

*Sunday at
St Michael's*

20TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

18 OCTOBER 2020

“EVERYTHING BELONGS TO THE SACRED”

MINISTER: REV DR MARGARET MAYMAN

MUSIC: AMIR FARID (PIANO) & RHYS BOAK (ORGAN)

CANTORS: CHRISTOPHER WATSON & JAMES EMERSON

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 Richard Rohr, Everything Belongs: The Gift of Contemplative Prayer

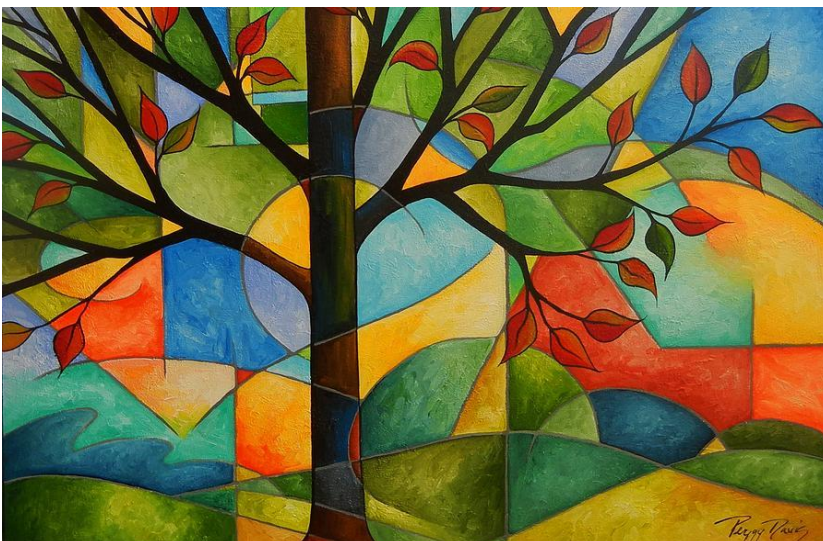
“The people who know God well—mystics, hermits, prayerful people, those who risk everything to find God—always meet a lover, not a dictator.”

“Try to say that: “I don't know anything”. We used to call it “tabula rasa” in Latin. Maybe you could think of yourself as an erased blackboard, ready to be written on. For by and large, what blocks spiritual teaching is the assumption that we already know, or that we don't need to know. We have to pray for the grace of beginner's mind. We need to say with the blind man, “I want to see.”

“God is always bigger than the boxes we build for God, so we should not waste too much time protecting the boxes.”

“In terms of soul work, we dare not get rid of the pain before we have learned what it has to teach us.”

“Our first experience of life is primarily felt in the *body.* ... We know ourselves in the security of those who hold us and gaze upon us. It's not heard or seen or thought it's felt. That's the original knowing.”



“We do not think ourselves into new ways of living. We live ourselves into new ways of thinking.”

“Only when we rest in God can we find the safety, the spaciousness, and the scary freedom to be who we are, all that we are, more than we are, and less than we are.”

Tree of life
Peggy Bowie Davis

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 and Boon Wurrung peoples 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 welcome to you – to you who are members and friends of St Michael's, to you who have become part of St Michael's through joining in online Sunday gatherings during the coronavirus pandemic, and especially warm welcome to anyone who is joining us for the first time.

If you are joining in this online gathering from Melbourne on Sunday the 18th of October you will be very aware of the pending announcement of the next step in the road map to recovery. It's been a very long haul...and as I record this on Wednesday there is still no clarity about what the announcement will hold though there are strong hints that it may be possible to travel further to meet up with friends and family.

At the St Michael's Zoom cuppa last Sunday morning our conversation starter for the breakout rooms (with 6 to 8 people) was "what are you looking forward to when restrictions are eased." I realised as people talked what a difference it made to express the question in terms of our hopes rather than our losses. The question "what are you looking forward to" takes you to different places than the question "what are you missing." Our group heard several heart-felt hopes but my favourite was from the couple who are waiting to get to Bunnings so they can repaint their garden gate in the right shade of yellow. Bunnings featured in several stories. It was good to be able to laugh together.

Everyone is welcome to Sunday @ St Michael's Zoom Cuppa at 11:15am (join by computer, tablet, or mobile or landline phone). Information on how to join is in the eNews and on our website under the Online Gatherings tab.

On the website, you can also read about our new online study program "painting the stars" which explores at progressive theology through the lens of science, evolution and spirituality.

GATHERING WORDS

In the love of the Creator
In the light of Christ
In the leading of the Spirit
we place ourselves today.
Let us celebrate life in the presence we name God.

HYMN

CHRISTOPHER WATSON

You shall cross the barren desert
but you shall not die of thirst.
You shall wander far in safety
though you do not know the way.
You shall speak your words in foreign lands
and all will understand.
You will see the face of God and live.
Be not afraid.
go before you always.
Come, follow me,
and I will give you rest.

If you pass through raging waters
in the sea, you shall not drown.
If you walk amid the burning flames,
you shall not be harmed.
If you stand before the power of hell
and death is at your side,
know that I am with you through it all.
Be not afraid.
I go before you always.
Come, follow me,
and I will give you rest.

Blessed are you poor,
for the kingdom shall be yours.
Blest are you that weep and mourn,
for one day you shall laugh.
And if wicked ones insult and hate you
all because of me,
blessed, blessed are you.
Be not afraid.
I go before you always.
Come, follow me,
and I will give you rest.

Words and Music: Robert J Dufford, SJ (1943 -)

PRAYER OF AWARENESS

The face of the sacred is hidden from humankind,
clouded in the mystery of holiness.

And yet, we glimpse enough for faith to grow,
as the as the Way of Jesus/Sophia opens before us,
in the witnesses of the ages
and the riches of the Word,
and the beauty of the world.
The Spirit lives and moves within us
and we find God's presence in friend and stranger.

We know we cannot ever fully know the Divine,
but still we pray,
for that that Sacred connection which lifts our hearts,
and brings insights of grace.

In our fears and doubts,
we know we often long for certainties
and demand them from those who lead us.
May we approach this time in gentleness,
aware and assured of grace.

JESUS' PRAYER PARAPHRASE

Remembering Jesus, we pray together -

***Ground of all being,
Mother of Life, Father of the universe,
your name is sacred, beyond speaking.
May we know your presence,
may your longings be our longings
in heart and in action.
May there be food
for the human family today
and for the whole earth community.***

***Forgive us the falseness
of what we have done
as we forgive those who are untrue to us.
Do not forsake us
in our time of conflict
but lead us into new beginnings.
For the light of life,
the vitality of life,
and the glory of life
are yours now and for ever. Amen.***

SHARING A SIGN OF PEACE

Within the life of the Sacred, we are held in endless grace and 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 22:15-22

VAL GILL

Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap Jesus in what he said.
So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality.
Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?"
But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? Show me the coin used for the tax." And they brought him a denarius.
Then Jesus said to them, "Whose head is this, and whose title?"
They answered, "The emperor's." Then he said to them, "Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God's."
When they heard this, they were amazed; and they left him and went away.

For creative resistance to empire in Jesus time, and in ours,
We give thanks.

MUSIC FOR REFLECTION

Golden Dreams - Javad Maroufi (1912-1993)
Javad Maroufi was born in Tehran (Iran) and studied western classical music alongside Persian classical music. He became one of the first composers to write for the piano in the traditional Persian style.
Amir Farid (Piano)

CONTEMPORARY READING

VAL GILL

Singularity by Marie Howe (after Stephen Hawking)

Do you sometimes want to wake up to the singularity
we once were?
so compact nobody
needed a bed, or food or money —
nobody hiding in the school bathroom
or home alone
pulling open the drawer
where the pills are kept.
*For every atom belonging to me as good
Belongs to you. Remember?*
There was no *Nature*. No
them. No tests
to determine if the elephant
grieves her calf or if
the coral reef feels pain. Trashed
oceans don't speak English or Farsi or French;
would that we could wake up to what we were
— when we *were* ocean and before that
to when sky was earth, and animal was energy, and rock was
liquid and stars were space and space was not
at all — nothing
before we came to believe humans were so important
before this awful loneliness.

Can molecules recall it?
what once was? before anything happened?
No I, no We, no one. No was
No verb no noun
only a tiny tiny dot brimming with
is is is is is
All everything home
For the Spirit moving in science and poetry,
We give thanks.

REFLECTION

REV DR MARGARET MAYMAN

“Everything belongs to the Sacred; nothing belongs to Caesar”

RESPONDING IN LOVE

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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

Loving God, we pray
for the needs of the people:
food, shelter, education, health, love.

We pray for all societies and nations in our world
that live without peace and justice,
without adequate food and healthcare needed for survival.
We remember them as they suffer the costs to the people
when there is war not peace,
corruption not just government.
We pray for people in positions of responsibility
negotiating for peace.
We pray for all the places where there are no peace talks
and no negotiators and very little hope.

We pray for places of conflict and poverty
where the coronavirus pandemic has only added
to the intolerable burdens of existence.

May we who struggle with limitations placed on us
be open to a broader perspective
acknowledging our privilege and the peace we enjoy
and not turning away from people who suffer without hope.

May we be motivated into action by our prayers,
striving to develop our skills in compassion and integrity,
to be like the Sacred lover of justice.

We give thanks for what we have,
the people we love and the friendships we share.
Help us to live as makers of peace and love.
May we nurture love in all our relationships
and may that love empower us to reach out and share it with others.

This we pray, remembering Jesus
who experienced and suffered human violence
and yet transformed it.
May we know what it means to follow him in this path
as we pray for the needs of our church, our world, and ourselves.

*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.*

May we unite with one another as friends of God
and creatures of earth.

Amen

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF OFFERING

Our life is sustained by the generous giving of many.
In gratitude we dedicate the gifts given
to support our shared life at St Michael's
and the work of the Mingary Counselling Service,
as we rededicate our lives to the work of compassion and justice.

***We are called to make real
the sharing of the gifts that have been given to us.***

***We dedicate gifts of money,
and we offer our lives, for the common good.***

Amen.

HYMN

JAMES EMERSON

*Let justice roll down like a river,
let justice flow down to the sea;
let justice roll down like a river
let justice begin through me.*

Justice for all who go hungry,
crying to God to be fed,
left in a world of abundance
to beg for a morsel of bread.

*Let justice roll down like a river,
let justice flow down to the sea;
let justice roll down like a river
let justice begin through me.*

Justice for those who are homeless,
victims of war or of need,
trapped on the borders of nowhere,
lost in the canyons of greed.

*Let justice roll down like a river,
let justice flow down to the sea;
let justice roll down like a river
let justice begin through me.*

Justice for all who are powerless,
yearning for freedom in vain,
plundered and robbed of their birth-right,
silently bearing their pain.

*Let justice roll down like a river,
let justice flow down to the sea;
let justice roll down like a river
let justice begin through me.*

*Words and tune: Colin Gibson
Tune: Waitaki Words
© 1994 Hope Publishing Company*

SENDING AND BLESSING

BLESSING

May the places where we walk
become sacred spaces of the Holy One...
The places where we take our stand
be signposts to the love of the Risen One...
The homes where we rest and wait
be filled with the renewing grace of the Spirit.
Amen.

POSTLUDE

From heaven above to earth I come – Sigfrid Karg-Elert (1877-1933)

The German born composer, Sigfrid Karg-Elert is best known for his works for the organ and the art harmonium. His colourful and impressionistic use of harmony is as exotic as it is unique. This work is one of many hymn-based preludes that form his opus 65, each piece being based on a well-known Lutheran hymn melody or chorale.

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

“Singularity” by Marie Howe (after Stephen Hawking).

Source: <https://poets.org/poem/singularity>

Lord’s Prayer paraphrase by John Philip Newell, *Ground of All Being: The Prayer of Jesus in Color*, published by New Beginnings, an imprint of Material Media, 2008.

Blessing based on a prayer by Dorothy McRae-McMahon.

Image: Roman Coin - Aureus, Emperor Tiberius, Ancient Roman Empire, 14-37 CE.

Photographer: Heath Warwick. Source: Museums Victoria.

Image: Jewish shekel. 66-70 BCE. Source: <http://www.cngcoins.com>

“Be not afraid,” Words and Music: Robert J Dufford, SJ.

“Let justice roll down,” Words and tune: Colin Gibson.

Tune: Waitaki Words. © 1994 Hope Publishing Company.

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GUEST MUSICIAN

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. He brings strong musical substance to all that he does, imbuing it with his own particular experience and understanding”, and who “in a well-populated field...distinguishes himself for all the right reasons”.

As one of the most versatile and loved musicians in Australia, the currently New York-based pianist has performed concerti with major orchestras, collaborating with conductors such as Christopher Hogwood, Oleg Caetani, Johannes Fritsch, Alexander Briger, Marko Letonja and Benjamin Northey. Highlights include Rachmaninoff’s 2nd piano concerto with the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra in front of a 13,000-strong crowd at the Sidney Myer Music Bowl, Mozart’s concerto No.14 with the Sydney Symphony Orchestra, and “The Mozart Dances” with the Mark Morris Dance Group and West Australian Symphony Orchestra as part of the 2015 Perth Festival.

Since graduating with distinction from the Royal College of Music London in 2009 with Andrew Ball, he has performed as a solo recitalist and collaborative artist in concert halls and festivals internationally, including Carnegie Hall New York, St. Martin in the Fields London, Mostly Mozart festival at Lincoln Center New York, Al-Hashemi-II Kuwait, MONA FOMA Festival Hobart, Coriole Festival SA, Huntington Festival NSW, as well as other venues in USA, Canada, Germany, Switzerland, New Zealand and China.

NOTICES

CONTACT AND CARE TEAM

During this time when 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 evening time, to unite in prayerful hope with other Christians.

Thank you.

Wisdom from Michael Leunig in 'A Common Prayer'.

'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=NnIrWFA4VIN2bEEvcE4vRUhnb1pudz09>

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=YkJLS25JYmVZekxKRG9nRXpTNUZFU09>

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. The service is also providing Vocational Assessments. If you require counselling or a Vocational Assessment, please contact the office and we will arrange an appointment.

SUNDAY 25 OCTOBER @ ST MICHAEL'S ONLINE

“Just Love”

Rev Dr Margaret Mayman

Music: Joe Chindamo (Piano), Zoe Black (Violin) & Rhys Boak (Organ)