

*Sunday at
St Michael's*

25TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
COMMUNITY OF CHRIST SUNDAY

22 NOVEMBER 2020

“STEALING JESUS”

MINISTER: REV DR MARGARET MAYMAN

MUSIC: BRUNO SIKETA (TRUMPET),
THE ACADEMY OF ST. MICHAEL LED BY ZOE BLACK,
& RHYS BOAK (ORGAN)

CANTORS: JAMES EMERSON & 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>

Teresa of Avila, 16th century

“Christ has no body now but yours.

No hands, no feet on earth but yours.

Yours are the eyes through which he looks compassion on this world.

Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good.

Yours are the hands through which he blesses all the world.

Yours are the hands, yours are the feet, yours are the eyes, you are his body.

Christ has no body now on earth but yours.”

Teilhard de Chardin, 20th century

"I think that the world will not be converted to the heavenly hope of Christianity if first Christianity does not convert itself to the hope of the world."

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, 20th century

"We are not to simply bandage the wounds of victims beneath the wheels of injustice, we are to drive a spoke into the wheel itself."



Sensing Community
Google free images

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.

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

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

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

At St Michael's we acknowledge the Wurundjeri and Boon Wurrung peoples of the Kulin
Nation, and pay respect to their elders, past, present and emerging.

We honour their stewardship of this land throughout the ages.

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

Welcome everyone: members and friends of St Michael's, people who have become part of St
Michael's through joining in online Sunday gatherings during COVID, and a very warm
welcome to anyone who is joining us for the first time.

If you are watching the video 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.

Today marks the end of the Christian year. Next Sunday Advent, the four weeks leading up
for Christmas, begins. I can't believe it is nearly Advent. The shock of Advent now, too soon,
is a consequence of the strangest year of our lives.

As we delight in simple freedoms that we previously took for granted, we are also free to
make space for feelings we may have been keeping in check, to name how hard it has been,
to acknowledge both relief and exhaustion. And a wariness that will not leave us anytime
soon. The gains are precarious, and our hearts go out to the people of South Australia as they
deal with a new outbreak.

This Sunday was traditionally called the feast of Christ the King, and more recently it has
been called Reign of Christ Sunday. As a progressive minister, I prefer to name it
"Community of Christ." Even Reign of Christ leaves Jesus on his throne in heaven. It obscures
his earthly life of teaching, healing and reconciling people to each other and to the Sacred. On
the throne of heaven, crowned and gilded through centuries of Christian art, he no longer
resembles the Jewish peasant teacher and prophet who changed the world.

To speak of the Community of Christ, to name our participation in it, invites us to recall the
words of 16th century mystic, Teresa of Avila:

GATHERING WORDS

"Christ has no body now but yours.

No hands, no feet on earth but yours.

Yours are the eyes through which Christ looks with compassion on this world.

Yours are the feet with which Christ walks to do good.

Yours are the hands through which Christ blesses the world.

Yours are the hands, yours are the feet, yours are the eyes, yours is the body.

Christ has no body now on earth but yours."

HYMN

JAMES EMERSON

God, the All-Holy,
Maker and Mother,
gladly we gather,
bringing in prayer
old hurts for healing,
new hopes for holding,
giving, receiving,
loving and care.

Spirit, All-Seeing,
knitting and blending
joy in desiring,
friendship and ease,
make our belonging
loyal and lasting,
so that our pledging
freshens and frees.

Christ, All-Completing,
Nature enfolding,
evil exhausting
in love's embrace,
weaving and mending,
make every ending
God's new beginning
glowing with grace.

*Words: Brian Wren (1936-)
Tune: Bunessan
Gaelic melody*

PRAYER OF AWARENESS

Source of all being
Eternal Word
Creator Spirit
Abundance of our Earth,
We seek you in
 the patience of the ocean
 the fertility of soil
 the grandeur of mountains
 the gentleness of loving hands
 the vastness of unending sky
 the fragility of a new-born child
 the wisdom of our elders.
O God with all in all to all
Be close to us in our frailty
Be far beyond us in our hopefulness
Be still within our restlessness
Yet stir our complacent rest.

In the stillness – breathe, be, and know yourself to be beloved.

JESUS' PRAYER PARAPHRASE

*Eternal Spirit,
Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,
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 the peoples of the world!
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom
sustain our hope and come on earth.*

*With the bread we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
In times of temptation and testing, 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 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 25: 31-46

LIZ BOASE

“When the Promised One comes in glory, and all the angels, then the Promised One will sit on the throne of glory. All the nations will be gathered and people will be separated one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. The sheep will be put at the right hand and the goats at the left.

Then the ruler will say to those at the right, ‘Come, you that are blessed by God, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.’

Then the righteous will answer, ‘When was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink?’

And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing?’

And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?’

And the ruler will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.’

Then the ruler will say to those on the left, ‘You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and the fallen angels; for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.’

Then they also will answer, ‘When was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?’

Then the ruler will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.'

And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

For the call to discipleship,

We give thanks.

CONTEMPORARY READING

LIZ BOASE

"The Great Turning" by Christine Fry

You've asked me to tell you of the Great Turning
Of how we saved the world from disaster.
The answer is both simple and complex.
We turned.

For hundreds of years, we had turned away as life on earth grew more precarious
We turned away from the homeless men on the streets, the stench from the river,
The children orphaned in Iraq, the mothers dying of AIDS in Africa

We turned away because that was what we had been taught.
To turn away, from our pain, from the hurt in another's eyes,
From the drunken father, from the friend betrayed.

Always we were told, in actions louder than words, to turn away, turn away.
And so we became a lonely people caught up in a world
Moving too quickly, too mindlessly toward its own demise.

Until it seemed as if there was no safe space to turn.
No place, inside or out, that did not remind us of fear or terror, despair and loss, anger and grief.
Yet, on one of those days, someone did turn.

Turned to face the pain.
Turned to face the stranger.
Turned to look at the smouldering world and the hatred seething in too many eyes.
Turned to face himself, herself.

And then another turned.
And another. And another.
And as they wept, they took each other's hands.
Until whole groups of people were turning.
Young and old, gay and straight.
People of all colours, all nations, all religions.

Turning not only to the pain and hurt but to beauty, gratitude and love.
Turning to one another with forgiveness and a longing for peace in their hearts.

At first, the turning made people dizzy, even silly.
There were people standing to the side, gawking, criticizing, trying to knock the turners down.
But the people turning kept getting up, kept helping one another to their feet.
Their laughter and kindness brought others into the turning circle
Until even the nay-sayers began to smile and sway.

As the people turned, they began to spin
Reweaving the web of life, mending the shocking tears,
Knitting it back together with the colours of the earth,
Sewing on tiny mirrors so the beauty of each person, each creature, each plant, each life
Might be seen and respected.

And as the people turned, as they spun like the earth through the universe,
The web wrapped around them like a soft baby blanket
Making it clear all were loved, nothing separate.

As this love reached into every crack and crevice, the people began to wake and wonder,
To breath and give thanks,
To celebrate together.

And so the world was saved, but only as long as you, too, sweet one, remember to turn.

For the Word that was in the beginning
for the Word that invites and inspires,
for the Word embodied in us,
We give thanks.

MUSIC FOR REFLECTION

A prayer of St. Gregory -Alan Hovhaness (1911-2000)

The Armenian born composer, Alan Hovhaness was one of the most prolific composers of the 20th century. He composed at least 67 symphonies, and at least 500 works in differing genres.

Bruno Siketa (Trumpet) & Rhys Boak (Organ)

REFLECTION

REV DR MARGARET MAYMAN

“Stealing Jesus”

RESPONDING IN LOVE

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Let us recall the ones who have touched our lives in this community and others,
And let us give thanks for community in which our God is found and known.

Silent reflection

We remember too places where people struggle for access
to the means necessary to sustain and nourish themselves,
may a new day come.

We remember places where people are subject to political oppression
and lack of democratic process,
may a new day come.

We remember places where people suffer
through lack of adequate resources for their physical and mental well-being,
may a new day come.

We pray for a renewed world, a place where all life is held sacred.
May we be emboldened to connect more fully with the world around us,
working towards the respectful use of natural resources
and sustainable practices.
may a new day come.

*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 the Spirit
and may a new day begin in us and with us.
Amen.

For everyone born, a place at the table,
 for everyone born, clean water and bread,
 a shelter, a space, a safe place for growing,
 for everyone born, a star over head.

*And God will delight when we are creators
 of justice and joy, compassion and peace;
 yes, God will delight when we are creators
 of justice, justice, and joy.*

For woman and man, a place at the table,
 revising the roles, deciding to share,
 with wisdom and grace, dividing the power,
 for woman and man, a system that's fair.

*And God will delight when we are creators
 of justice and joy, compassion and peace;
 yes, God will delight when we are creators
 of justice, justice, and joy.*

For young and for old, a place at the table,
 a voice to be heard, a part in the song,
 the hands of a child in hands that are wrinkled,
 for young and for old, the right to belong.

*And God will delight when we are creators
 of justice and joy, compassion and peace;
 yes, God will delight when we are creators
 of justice, justice, and joy.*

For just and unjust, a place at the table;
 God gathering in, abundance to give,
 injustice and hurt, make way now for mercy,
 for just and unjust, a new way to live.

*And God will delight when we are creators
 of justice and joy, compassion and peace;
 yes, God will delight when we are creators
 of justice, justice, and joy.*

For everyone born, a place at the table,
 to live without fear, and simply to be,
 to work, to speak out, to witness and worship,
 for everyone born, the right to be free.

*And God will delight when we are creators
 of justice and joy, compassion and peace;
 yes, God will delight when we are creators
 of justice, justice, and joy.*

*Words: Shirley Erena Murray (1931-2020)
 © 2004 Hope Publishing Company
 Tune: For Everyone Born
 Brian Mann (2006)*

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF OFFERING

Our life is sustained by the generous giving of members and friends.
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.

***May our gifts,
the efforts they represent,
and the efforts they sustain,
bear witness to the community of Christ
where peace, justice, and love rule, now and forever.
Amen.***

SENDING AND BLESSING

BLESSING

Blessed be
the doors we open,
the thresholds we cross,
the roads that lie before us.
May the Sacred Spirit go with us as we go
and welcome us home as we return.

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

Sonata in E Major Domenico Scarlatti (1685-1757) Arr. Joe Chindamo (b. 1961)
Domenico Scarlatti's claim to attention will forever be associated with his ingenious keyboard sonatas. Intended as 'exercises' these tongue twisters for the fingers, numbering at around 550, have delighted and tortured keyboardists for centuries. Clearly, they are not merely exercises, and such is their depth, that all manner of re-invention is possible. Their beauty is accentuated when transported to the string orchestra, where Scarlatti's universal romanticism perhaps supersedes the charm of hearing his work by way of early keyboard instruments.

The Academy of St. Michael led by Zoe Black

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

Prayer of Awareness by Neil Darragh. *At home on the earth: seeking earth-centred spirituality*. Accent Publications, 2000. Adapted.

Christine Fry, "The Great Turning" (October 19, 2004).

<https://earthspiritaction.com/2018/05/20/the-great-turning/>

Lord's Prayer paraphrase from, *A New Zealand Prayer Book*. (Anglican).

"God the All-Holy," Words: Brian Wren. Tune: Bunessan. Gaelic melody.

"For everyone born," Words Shirley Erena Murray. © 2004 Hope Publishing Company.
Tune: For Everyone Born. Brian Mann.

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

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GUEST MUSICIANS

Bruno Siketa

Bruno Siketa began playing the trumpet in 1988 while attending Geelong College on a music scholarship. He obtained Bachelor of Music performance at the Victorian College of the Arts, studying with Robert Sims, Anthony Pope and Geoffrey Payne. During his studies he performed in masterclasses with Hakin Hardenberger, David Staff, and Geoffrey Payne. In 2002 he was appointed Sub-principal trumpet in the Auckland Philharmonia and performed there for two years. Since 2003 Bruno has performed as guest principal trumpet in The Queensland Orchestra, Melbourne Symphony Orchestra and Adelaide Symphony Orchestra. Also, as casual trumpet in the West Australian Symphony Orchestra and Orchestra Victoria. In 2004 he performed the 2nd Brandenburg Concerto on tour with Mozart Orchestra. He toured China and performed as principal trumpet with the Shenzhen Symphony Orchestra in 2006. Bruno has played extensively with brass bands such as Dalewool Auckland and Hawthorn Brass Band and is a continuing member of Melbourne Tramways Band. He has also recorded for Melbourne-based singer/songwriter Georgia Fields, Pyramid, and toured with renown vocalist Patrizio Buanne. Bruno has recorded and premiered many new Australian works as a member of the Raga Dolls Salon Orchestra including the concerto Photo Album, which he performed in 2011 as the cornet soloist. In 2010 Bruno performed a solo recital at the Music at the Basilica Festival, performing works with organ and in 2011 performed with soprano Judith Dodsworth. He also performed solo recitals at the Organs of the Ballarat Goldfields festival in 2012 and 2014. He appears regularly at St Michael's Uniting Church in Melbourne, performing solo trumpet works with organ. He recently performed new works by Australian and other contemporary composers including the

Australian premiere of Harrison Birtwistle's Endless Parade with the Arcko Symphonic Project. He has also taken part in the Australian National Academy of Music concerts under the direction of distinguished artists such as Richard Tognetti and Michael Collins, performing new works by Anthony Pateras and James Ledger.

The Academy of St. Michael

The Academy of St. Michael is St. Michael's own string ensemble. This group has for many years enriched special services such as Christmas and Easter celebrations.

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



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=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 29 NOVEMBER @ ST MICHAEL'S ONLINE

First Sunday in Advent

“Awake to the sacred”

Rev Dr Margaret Mayman

Music: Ceridwen McCooley (Cello), Rose Riebl (Piano),

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