

*Sunday at
St Michael's*

13TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

22 AUGUST 2021

“SUFFERING IS NOT GOOD FOR THE SOUL”

MINISTER: REV DR MARGARET MAYMAN

MUSIC: HELEN BOWER (VIOLIN)
& RHYS BOAK (ORGAN & PIANO)

CANTORS: JESIKA CLARK, CHRISTOPHER WATSON
& 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

Chairperson: 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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<https://www.facebook.com/stmichaelsmelbourne/>



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

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.

Links for the Online Gathering

<http://www.stmichaels.org.au/>

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist/SundayatStMichaels>

MEDITATIONS

Scot McKnight, One Life: Jesus Calls, We Follow, 21st century

“We need to shed our unearthly and nonsocial and idealistic and romantic and uber-spiritual visions of kingdom and get back to what Jesus meant. By kingdom, Jesus means: God’s Dream Society on earth, spreading out from the land of Israel to encompass the whole world.”

“Those who aren’t following Jesus aren’t his followers. It’s that simple. Followers follow, and those who don’t follow aren’t followers. To follow Jesus means to follow Jesus into a society where justice rules, where love shapes everything. To follow Jesus means to take up his dream and work for it.”

Joan D. Chittister, 21st century

The spiritual task of life is to feed hope. Hope is not something to be found outside of us. It lies in the spiritual life we cultivate within. The whole purpose of wrestling with life is to be transformed into the self we are meant to become, to step out of the confines of our false securities and allow our creating God to go on creating. In us.



Peace on Earth by Emkea Okoro

Rosemary Radford Ruether, 21st century

The critical principle of feminist theology is the promotion of the full humanity of women. Whatever denies, diminishes, or distorts the full humanity of women is, therefore, appraised as not redemptive.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY & WELCOME

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. Let us share their hope and act together for justice and for reconciliation.

*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.*

GATHERING WORDS

In the name of our God
who shares divinity with us.
In the name of our God
who shares humanity with us.
In the name of our God
who disturbs and inspires us
We gather together honouring each other
and the One who meets us here.

HYMN

HOW GREAT THE MYSTERY OF FAITH
CANTOR: JESIKA CLARK



How great the mystery of faith,
how deep the purposes of God,
in birth and ageing, life and death,
unveiled, yet never understood!

Attracted by life's deepest claim
we wait, assembled in this place,
with needs and hopes we cannot name,
a thirst for healing, truth and grace.

The best that we can do and say,
the utmost care of skill and art,
are sweepers of the Spirit's way
to reach the depths of every heart.

Come, walk among us, Holy Friend,
as all are gathered and prepared,
that scattered lives may meet and mend
through open Word and worship shared.

Words: Brian Wren (1936-)

Tune: Ombersley

William Henry Gladstone (1840-1901)

PRAYER OF AWARENESS

BASED ON WISDOM 7:26 - 8:1

Holy Wisdom, Sophia, in whom we live and move and have our
being...

You are a reflection of eternal light, a mirror of the working of God,
and an image of God's goodness.

Although you are but one, you can do all things.

While remaining in yourself, you renew all things.

In every generation join us and make us friends of God, and prophets.

We come this day into awareness of our connection to Sacred Energy
and to all that is.

We delight in the possibility of our calling into Wisdom.

More more beautiful than the sun, and excelling every constellation
of the stars, reaching mightily from one end of the earth to the other,
she who orders all things well.

In all that has been, and all that will be, may we be joined to the
Wisdom of God and true to our calling to be God's friends and
prophets, truly the communion of saints.

We are not always who we hope to be, but we are who we are in
relation, and in grace we know ourselves to be enough.

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 all created beings!
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom
come on earth!
With the bread that we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
In times of temptation and test, 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 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.*

HEBREW BIBLE: PROVERBS 1:20-33

LORRAINE WOOLLEY

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

GOSPEL: MARK 8:27-38

For the stories of Jesus and the beloved community,
We give thanks.

HYMN

WHO IS THIS MAN?
CANTOR: CHRISTOPHER WATSON



Who is this man, who gathered people to him
and touched their lives along each dusty way,
who spoke to all with passion and with peacefulness
and valued all their ordinary days?
Who is this man, who at the day's long ending,
would draw apart to wait on God and pray?
Who, in the mystery that knows no ending,
would find God's wisdom
and would know God's words to say?

Who is this man, who gave to women dignity
in partnership of worth and equal grace?
Who listened to the stories that they told him,
and honoured each whatever was their place;
who let them choose to come and join his company
and learned with them God's love of every race,
who showed to each the courage of their nature
to care and tend each lonely and each suffering face?

Who is this man, who spoke to men of gentleness
and showed them all the children at his side;
who taught of love and justice for all people,
and took a towel and washed away their pride?
In him they saw the strength of truth and mercy,
and how he trusted God to be his guide,
knew how he led them through misunderstanding,
and then forgave them when they ran away to hide.

Who is this man, who calls us now to follow,
a shadow presence asking us to be
companions on the way through this life journey,
to live in truth, to set our tired world free?
So, let us find each other now in partnership,
with ears to hear and eyes awake to see,
that we might grow in grace and understanding,
and walk beside that man who comes from Galilee.

*Words: Mary Pearson
Tune: Londonderry Air
Traditional Irish Melody*

CONTEMPORARY READING

“Blessing for when the old light lessens” by Glynn Cardy

Blessed are we when
the old light lessens,
and our thoughts darken,
and we find ourselves bereft.
All we leaned on has fallen,
the world of certainty is crumbling.

Blessed are we when
in that twilight gloom,
steadying ourselves momentarily,
we imagine there is a new light,
carefully nurtured by love,
within us, hard to see, but there.

Blessed are we when
this dawning light speaks,
telling us we're not alone,
that there are other lights,
all seeking to shine forth
and lessen our suffering.

Blessed are we when
with closed eyes, we corral
our wayward worries, and
open ourselves to the wonder,
kindness, and saving grace
of this matrix of light.

For Wisdom that was in the beginning,
for Wisdom that invites and inspires
for Wisdom made known among us.

We give thanks.

REFLECTION “SUFFERING IS NOT GOOD FOR THE SOUL”

MUSIC FOR REFLECTION

“À Chloris”- Reynaldo Hahn (1874-1947)

This work dates from the early 20th century and was penned by the Venezuelan born, but naturalized French composer, Reynaldo Hahn. Hahn is today best remembered for his vocal songs but wrote a great deal of instrumental music as well. Today's version is an adaptation for violin and piano but was originally composed for the soprano voice.

Helen Bower (Violin) & Rhys Boak (Piano)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

In thanksgiving and solidarity

OFFERING

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

***This world of wonders
is spread before us
our whole lives long.
We give thanks
that we are not just spectators
but participants with the Sacred
in shaping this world for good.
May the money and the time that we give
be a gift to the world
as it has been a gift to us.
Amen.***

NOTICES AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF MUSICIANS

HYMN

WILL YOU COME AND FOLLOW ME?
CANTOR: CHRISTOPHER WATSON



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. Arr. Valerie Ruddle (1932-)

BLESSING

The world, the earth, the universe
come from the heart of God.
Our being is born of Divine love.

Go now into sacred moments of your life,
with your eyes and ears open,
and your hands ready for the work that is yours to do,
ready to laugh and to weep,
in the world given life by the Sacred.

And may the blessing of the Holy One
Life-giver, liberator and sustaining presence,
be with us and all creation
now and forever.

Amen.

BLESSING SONG CANTOR:

GEORGIA WILKINSON

May the blessing of God go before you,
May her grace and peace abound,
May her spirit live within you,
May her love wrap you 'round,
May her blessing remain with you always,
May you walk on holy ground.

Miriam Therese Winter (1938 -)
Tune: Blessing Song
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POSTLUDE

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.

On our website 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

ST MICHAEL'S SUNDAY ZOOM CUPPA

To help us stay in touch the Sunday Zoom Cuppa has recommenced. Hosted by different members of Council and Congregation.

Sundays | 11:15am - 11:45am.

All welcome to join. If you know someone who doesn't have a computer or smart phone, let them know they can join by landline.

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://zoom.us/j/92292118658?pwd=YkJLS25jYmVZekxKRG9nRXpTNUZFU09>

Meeting ID: 922 9211 8658

Passcode: 494938

One tap mobile

+61731853730,,92292118658# Australia

+61861193900,,92292118658# Australia

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Glynn Cardy, "Blessing for when the old light lessens" in *A Book of Blessings*. Coventry Press, 2021.

"A Version of the Lord's Prayer" from *Prayer at Night* by Jim Cotter, Cairns Publications. Used in *Uniting in Worship 2*.

"How great the mystery of faith". Words: Brian Wren.

Tune: Ombersley. William Henry Gladstone.

"Will you come and follow me". The Summons. Words: John Bell.

Tune: Kelvingrove. Traditional Scottish melody. Arr. Valerie Ruddle.

"Who is this man". Words: Mary Pearson. Tune: Londonderry Air.

Traditional Irish Melody.

"The Blessing Song," Miriam Therese Winter. Tune: Blessing Song

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GUEST MUSICIANS ONLINE

Helen Bower

UK born violinist Helen Bower studied at Trinity Laban

Conservatoire of Music and Dance in London, and upon graduation

was awarded the Vivian Prindl Outreach Prize for her music/dance

collaboration In the Loop. Alongside her classical music background,

she is passionate about commissioning and performing new music and collaborating with artists from a wide variety of disciplines. Helen has spent several years exploring the use of live electronic looping equipment within the context of contemporary classical music with her project The Looping Glass, which has been performed in Australia, New Zealand and the UK.

Since relocating from London to Melbourne in 2012, Helen has forged a prominent name for herself in both the classical and contemporary Australian music scenes, with performances at venues such as Melbourne Recital Centre, Melbourne State Theatre, The Forum and La Mama Theatre, and for festivals including Melbourne Festival and WHITE NIGHT. She currently performs in Australia with new music ensemble Forest Collective and contemporary improvisation group Ensemble Density, and across China with Australian International Productions.

NEXT SUNDAY @ ST MICHAEL'S ONLINE

14th Sunday after Pentecost – 29 August 2021

“From Rejection to Welcome”

Minister: Rev Dr Margaret Mayman

Music: Paulina Vayenas (Piano) & Rhys Boak (Organ)

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

CONTACT AND CARE

If you are going through difficult times or would like to have a chat with someone, a member of our Contact and Care Team would be very happy to have a talk with you.

Any personal information shared, would remain confidential.

You can speak with the Dean of Contact and Care, Lyndell O'Brien, on a Sunday at church, or leave your name and phone number or email address with the church office and she will get in touch with you.

Lyndell O'Brien: Dean of Contact and Care
Joy Arnot: Deputy Dean

CARE AND PRAYER GROUP

We are a small group of people, part of the St Michael's Contact and Care team, known as The Prayer Tree.

We commit to prayer and support for you, or someone known to you, who is going through difficult times. All requests are treated with confidentiality, sensitivity, and respect.

To request our support, please phone the St Michael's office (9654 5120). Ask for your first name and phone number to be passed on to Catherine Jones, who will contact you. Or you can speak with Catherine following morning service. She will pass on your request to the remainder of the group.

We are here for you. Please don't hesitate to contact us.

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 AND EVENTS

REPEAT OF SEARCHERS "BEYOND BELIEF" IN 2 PARTS

The Searcher's Program "Beyond Belief with Prof Marcus Borg" will be replayed in a two-part Zoom series.

Please note these are the videos only. No discussion will follow videos. Anybody can join and/or leave at any time.

Part 1 Program:

Video 1: Centred in the Spirit | 4.30pm to 4.56pm (approx).

Video 2: Meeting Jesus Again | 4.56pm to 5.31pm (approx).

Video 3: Followers of the Way | 5.31pm to 6.08pm (approx).

When:

Part 1 | Sunday 22 August | 4:30pm to 6:30pm

Part 2 | Sunday 29 August | 4:30pm to 6:30pm

Where: via Zoom. Register with St Michael's Uniting Church at office@stmichaels.org.au for Zoom link.

THURSDAY LUNCHTIME ORGAN RECITAL

The Thursday Lunchtime Organ Recital series has been postponed due to current government restrictions. Check in via our website and eNews for updates.

Visit www.stmichaels.org.au/music for more details.

MINGARY-CAIRNMILLAR COUNSELLING

The Mingary-Cairnmillar Counselling Service offers appointments for counselling and Vocational Assessments via telephone or video conference. There is no charge for counselling appointments.

For more information, please see our website at

www.mingarycounselling.org.au To make an appointment, call 1800 391 393 (free call) or email clinic@cairnmillar.org.au