

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER 2 May 2021

"RELIGION IS A QUEER THING"

MINISTER: REV DR MARGARET MAYMAN

MUSIC: KATHERINE NORMAN (SOPRANO), & RHYS BOAK (ORGAN & PIANO)

CANTOR: GEORGIA WILKINSON

WELCOME TO ST MICHAEL'S

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.

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 Acting Dean: Cheryl Power 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: Neil Blood

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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Minister: minister@stmichaels.org.au

Web: www.stmichaels.org.au

f 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

🖊 Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors! 🖤



While the coronavirus pandemic continues, Sunday Gatherings will be offered Online and at the Church.

> Links for the Online Gathering http://www.stmichaels.org.au/ https://www.voutube.com/playlist/SundayatStMichaels

MEDITATIONS

William Sloane Coffin, 20th century

"I think, therefore I am? Nonsense! I love, therefore I am."

Richard Rohr, 21st century

"True religion is always a deep intuition that we are already participating in something very good, in spite of our best efforts to deny it or avoid it."

Confucius 6th century B.C.E.

"Heaven means to be one with God."

Thomas Merton, 20th century

"The deepest of level of communication is not communication, but communion. It is wordless...beyond speech...beyond concept."



Mahatma Gandhi, 20th century "Where there is love there is life."

Ursula K. Le Guin, The Lathe of Heaven, 20th century

"Love doesn't just sit there, like a stone, it has to be made, like bread; remade all the time, made new."

Community of Hope Versea Bourdaghs

ONLINE GATHERING NOTES

CANTORS

Timothy Reynolds & Christopher Watson

MUSICIANS

Dr Elyane Laussade & Rhys Boak (Organ)

MUSIC FOR REFLECTION

"Automne" - Cécile Chaminade (1857-1944) Dr. Elyane Laussade (Piano)

POSTLUDE

"Nimrod" from The Enigma Variations – Edward Elgar (1857-1934) Rhys Boak (Organ)

LITURGY VARIATIONS

On some Sundays, there may be an additional reading or hymn included in the service that is held at the church.

NEXT SUNDAY @ ST MICHAEL'S ONLINE

Sixth Sunday of Easter – 9 May

"A Mutual Indwelling that Creates a New Humanity

Guest Minister: Rev Peter Burnham

Music: Georgia Wilkinson (Soprano), Dr Kim Tan (Flute) & Rhys Boak (Piano & Organ)

GATHERING AS PEOPLE OF EARTH AND SPIRIT

The candles are lit.

The chimes call the hour of worship.

The people stand, as they are able, as the Bible is carried in.

PROCESSIONAL

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY & WELCOME REV DR MARGARET MAYMAN

We meet on the land of the Wurundjeri and Boon Wurrung peoples of the Kulin Nation; on land that was taken from them without consent, treaty, or compensation.

We acknowledge, with respect, Wurundjeri and Boon Wurrung elders – past, present, and emerging, the ones who carry the traditions and the dreaming.

Wherever you are on your spiritual journey,
wherever you've come from, wherever you're going to;
whatever you believe, whatever you do not believe;
you are welcome here.

With them we yearn for justice and for reconciliation.

GATHERING WORDS

In the peace, in the presence, in the power...
Let us celebrate life – in ourselves, in our world, and in the Spirit in whom we live and move and have our being.

CANTOR: GEORGIA WILKINSON



Praise with joy the world's Creator, God of justice, love and peace, Source and end of human knowledge, Force of greatness without cease. Celebrate the Maker's glory -Power to rescue and release.

Praise the Son who feeds the hungry, Frees the captive, finds the lost, Heals the sick, upsets religion, Fearless both of fate and cost. Celebrate Christ's constant presence -Friend and Stranger, Guest and Host.

Praise the Spirit sent among us, Liberating truth from pride, Forging bonds where race or gender, Age or nation dare divide. Celebrate the Spirit's treasure -Foolishness none dare deride.

Praise the Maker, son and Spirit, One God in community, Calling us to leave behind faith's Ghettoes and obscurity. Thus the world shall yet believe When shown Christ's vibrant unity.

Words: John L. Bell (1949-) and Graham Maule (1958-2020) Tune: Praise, my soul. John Goss (1800-80)

PRAYER OF AWARENESS

In stillness And silence I know You are my God And I love you.

silence

There is no
Felt awareness
But deeper inside
Than I knew existed
I am with you.

silence

All else Is of no account My pride, self-doubt Inhibitions Washed aside

silence

Held in being Loved into life Delicately balanced Joy transcending Aching anguish

silence

Called by name Compelled by love Desiring nothing Except your life Expressed in me

silence

JESUS' PRAYER

God, you are life for us,
Holy be your name.
Your new day come,
Your will be done
On earth as in your vision.
Give us this day our bread for the morrow;
And forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Strengthen us in the time of test,
And deliver us from evil.
For the power and the splendour
and the fulfilment are yours,
Now and forever.
Amen.

SHARING A SIGN OF PEACE

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

People are invited to offer a greeting and share a sign of peace.

LISTENING FOR WORDS OF SPIRIT

EARLY CHURCH: ACTS 8:26-40

VAL GILL

For the courage to imagine a community of radical love, *We give thanks.*

MUSIC FOR REFLECTION

"O rubor sanguinis" - Hildegard von Bingen (1098-1179)

The text of this sublime chant from nearly 1000 years ago is: O ruby blood which flowed from on high where divinity touched. You are a flower that the winter of the serpent's breath can never injure.

Katherine Norman (Soprano)

CONTEMPORARY READING

I'm your brother, and sister I'm both Mrs and Mister I'm Gay, Bi, Trans, Non-binary. I am...myself I'm your father and mother. Husband, Auntie, friend and lover. I'm different...and the same I am your family I'm black, white, pink...every hue. Christian, Moslem, Buddhist...Jew Skinhead, Goth, Punk, New Romantic I am me. I am you I'm your district nurse, your teacher, The boy and girl next door Someone in the street I am your neighbour I'm no better than you, no worse No richer, poorer, blessed or cursed. Just part of the same Gravitational Wave, As you.

For the word that was in the beginning, For the word that invites and inspires, For the word embodied in us.

We give thanks.



Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown? Will you let my name be known,
will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?

Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name? Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same? Will you risk the hostile stare should your life attract or scare? Will you let me answer prayer in you and you in me?

Will you let the blinded see if I but call your name? Will you set the prisoners free and never be the same? Will you kiss the leper clean and do such as this unseen, and admit to what I mean in you and you in me?

Will you love the "you" you hide if I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?
Will you use the faith you've found to reshape the world around, through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?

Oh your summons echoes true when you but call my name. Let me turn and follow you and never be the same. In Your company I'll go where Your love and footsteps show. Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

> The Summons Words: John Bell (1949-) Tune: Kelvingrove. Traditional Scottish melody

REFLECTION

"Religion is a queer thing"

RESPONDING IN LOVE

MUSIC FOR REFLECTION

Aria: Aus Liebe will mein Heiland sterben (BWV 244) from the St. Matthew Passion - Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

Johann Sebastian Bach's St. Matthew Passion is regarded as one of the highpoints in all human achievement. A monumental oratorio for two choirs and two orchestras with multiple soloists. Dating from 1727, it is thought that this work was given its first performance on Good Friday that year in Leipzig's Tomaskirche, the church where Bach was organist during that period, and where he is now buried. This aria, Aus Liebe will mein Heiland sterben (for Love my saviour now is dying) was originally scored for oboe di caccia and Soprano. It occurs in the second half of the oratorio, which tells the story of Christ as recorded in the Gospel of Matthew.

Katherine Norman (Soprano) & Rhys Boak (Organ)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Thanksgiving and solidarity

God of unity and diversity
God of difference and commonality,

we give thanks for the blessings of complexity in creation.

We give thanks for all who work to end homophobia and other forms of prejudice so that people may delight as you do in the variety of life on earth.

Welcoming God, unsettle our complacency and conformity so that we may be to be hospitable, celebrating differences opening doors breaking down walls which separate and exclude.

Instil in us respect for the dignity that is inherent in people and in non-human creation, so we may always champion for others the justice we seek for ourselves.

And now in silence we pray for all creation for the needs of places and people around the world and those known to us.

In the many names of the Sacred, we pray *Amen.*

OFFERING

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

Let our gratitude for life be expressed in our generosity. Let our faith be expressed in our commitment to justice. Let our belief in the future find full expression in simple acts of compassion lived out in our ordinary lives. Amen.

HOLY COMMUNION

COMMUNION HYMN



We are your people; Spirit of grace, you dare to make us, to all our neighbours, Christ's living voice, hands and face.

Joined in community, treasured and fed, may we discover, gifts in each other, willing to lead and be led.

Rich in diversity, help us to live closer than neighbours, open to strangers, able to clash and forgive.

Glad of tradition, help us to see in all life's changing, where you are leading, where our best efforts should be.

Give, as we venture justice and care (peaceful, resisting, waiting, or risking) wisdom to know when and where

Christ as we serve you in different ways, may all we're doing show that you're living, meeting your love with our praise.

> Words: Brian Wren (1936-) Tune: Whitfield John Wilson (1905-92)

WELCOME TO THE TABLE

The bread is gluten-free and the wine is unfermented grape juice.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

The Divine Presence is here.

The Spirit is with us.

Open your hearts.

We open them to the Sacred.

Let us give thanks to God who is Wisdom and Love.

We give thanks in joyful praise.

We praise you, God of the loving heart, for creating all things seen and unseen, for making us in your image, and for seeking us when we turn away.

We thank you for being known to us in Jesus the Human One, who was faithful even to death on a cross, who lives among us still as Christa/Community.

Through the power of your Spirit, open our eyes to the Risen One present among us in the breaking of the bread,
Draw us into communion with you and one another that we may be signs of your love in this broken world, as we anticipate the coming of your reign of justice and peace.

To you, Eternal Source, with Embodied Wisdom and the Spirit of Love be glory and honour now and forever.

THE STORY

On the night before Jesus died, as he shared a meal with friends, Jesus took some bread, and set aside some wine, honouring the God of faithful presence in the ordinary of life.

He gave thanks for all the blessings in his life. Broke the bread.
Poured out the wine.
And shared both with his friends.

We break bread as Jesus broke bread, mindful of the call to love generously and faithfully, whatever the cost.

We pour out wine mindful of our responsibility to be bearers of forgiveness, creators of justice and understanding.

Holy God, let your Spirit well up in us and in these gifts of bread and wine, that we may be filled with hope for the journey. *Amen.*

SHARING BREAD AND WINE

The bread of life.

Amen.

The cup of blessing *Amen.*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

HYMN FOR EVERYONE BORN



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 gay and for straight, a place at the table, a covenant shared, a welcoming space, a rainbow of race and gender and colour, for gay and for straight, the chalice of grace, 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.

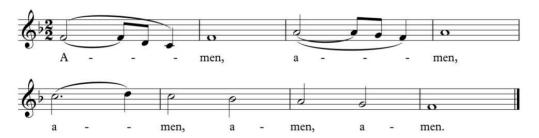
Words: Shirley Erena Murray (1931-2020) © 2004 Hope Publishing Company Tune: For Everyone Born. Brian Man

SENDING AND BLESSING

BLESSING

May God the heart of life be deep within us, God in Christa/community be present in our life together, and God the Spirit empower us to be creators of justice joy.

SUNG AMEN



African-American spiritual Arr. N. T. Johnson

POSTLUDE

"How Beautiful are the feet" from "Messiah" G.F. Handel (1650-1759)
This well known and much loved aria comes from Handel's oratorio, "Messiah" along with many other timeless arias and choruses, including the immortal "Hallelujah Chorus".

Katherine Norman (Soprano) & Rhys Boak (Organ)

OFFERINGS

Offerings to support the ministry and shared life of St Michael's received with gratitude. In church, in addition to the offering boxes placed by the doors, you now have the opportunity to give electronically and securely in church at two Donation Points: one at the entrance on the corner of Collins and Russell, the other in the St Michael's Walk Colonnade. To give, simply tap your credit or debit card, smartphone or wearable on the 'tap and go' device where indicated. Donations are set at \$10. If you wish to give more, you can do so by tapping as many times as you like. Online 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

Prayer of Awareness by Jan Berry. Celebrating Women.

Lord's Prayer Paraphrase. David B. Royer and Jonathan C. Nelson in Ruth C. Duck, ed. *Flames of the Spirit.*

"IDAHOT" by Trudy Howson. https://news.trust.org/item/20190516172436-48wq5

"Praise with joy the world's creator". Words: John L. Bell (1949-) and Graham Maule (1958-2020). Tune: Praise, my soul. John Goss (1800-80).

"Will you come and follow me" The Summons. Words: John Bell (1949-). Tune: Kelvingrove. Traditional Scottish melody.

"We are your people; Spirit of grace". Words: Brian Wren (1936-). Tune: Whitfield. John Wilson (1905-92).

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

"Sung Amen". African-American spiritual. Arr. N. T. Johnson.

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GUEST MUSICIANS IN CHURCH

Katherine Norman is a Soprano with over 19 years' experience, including five European concert tours, several recordings and numerous live concert broadcasts presented by ABC Classic FM.

An early sacred & Bach specialist whose repertoire also includes modern composition, Katherine is an accomplished soloist & blended ensemble singer.

Katherine studied voice with Vivienne Hamilton & Steven Grant at the University of Melbourne, Conservatorium of Music. Career highlights include Soprano soloist for the much-loved and vocally demanding Allegri Miserere, Mozart's Requiem, and the Pergolesi Stabat Mater, presenting the world Premiere of Hodgson Lamentations, and performing in four separate years of the annual Melbourne Festival.

Notable collaborations have included performances with the Tallis Scholars, the Rolling Stones, Warren Trevelyan-Jones, Steven Layton & Jeremy Summerly.

Katherine has sung with the Consort of Melbourne since 2009 and was recently a guest artist for the St James King St (Sydney) European concert tour, performing in such distinguished venues as Westminster Abbey and Notre Dame.

Katherine is also Secretary of the Board for the Consort of Melbourne. When not singing, Katherine is the Senior Account Manager in Presenter Services at Arts Centre Melbourne – leading the entire Event Management team to deliver 3,000 shows every year. She also lectures in Venue Management and is on the Venue Management School Committee. She & her partner also volunteer for Asylum Seekers Resource Centre (ASRC) & dote on their two Wheaten Terrier dogs.

GUEST MUSICIAN ONLINE

Dr. Elyane Laussade

Here is what the New York Times has said about Elyane Laussade, "a pianist with a polished technique. . . . dazzling power . . . and an impeccable sense of style." A graduate of the Juilliard School in New York City, pianist Elyane Laussade has delighted audiences on five continents for her imaginative and strongly individual playing. Since arriving in Australia, Elyane has established herself as one of Australia's finest pianists. She has appeared in the MSO's Metropolis Festival with Marcus Stenz and has been featured many times by ABC Classic FM and 3MBS in studio recordings and live broadcasts. She performed St. Saens' Carnival of the Animals with the MSO in Hamer Hall with pianist Benjamin Martin under the baton of Anthony Ingliss. Elyane performed De Falla's Nights in the Gardens of Spain with the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra in the Myer Bowl in a concert which was broadcast across Australia.

As a soloist, Elyane performs in Australia, New Zealand, Singapore, the USA and in Europe. She has toured Taiwan where she performed recitals in Taipei, Tainan, Chaiyi, and at the National Concert Hall in Taichung. Elyane was also invited to perform at the first recorded performance at the Elizabeth Murdoch Recital Hall in the new Melbourne Recital Centre which aired on the ABC television program "Catalyst."

SUNDAY SERVICES @ ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH

Sixth Sunday of Easter – 9 May

"A Mutual Indwelling that Creates a New Humanity".

Guest Minister: Rev Peter Burnham

Music: Dr Elyane Laussade (Piano) & Rhys Boak (Organ)

SUNDAY GATHERINGS @ ST MICHAEL'S – IN CHURCH

St Michael's has a Victorian Government QR Code which you can scan, or alternatively a Welcomer will record your name and phone number. Collection of this information is required by law. It will be only ever be used for COVID tracing. When entering St Michael's, please say hello to a Welcomer, scan the QR code or check -in.

St Michael's COVID-Safe requirements remain in effect. Please read before visiting.

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.

NOTICES

AFTER SERVICE MORNING TEA.

We will be serving tea and coffee in the hall after the morning service.

Of course we will be following strict COVID-19 safety rules.

Please join us on this special occasion for tea or coffee and conversation.

SIGNING IN FOR CONTACT TRACING PURPOSES

If you arrived after the service started, please ensure that you have signed in via the QR code on the wall above the bench in the Eastern colonnade or by writing your name and phone number on the list on the clipboard, on the bench.

ST MICHAEL'S NAME TAGS

Wearing a St Michael's name tag would greatly assist us all to get to know each other by name. If you would like to have a name tag, or a new one, please write your name in the book marked 'Name Tags' on the bench in the eastern colonnade. The book will be sent up to the church office and your new name tag will be waiting for you on the bench, the following Sunday.

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 during difficult times. 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/persons concerned, if the prayer support is not for yourself.

To request the care of The Prayer Tree group, please contact the St.Michael's office. (9654 5120). Kindly ask for your first name and phone no. be passed on to Catherine Jones, The Prayer Tree leader. Having spoken with you, she will communicate your concern to the rest of the group. If you already have Catherine's details, you can contact her directly.

'It is really beautiful, when someone prays for you, without you knowing.

It is the highest form of respect and care'

Meanwhile, please join us, as we continue to pray for the worlds COVID situation.

You are also invited to light a candle at dusk, placing it in a safe window location, as a sign of solidarity and hope.

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.

CAR PARKING

Discounted Sunday parking is available at the Grand Hyatt. Pick up your discount voucher after service at from the Bench Table in the Eastern Colaonnade.

Validation ticket discount reducing Sunday rate to \$7 subject to conditions: a) Tickets will be valid for use on Sundays only between the hours of 6am and 5pm, b) Tickets will allow for \$7 discount for a maximum of 5 hours after which it will revert to the standard weekend rate of \$10.

ST MICHAEL'S SOCIAL MEDIA

https://www.facebook.com/stmichaelsmelbourne/

https://www.youtube.com/user/StMichaelsChurch/videos

Podcast www.soundcloud.com/stmichaelsunitingchurch

PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

THURSDAY LUNCHTIME ORGAN RECITAL

We are delighted to announce the return of the Thursday Lunchtime Organ recitals. From Thursday 6 May, the church doors open and the Grand Organ comes to life weekly with performances from St Michael's organist Rhys Boak and guest artists.

When: Thursdays 6, 13, 20 & 27 May | 1pm to 1:30pm Visit www.stmichaels.org.au/music for more details.

ST MICHAEL'S ZOOM CONNECT

Zoom Connect is an online event, connecting our online and in-person church

communities. Zoom Connect is hosted by different members of Council and Congregation. Everyone is very welcome.

When: Mondays | 3.30pm to 4.15pm

Join Zoom Meeting:

https://zoom.us/j/99711619380?pwd=VFV6VkFtbEZ3MjRLODlkbGphS1hROT09

Meeting ID: 997 1161 9380

Passcode: 608261 One tap mobile:

+61280156011,,99711619380# Australia +61370182005,,99711619380# Australia

MINGARY

The Mingary Counselling Service offers appointments for counselling and Vocational Assessments via telephone and Zoom. For more information, please see our website at www.mingarycounselling.org.au. To make an appointment, please call the St Michael's office on 9654 5120.

BURDEN OF TRUTH CHORAL EVENT

When: Friday 21 May | 7:30pm Where: St Michael's Uniting Church

Featuring the Choir of Trinity College, Melbourne Program.

Gavin Bryars (b.1943) – Jesus' Blood Never Failed Me Yet* WP choral version, 50th

anniversary.

Antony Pitts (b.1969) – Transiens (after Robert Wylkynson's Jesus autem transiens)

Tickets: Early Bird Special (Purchase before 5 May) (\$65),

Adult (\$85), Concession/Pensioner/Senior (\$75), Under 30 (\$45), Student Special (\$25)

https://the.song.company/calendar-locations/c/3