: Georgia Wilkinson (Soprano) & Rhys Boak (Organ & Piano)