

*Sunday at  
St Michael's*

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

6 DECEMBER 2020

“PREPARING A SPACE”

MINISTER: REV DR MARGARET MAYMAN

MUSIC: CERIDWEN MCCOOEY (CELLO),  
ROSE RIEBL (PIANO) & RHYS BOAK (ORGAN)

CANTORS: TIMOTHY REYNOLDS & CHRISTOPHER WATSON

# 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

120 Collins Street Melbourne

Phone: 03 9654 5120

Email: [office@stmichaels.org.au](mailto:office@stmichaels.org.au)

Minister: [minister@stmichaels.org.au](mailto:minister@stmichaels.org.au)

Web: [www.stmichaels.org.au](http://www.stmichaels.org.au)



 <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.

♥ **During COVID our hearts and minds were open.** ♥  
**Today we celebrate that our doors are open again!**

During the Victorian Government "Last Step" COVID restrictions, Sunday Gatherings will be offered Online and at the Church. In both services there will be comforting and inspiring reflections from our minister, biblical and contemporary readings by congregation members; beautiful music by organist, Rhys Boak and guest musicians (live at the church); hymns sung by cantors and prayers to nourish our personal and communal lives.

Links for the Online Gathering

<http://www.stmichaels.org.au/>  
<https://www.youtube.com/playlist/SundayatStMichaels>

Link to book a seat at the Church (required)

<https://www.trybooking.com/eventlist/stmichaelsmelbourne>  
or contact the Office by telephone if you cannot access TryBooking Online.

“People take different roads seeking fulfillment and happiness. Just because they're not on your road doesn't mean they've gotten lost.”

—*The Dalai Lama*

“The mystery of human existence lies not in just staying alive, but in finding something to live for.”

—*Fyodor Dostoyevsky*

“It is now, at Advent, that I am given the chance to suspend all expectation...and instead to revel in the mystery.”

— *Jerusalem Jackson Greer*



“Into this world, this demented inn  
in which there is absolutely  
no room for him at all,  
Christ comes uninvited.”

— *Thomas Merton*

*Bethlehem*  
Mike Torvelli

# GATHERING AS PEOPLE OF EARTH AND SPIRIT

*Please join in the responses, printed in bold italic*

WELCOME & ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY      REV DR MARGARET MAYMAN

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

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people  
have dwelled in this land since time before dreaming.  
We acknowledge that land was taken from Indigenous people  
without their consent, treaty or compensation.

***We acknowledge the Wurundjeri and Boon Wurrung peoples  
of the Kulin Nation, and pay respect to their elders, past, present and emerging.  
We join with them in hope for justice and reconciliation.***

## GATHERING WORDS

The season of Advent beckons us to ask, what are we preparing for?  
What is the way that is being prepared in our lives?  
How will we make our lives a path of welcome for the Holy One?  
Let every heart prepare a room for birthing and belonging.

*We sing in our hearts*

## ADVENT HYMN

TIMOTHY REYNOLDS

O come, O come, Emmanuel  
And ransom captive Israel  
That mourns in lonely exile here  
Until the Child of God appear  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, O Dayspring, come and cheer  
Our spirits by thine advent here  
And drive away the shades of night  
And pierce the clouds and bring us light  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

*Words: John Mason Neale (1818-1866)  
Tune: Veni Emmanuel  
15th Century Plainsong Melody*

## ADVENT CANDLES: PEACE

The second Advent candle is lit for Peace.

***As the flame burns before us,  
may we be bearers of peace wherever we go.***

“Where there is hatred, let us sow love,  
where there is injury, pardon,  
where there is doubt, faith,  
where there is despair, hope,  
where there is sadness, joy”

***We light this candle for Peace.***

*(Prayer of St Francis)*

## PRAYER OF AWARENESS

Jan Richardson

Still us  
until we hear your heartbeat  
quiet us  
until we feel your breathing  
make us  
one with your rhythms  
move us  
to the cadence of your love.  
**Amen.**

## 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

*After the response, you are invited to share a sign of peace  
with people sitting near you  
(not moving around the church).*

In the Sacred is our home  
our refuge  
our place of dwelling.

In Sacred spaces  
we are re-formed,  
given welcome  
and benediction,  
beckoned to rest  
and rise again,  
made ready  
and sent forth.

May the peace of Divine Presence be with you!  
***And also with you!***

*We sing in our hearts.*

## HYMN

CHRISTOPHER WATSON

Out of such sun and air  
what Christ may come,  
shining with new and lovely light  
on our dim and shrouded lives;  
stirring our sleepiness with dreams,  
visions of life beyond compare.  
Out of this sun and air  
come, Christ, however you will come.

Out of such cloud and mist  
what Christ may come,  
blurring the clear and simple lines  
of our settled scheme of things;  
calling on faith and hope and trust,  
daring to danger, trial and risk.  
Out of this cloud and mist  
come, Christ, however you will come.

Out of such sudden storm  
what Christ may come,  
sweeping across the startled sky  
of our calm and peaceful ways;  
driving with tempest winds of change,  
testing with tumult and reform.  
Out of this sudden storm  
come, Christ, however you will come.

*Words: Colin Gibson  
Tune: Northland*

## LISTENING FOR SPIRIT

HEBREW BIBLE: ISAIAH 40: 1-11

LORRAINE WOOLLEY

For the wisdom of our ancestors in faith,  
***We give thanks.***

GOSPEL: MARK 1: 1-8

For the early Christian communities who interpreted and handed on the stories of Jesus,  
***We give thanks.***

## MUSIC FOR REFLECTION

*Please allow a moment of silence after the music.  
We acknowledge musicians with applause during the Notices.*

*Saman* – Olafur Arnalds (b. 1986)

Olafur Arnalds is a contemporary Icelandic composer, performer and music producer. His work *Saman* has been further expanded and by Ceridwen McCooley.

Ceridwen McCooley (Cello) & Rose Riebl (Piano)

## CONTEMPORARY READING

“Blessed are you who bear the light” by Jan Richardson

For the Word that was in the beginning  
for the Word that invites and inspires,  
for the Word embodied in us,

***We give thanks.***

## REFLECTION

“PREPARING A SPACE”

## RESPONDING IN LOVE

### MUSIC FOR REFLECTION

*The Swan* from *Le Carnaval des Animaux* – Camille Saint-Saens (1835-1921)

Saint-Saens' well known Carnival of the Animals is a suite of 14 short pieces each describing in musical terms, the attributes of different animals. Of all the 14, The Swan has become the best known, and is perhaps, the most beautiful.

Ceridwen McCooley (Cello) & Rose Riebl (Piano)

### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

For all the generations  
that have prepared the way;  
for all the unseen hands  
that have made ready  
every space;

for those who light  
the beacons of welcome  
and who tend  
to every resting place,  
for pilgrim people,  
we give thanks.

In this COVID Advent  
as families and friends come together across borders,  
as deep joy is known in reunion  
as happiness is found in freedom of movement,  
we pray for all  
who do not find in the time  
a season of goodness  
and light.

Give us eyes to see  
into the shadows  
cast by summer's bright sun;  
ears to listen  
beyond the carols  
to hear  
the anguish and pain;  
and to attend to hearts that long  
for the liberation  
sacred advent truly brings.

We bring to mind the places around the globe  
where the coronavirus pandemic still spreads like wildfire.  
We pray for the health care workers who, without prejudice,  
must care for people who deny that the virus is real with their dying breath.  
Open our eyes not just to the suffering of 'people like us'  
but to those who live and die in the forgotten places  
where life was a bitter struggle long before COVID,  
where resources were never shared justly.

During the 16 Days of Action Against Gender Based Violence,  
move us in response to the violence that besets our families and communities.  
May we have the courage to speak about the other health emergency  
that has continued unabated through covid,  
the epidemic of domestic, family and sexual violence.  
We pray that our political leaders will start to recognise this tragedy,  
and to respond to it with education, early intervention,  
action for gender equality and adequate resources to assist victims and survivors.  
May we join in the response as hands, feet, and voices for change.

*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.*

Through Advent may we sense the sacred in the darkness and the dawn.

**Amen.**

*We sing in our hearts*

## HYMN

CHRISTOPHER WATSON

Where is the room,  
where is the house of Christmas?  
Where shall we welcome Jesus,  
where are the signs of home?  
where are the signs of home?

Let Christ have space,  
place at the heart of living,  
centre for birth's new breathing,  
cradle for hope and peace,  
cradle for hope and peace.

Let there be room,  
room for the friend and stranger,  
room without hurt or anger,  
room for whoever come,  
room for whoever come.

Let love be here,  
love from the Christmas stable,  
love at our open table,  
love to be shared all year,  
love to be shared all year.

*Words: Shirley Murray (1931-2020)  
Music: David Dell  
Tune: Michaela*

## OFFERING PRAYER

*A prayer dedicating the retiring offering  
and gifts given in other ways to support the work of the church.*

***Spirit of life, we believe in what these gifts can do,  
the good that can come of them,  
May these gifts be blessed as they make their way in the world.  
Bless us and bless our lives  
to the work of life, of love, of peace.  
As our gifts are received, may we lead in wisdom and courage.  
Amen.***

## NOTICES

LORRAINE WOOLLEY

## SENDING AND BLESSING

### BLESSING FOR ADVENT

Follow where the Spirit of Hope leads us  
listen, as the Child of Peace cries for us  
rejoice, as the Love of God embraces us  
Let us go with Hope, Peace, Joy and Love in our hearts  
and the blessing of God – Lover, Beloved and Spirit of Love.

### POSTLUDE

*Toccata in G major* – Th. Dubois (1837-1924)

Toccata - Th. Dubois (1837-1924) This joyous toccata was written by the French organist and composer Théodore Dubois. Dubois was a noted composer, conductor, organist, pianist and music educator. He served as organist at Paris' Église de Madeleine for many years as well as directing the celebrated Paris Conservatoire.

Rhys Boak (Organ)

## OFFERINGS

Offerings to support the ministry and shared life of St Michael's received with gratitude. At church, offerings are given by retiring offering (in boxes near the outside exit doors). There is a 'Giving' button with instructions for online giving. A downloadable donation form is also available. Cheques may be mailed to St Michael's Office.

Online banking: St Michaels Uniting Church. BSB: 083004. A/C: 515113338

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This liturgy is based on prayers and meditations by Jan Richardson in *Night Vision: searching the shadows of advent and Christmas*. Wanton Gospeller Press. 2010.

"A blessing for you who bear the light." Jan Richardson, *Circle of Grace: A Book of Blessings for the Seasons*.

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

"O come, O come, Emmanuel" Words: John Mason Neale. Tune: Veni Emmanuel. 15th Century Plainsong Melody.

"Out of such sun and air," Words and music: Colin Gibson. Tune: Northland.

"Where is the room?" Words: Shirley Murray. Tune: Michaela. Music: David Dell.

Hymns are printed and streamed with permission.

Church Copyright License (CCL): 261070 and Church Streaming License (CSL): 569311

## GUEST MUSICIANS

### **Ceridwen McCooey**

"When I was nine, I decided to play the cello after being told I was too small for the double bass. All these years later, I sincerely thank my nine year old self for making that decision as this instrument has allowed me to take diverse and exciting pathways through music. I am currently in my second year at the Melbourne Conservatorium of Music where I study classical music. However, my main passions lies with electronic looping, improvisation and in general musical creation and collaboration. I am fortunate enough to play string quartets by day and hip hop by night."

### **Rose Riebl**

Pianist and composer Rose Riebl began her piano studies at age five, and within a few years was performing and competing around Melbourne. Six years later she was accepted to study under Professor Frank Wibaut, then director of the Australian National Academy of Music. At 14, Rosie moved to Vienna to accept a place at the Universität Darstellende Kunst Wien, where she studied under Professor Heinz Medjmorec, then head of piano. During this time, she learned to speak German and drink vodka, in an attempt to keep up with old-er, Eastern European classmates; during this time, she also gave a series of solo and chamber performances throughout Austria, notably those in Schloss Mirabell Salzburg and Bosendorfer Saal, Vienna. Following her return to Australia, Rosie continued performing, competing and studying at the Australian National Academy of Music. During her two years at ANAM, she participated in master classes with an exciting array of international artists including Gary Graffman, Pascal Rogé, Boris Berman and Imogen Cooper. In the years following, Rosie spent some time performing in New York and eventually moved to London, where she was playing piano, studying literature and working for the circus. It was during this time that her current interest in composing music for theatre, television and film began to emerge. After her time abroad Rosie moved to Sydney, where she received a first class honours from the Sydney Conservatorium of Music. Rosie is currently performing and accompanying classical repertoire, as well as composing and performing for solo project Rose Alea – cinematic, neoclassical piano music for the borderlands.

# NOTICES

## CONTACT AND CARE

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, 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.

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 at any 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.

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)

# GATHERINGS

## SUNDAY GATHERINGS @ ST MICHAEL'S – IN CHURCH

Register through [TryBooking](#) or phone the Office if you are not able to book online.

Please read [St Michael's COVID-Safe requirements](#) before booking.

## SUNDAY GATHERINGS @ ST MICHAEL'S – ONLINE

Online Gatherings will continue for the foreseeable future. Links to [videos](#), [orders of service](#) and the latest [eNews](#) are on the front page of our [website](#).

## PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

### 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=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 13 DECEMBER @ ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH

Third Sunday in Advent

“The courage of Mary”

Rev Dr Margaret Mayman

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

After the service, people are asked to leave via the exit door nearest to their seats and not to mingle in the church.

We may gather in St Michael's Walk for conversation after the service.

Please continue to wear your mask as physical distancing may be more difficult to maintain during conversation.

*Celebrate being together.*

*Stay safe, stay well, be kind.*