

*Sunday at  
St Michael's*

21<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

25 OCTOBER 2020

“JUST LOVE”

MINISTER: REV DR MARGARET MAYMAN

MUSIC: ZOE BLACK (VIOLIN), JOE CHINDAMO (PIANO)  
& RHYS BOAK (ORGAN)

CANTORS: KATHERINE NORMAN & 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.

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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/playlist/SundayatStMichaels>

*Mary Oliver, Upstream, 21st century*

"Prayer is the contemplation of the facts of life from the highest point of view,' [Emerson] says, and suddenly that elite mystical practice seems clearer than ever before, and possible to each of us."

*Christian Wiman, My Bright Abyss: Meditation of a Modern Believer, 21st century*

"What we call doubt is often simply dullness of mind and spirit, not the absence of faith at all, but faith latent with the lives we are not quite living, God dormant in the world to which we are not quite giving our best selves."

*Thomas Merton, 20th century*

"I will no longer wound myself with the thoughts and questions that have surrounded me like thorns: that is a penance You do not ask of me."



*A world of peace and justice*  
John August Swanson

*Catherine of Siena, 14th century*

"Be who God meant you to be and you will set the world on fire."

*Hafiz, 14th century*

"I wish I could show you, when you are lonely or in darkness, the astonishing Light of your own Being."

*Soren Kierkegaard, 19th century*

"Life can only be understood backwards; but it must be lived forwards."

# 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.

***For thousands of years Indigenous people have walked in this land,  
on their own country.***

***Their relationship with the land is at the centre of their lives.***

***We acknowledge the Wurundjeri and Boon Wurrung peoples of the Kulin Nation  
and their stewardship of this land throughout the ages.***

***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.

We gather today in the context of a community of people seeking meaning, seeking the  
Sacred, as progressive Christians living in a time of global pandemic. Here in Melbourne we  
are moving into a time of new beginnings as numbers of new cases of COVID-19 have fallen  
steadily during our prolonged lockdown. Our social lives can expand, carefully, and with joy  
we reconnect with family and friends who live nearby. We stand in solidarity with people  
who are facing precarious economic circumstances because of the prolonged closure of  
businesses or loss of employment. We look with hope towards a world that learns from  
hardship about what really matters. We recognise with profound gratitude the work of  
people who are engaged in front line responses to the pandemic in social work, health work  
and the provision of aid and support to vulnerable people.

A reminder that if you are participating in this gathering on Sunday morning you are very  
welcome to join in the Sunday @ St Michael's Zoom Cuppa at 11:15am. Information on how  
to join is in the eNews and on our website under the Online Gatherings tab.

I encourage you also to 'like' the video on YouTube and maybe leave a brief comment. It's a  
great way to help people who are looking for progressive Christian worship online during  
COVID to find us.

## GATHERING WORDS

Today we hear again the words of Jesus.

'Love God and love your neighbour'.

Today this call rings in our ears,  
resonates in our hearts  
and opens our souls,  
so that love may become our very breath  
and heartbeat.

May the world that is reborn  
after the long labour ahead  
be one where love is joined with justice –  
a world of just-love.

## HYMN INTRO

Seeking joy and wisdom, seeking the heart of the Sacred, let us sing together an ancient hymn from our tradition, “Be thou my vision.”

## HYMN

KATHERINE NORMAN

Be thou my vision, the joy of my heart;  
nought be all else to me save that thou art.  
Thou my best thought, by day or by night,  
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, the lamp to my feet;  
thy word, like honey, to my lips is sweet;  
thou my delight, my joy, thy command;  
my dwelling ever, be the palm of thy hand.

Riches I heed not, nor seek human praise;  
thou mine inheritance, now and always;  
thou and thou only, first in my heart,  
high God of heaven, my treasure thou art.

High God of heaven, my victory won,  
may I reach heaven’s joys, O bright heaven’s sun!  
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,  
still be my vision, O ruler of all.

*Gaelic 8th Century Adapted  
Tune: Slane  
Irish Traditional Melody  
harm. David Evans (1874-1948)*

## PRAYER OF AWARENESS

*We come in prayer, letting go of what has been,  
open to who we are becoming.*

May we who sometimes lose our sense and our senses –  
our touch, our smell, our vision of who we are:  
we who frantically force and press forward,  
without rest for body or spirit,  
hurting our earth and injuring ourselves:  
may we honour the gift of this sabbath time in the midst of a hard time.

We want to rest. We need to rest and allow the earth to rest.

We seek to reflect and to rediscover the mystery that lives in us,  
that is the ground of every unique expression of life,  
the source of the fascination that calls all things to communion.

May we learn from this time of being at home a practice of Sabbath,  
relishing a space of Quiet; for simply being and letting be;  
for recovering the great, forgotten truths;  
for learning how to live again.

Love calls us,  
love longs for us,  
love inspires us,  
love recreates us,  
love liberates us,  
and the Sacred,  
who is love and the lover of all,  
dwells among us  
here and everywhere,  
now and forever.

### 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: 32-46

LORRAINE WOOLLEY

When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him.

“Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?”

Jesus said to him, “You shall love Most High God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and first commandment.”

And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbour as yourself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.’

Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them this question: “What do you think of the Messiah? Whose descendent is he?” They said to him, “The descendent of David.”

Jesus said to them, “How is it then that David by the Spirit calls the Messiah Sovereign, saying, ‘The Most High said to my Sovereign, ‘Sit at my right hand, until I put your enemies under your feet.’ If David calls the Messiah ‘Sovereign,’ how can the Messiah be a descendent of David?”

No one was able to give him an answer, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.

May we hear these words with our minds and our hearts,

***And respond with our love and our lives.***

### MUSIC FOR REFLECTION

*Reverie* – Joe Chindamo (b.1961)

This *Reverie*, with its truly beautiful melody, sumptuous harmony, and exciting spirit comes very recently from the pen of Melbourne based pianist and composer, Joe Chindamo.

Zoe Black (Violin) & Joe Chindamo (Piano)

### CONTEMPORARY READING

LORRAINE WOOLLEY

“I Happened to be standing” by Mary Oliver

I don't know where prayers go,  
or what they do.  
Do cats pray, while they sleep  
half-asleep in the sun?  
Does the opossum pray as it  
crosses the street?  
The sunflowers? The old black oak  
growing older every year?  
I know I can walk through the world,  
along the shore or under the trees,  
with my mind filled with things  
of little importance, in full  
self-attendance. A condition I can't really  
call being alive.  
Is a prayer a gift, or a petition,  
or does it matter?  
The sunflowers blaze, maybe that's their way.  
Maybe the cats are sound asleep. Maybe not.  
While I was thinking this I happened to be standing  
just outside my door, with my notebook open,  
which is the way I begin every morning.  
Then a wren in the privet began to sing.

He was positively drenched in enthusiasm,  
I don't know why. And yet, why not.  
I wouldn't persuade you from whatever you believe  
or whatever you don't. That's your business.  
But I thought, of the wren's singing, what could this be  
if it isn't a prayer?  
So I just listened, my pen in the air.

For the Spirit speaking to us in poetry,  
***We give thanks.***

REFLECTION

REV DR MARGARET MAYMAN

"Just love"

## RESPONDING IN LOVE

### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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

Let us pray for all who love the earth -  
who work to restore habitats;  
who tend fragile environments;  
who conserve oceans and protect wild places.

Let us pray for all who love people –  
the ones who step into troubled place to provide  
health care and emergency support  
in Melbourne and around the globe during this time of pandemic;

Let us pray for the people challenge the justice system  
to call out discrimination and fight for human rights;  
advocates who speak for the voiceless and disrupt practices  
that would exclude and harm the poor.

Let us pray for people who love all creatures –  
who protect species in vulnerable environments;  
who campaign for the right of endangered species  
to be given the chance to live;  
for all who provide places for wildlife to thrive.

Loving God,  
may love become the way in which we live on our earth.

*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***

## HYMN INTRO

As seekers of the way of Jesus, let us sing together *O where are you going?*

## HYMN

GEORGIA WILKINSON

Oh where are you going,  
and can I come with you,  
and what is your method  
for keeping alive:  
no pack or possessions,  
no clothing or shelter,  
no food to sustain you –  
how can you survive?

Oh where are you going,  
and can I come with you,  
and why is your company  
never the same?  
You sit among beggars,  
you argue with bankers,  
debate with the lawyers  
and walk with the lame.

Oh where are you going,  
and can I come with you,  
and what can you show  
for your talents and time –  
no profit from trading,  
no thing of your making  
no mark or memento,  
no picture or rhyme?

Oh where are you going,  
and can I come with you,  
and what is the secret,  
towards which you strive?  
What hidden inspirer,  
what unseen admirer,  
what dream is the substance  
upon which you thrive?

I'm going on a journey  
and welcome companions,  
but don't ask me  
how we'll survive, where we'll go,  
or who will come with us,  
or what we'll be doing.  
Just join me in travelling  
and learn all I know.

*Words: John Bell (1949 -)  
& Graham Maule (1958-2019)  
Tune: Laredo  
American traditional melody*

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF OFFERING

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

***We give thanks for our life  
and the courage we are given to live it.  
Let our gratitude be expressed in our generosity.  
Let our faith be expressed through living justly.  
Let our hope for the future find full expression  
following the Way of Jesus,  
loving God and loving our neighbours as ourselves.  
Amen.***

## SENDING AND BLESSING

### BLESSING

As we go from this place  
may we continue to experience the birth of hope in our lives.  
May we find ourselves watching for signs of new possibilities  
and discover the treasures of love in surprising places.

The blessing of God – sacred presence  
The spirit of Jesus – unsettling teacher  
The breath of life – awakening every being  
be with us and with all creation.

***Amen.***

### POSTLUDE

*Preludio* – Joe Chindamo (b.1961)

This work is based on a theme from one of Chopin's many piano preludes. Imbued with a new, feisty spirit, *Preludio* has given Chopin's theme new life and a new energy. With this piece, as in the music for reflection, the composer is at the piano, and the Zoe Black, for whom the work was written is at the violin.

Zoe Black (Violin) & Joe Chindamo (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

“I happened to be standing” by Mary Oliver. *Devotions*. Penguin Press 2017.

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.

“Be thou my vision,” Gaelic 8th Century Adapted.

Tune: Slane. Irish Traditional Melody. harm. David Evans.

“O where are you going?” Words: John Bell & Graham Maule.

Tune: Laredo. American traditional melody.

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## GUEST MUSICIANS

**Joe Chindamo** ranks amongst the world's best jazz pianists and composers. His equal gifts as composer, arranger and improviser enable him to skate between musical genres with deftness and integrity, creating a unique music which eschews boundaries. A man with an international reputation, Joe has performed concerts all over the world. Of particular note, at the Umbria Jazz Festival, The Tokyo Dome and The Lincoln Centre in New York. He also toured with famed US drummer Billy Cobham for over 10 years. Numerous of his recordings reached number 1 on the modern jazz charts in Japan. His formidable pianism has earned him admiration from amongst the classical elite.

In 2008 Joe was invited to perform 3 concerts in Italy by the celebrated classical pianist Michele Campanella, who was curator of a respected piano festival. In the same year, as a result of an enthusiastic recommendation by the formidable Nickolai Demidenko, piano maker Paolo Fazioli invited Joe to perform at his auditorium in Venice, a venue normally reserved for the likes of Angela Hewitt, Nickolai Demidenko and Aldo Ciccolini.

Joe is an artist who has done it all. He has performed and recorded with the best such as Shirley Bassey, Anne Sophie von Otter, Ricky Lee Jones, Dame Kiri Te Kanawa, Yvonne Kenny and Olivia Newton John, and worked on over 60 film soundtracks, providing the piano work for iconic Australian movies such as *Pharlap*, *The Man From Snowy River II*, *Babe*, and *The Sound of One Hand Clapping*.

**Zoë Black** has won numerous awards including the National Youth Concerto Competition in 1989 and the String section of the ABC Young Performers Award in 1991.

Graduating from the Victorian College of the Arts in 1992, Zoë was awarded grants from the Australia Council and the Queen Elizabeth Jubilee Trust and the major performance award of the Australian Musical Foundation in London where she studied at the Guildhall School of Music under David Takeno and subsequently at the Vienna Hochschule with Michael Schnitzler.

During her time in Europe she studied chamber music with the Takacs Quartet, played with the London Symphony Orchestra and in Vienna with the Wiener Kammerorchester. She returned to Australia in 1996 to become Assistant Leader of the Australian Chamber Orchestra with whom she toured extensively both within Australia and overseas.

Touring regularly throughout Australia, Zoë has been a featured soloist and performed in chamber settings at the annual Huntington Festival in Mudgee, NSW, has performed in the MSO Chamber Music series, appeared as soloist with the Tasmanian and Melbourne Symphony Orchestra and is a regular performer for the ABC Sunday Live series.

In 2006 Zoë was a founding member of the Freshwater Trio, which has quickly become one of Melbourne's leading chamber ensembles, with sell-out performances at numerous festivals including Port Fairy and Castlemaine and with its own innovative subscription series at Melba Hall. Future engagements include taking part in Musica Viva's Coffee Concert series and regional touring as well as a tour to St. Petersburg.

In 2007 Zoë recorded the Roger Smalley Violin Concerto with the Victorian College of the Arts Orchestra for the ABC. In addition to her performing career, Zoë is a valued member of staff at Melbourne University and the Victorian College of the Arts.

## 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](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



**Thursdays at 11am**- noon (join anytime)

Meeting ID: 834 6407 7308. Passcode: 000405

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83464077308?pwd=NnIrWFA4VIN2bEEvcE4vRUhnbIpdz09>

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. 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 1 NOVEMBER @ ST MICHAEL'S ONLINE

“Stepping through the Gate”

Rev Alex Sangster

Music: The Nuovo Quartet led by Susannah Ng & Rhys Boak (Organ)