

*Sunday at
St Michael's*

SEASON OF CREATION

5 SEPTEMBER 2021

“PLANET EARTH SUNDAY”

MINISTER: REV DR MARGARET MAYMAN

MUSIC: CHRISTOPHER WATSON (TENOR)
& RHYS BOAK (ORGAN & PIANO)

CANTORS: JESIKA CLARK,
GEORGIA WILKINSON & CHRISTOPHER WATSON

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

Property

Chair: Peter Anderson

Deputy Chair: Jack Morgan

Church Services

Acting Chair: Cheryl Power

Deputy Chair: Albert Phillips

Culture of Safety Contact

(Keeping Children Safe)

Val Gill

Contact and Care

Chair: Lyndell O'Brien

Deputy Chair: Joy Arnot

Programs

Chair: Lorraine Woolley

Deputy Chair: Neil Blood

Organist & Manager of Music

Rhys Boak

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

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

Weekly eNews: media@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.youtube.com/playlist/SundayatStMichaels>

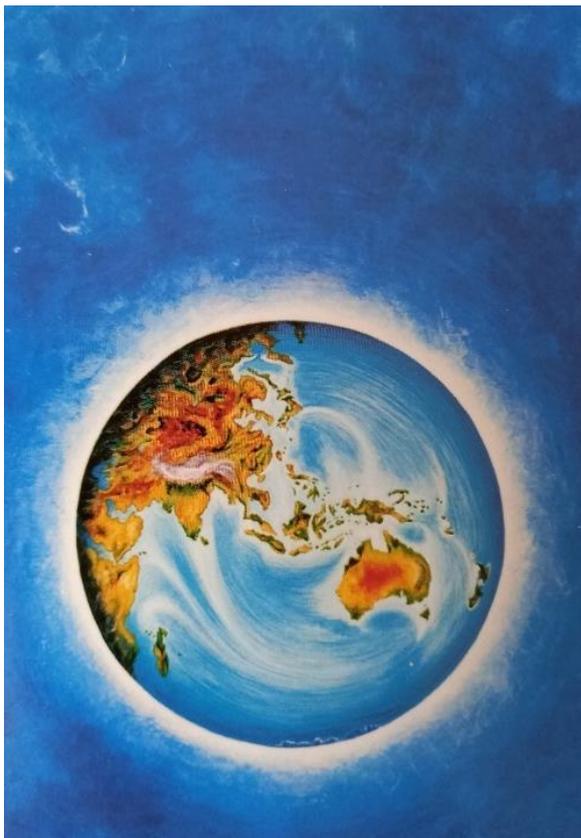
MEDITATIONS

David Suzuki, The Sacred Balance: Rediscovering Our Place in Nature

“Every breath is a sacrament, an affirmation of our connection with all other living things, a renewal of our link with our ancestors and a contribution to generations yet to come. Our breath is a part of life's breath, the ocean of air that envelopes the earth.”

Joanna Macy, World as Lover, World as Self

It is my experience that the world itself has a role to play in our liberation. Its very pressures, pains, and risks can wake us up -- release us from the bonds of ego and guide us home to our vast, true nature. For some of us, our love of the world is so passionate that we cannot ask it to wait until we are enlightened.”



Wendell Berry, 20th century

The care of the Earth is our most ancient and most worthy, and after all our most pleasing responsibility. To cherish what remains of it and to foster its renewal is our only hope.

*A Living Situation with all Creation
Trees Offer Life Protection
from Peace on Earth cards
by Suzie Speirs*

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY & WELCOME

We meet on the land of the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nation;
on land that was taken from them
without their consent, treaty, or compensation.

***We acknowledge, with respect, Wurundjeri elders -
past, present, and emerging,
the ones who carry the traditions and the hope for justice,
for the people and for land.***

*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.*

GATHERING WORDS

Pulse of life...Breath of life...
Planet Earth is filled with Divine Presence,
a living green blue planet,
home to peoples from every corner of creation,
the vast reaches of space above us,
the hills and plains of the ground beneath us.
We gather today open to the Sacred in the creativity of Earth.

HYMN

FOR THE MUSIC OF CREATION
CANTOR: JESIKA CLARK



For the music of creation,
for the song your Spirit sings,
for your sound's divine expression,
burst of joy in living things:

God, our God, the world's composer,
hear us, echoes of your voice,
music is your art, your glory,
let the human heart rejoice!

Psalms and symphonies exalt you,
drum and trumpet, string and reed,
simple melodies acclaim you,
tunes that rise from deepest need,
hymns of longing and belonging,
carols from a cheerful throat,
lilt of lullaby and love song
catching heaven in a note.

All the voices of the ages
in transcendent chorus meet,
worship lifting up the senses,
hands that praise, and dancing feet;
over discord and division
music speaks your joy and peace,
harmony of earth and heaven,
song of God that cannot cease.

Words: Shirley Erena Murray (1931-2020)

Words © 1992 Hope Publishing Company

Tune: Rustington

Charles Hubert Hastings Parry (1848-1918)

LORD'S PRAYER PARAPHRASE

*Dear One, closer to us than our own hearts,
farther from us than the most distant star,
you are beyond naming.*

*May your powerful presence become obvious
not only in the undeniable glory of the sky,
but also in the common processes of the earth.*

*Give us what we need,
day by day, to keep body and soul together,
because clever as you have made us,
we still owe our existence to you.*

*We recognize that to be reconciled with you,
we must live peaceably and justly
with other human beings,
putting hate and bitterness behind us.*

*We are torn between our faith in your goodness
and our awareness of the evil in your creation,
so deliver us from the temptation to despair.*

*Yours alone is the universe
and all its majesty and beauty.
So it is, 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.*

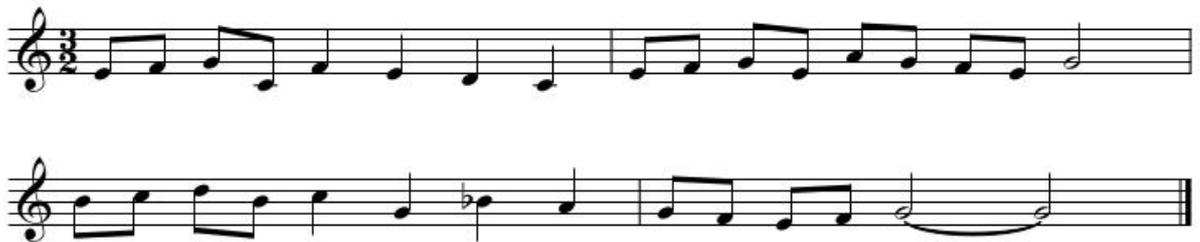
“The rocks pulsate” by George McLeod.

Invisible we see you
 Christ beneath us.
 With earthly eyes
 we see beneath us
 stones and dust
 and dross,
 fit subjects
 for the analyst’s table.
 But
 with the eye of faith
 we know you uphold.
 In you
 all things consist
 and hold together:
 the very item is light energy,
 the grass is vibrant,
 the rocks pulsate.
 All is in flux;
 turn but a stone
 and
 an angel moves.

For the voice of Spirit heard in Earth,
We give thanks.

HYMN

WE ARE NOT OUR OWN
 CANTOR: CHRISTOPHER WATSON



We are not our own, Earth forms us,
 human leaves on nature’s growing vine,
 fruit of many generations,
 seeds of life divine.

We are not alone, Earth names us:
past and present, peoples near and far,
family and friends and strangers
show us who we are.

Through a human life God finds us;
dying, living, love is fully known,
and in bread and wine reminds us:
we are not our own.

Therefore let us make thanksgiving,
and with justice, willing and aware,
give to earth, and all things living,
liturgies of care.

And if love's encounters lead us
on a way uncertain and unknown,
all the saints with prayer surround us:
we are not alone.

Let us be a house of welcome,
living stone upholding living stone,
gladly showing all our neighbours
we are not our own.

Words: Brian Wren (1936-)
Tune: Yarnton
Composer: Brian A. Wren
Arr. Fred Graham

HEBREW BIBLE: GENESIS 1:25-1

PAMELA BLOOD
& NEIL BLOOD

For Wisdom that was in the beginning,
for Wisdom that invites and inspires,
for Wisdom embodied in the earth community,
We give thanks.

REFLECTION

“SEASON OF CREATION: PLANET EARTH”

MUSIC FOR REFLECTION

‘Down by the Salley Gardens’ – Ivor Gurney (1890-1937)

Yeats’ poem “Down by the Salley Gardens” was published in 1889 and has received many musical settings over the years since. The work is a celebration of nature, creation and of love.

Christopher Watson (Tenor) & Rhys Boak (Piano)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

In thanksgiving and solidarity...

OFFERING

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

***Spirit of life,
whose holy name
defies definition
but whose will is known
in freeing the oppressed,
and in the healing of the earth.
As we offer these gifts and ourselves
make us to be one
with all who cry out for justice
for human and planetary life;
that we may share
in the renewal of creation.
Amen.***

HYMN

OH GOD OF EARTH AND SPACE
CANTOR: GEORGIA WILKINSON



O God of earth and space,
Of sea and fire and air,
Your providence surrounds us here,
And everywhere.
In fruit and grain and tree,
In shelter from the cold,
In cooling breezes, flowing wells,
Now as of old.

Where faithfulness is shown,
Where love and truth abound,
Where beauty graces human life,
There You are found.
Inspirer of all thought!
Creative force of art!
The melody on every tongue,
In every heart!

Wherever freedom reigns,
Where sin is overthrown,
Where justice fused with mercy rules,
There You are known.
Give us the courage clear,
To make the earth a home
For all to live in harmony
In Christ's shalom.

Your word commands response
And summons us to life.
We follow, strengthened by Your grace,
In calm or strife.
Our ever present help,
Our challenge and our prod,
We praise You now and to life's end,
Eternal God.

Words: Jane Parker Huber

Tune: Leoni

Tune: Hebrew Melody, arr. Meyer Lyon (1751-1797)

BLESSING

Receive a blessing for the path that beckons us onward.

May we sense the firmness of earth beneath us.

May the river's flow of water refresh us.

May the freedom of air uplift us.

May the fierceness of the wild move us to action.

May all the blessings of this life,
be with shared with the whole creation
and remain with us always.

Amen.

POSTLUDE

'From heaven above to earth I come'

Chorale Preludes Op. 65-S – S. Karg-Elert (1877-1933)

The ever-imaginative Sigfrid Karg-Elert was a master at taking a simple hymn tune, and creating a stunning tone poem around it based on the words using his unique harmonic language. This short work is one of his finest.

Rhys Boak (Organ)

OFFERINGS

Offerings to support the ministry and shared life of St Michael's are 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. Account: 515113338

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

"The Rocks Pulsate," by George MacLeod. *Daily Readings with George MacLeod*. Ron Ferguson (ed), George MacLeod. Iona Community.

Lord's Prayer: An Interpretation- Jim Burklo

<https://tcpc.blogs.com/musings/2012/12/jim-burklos-book-of-common-prayer.html>

"For the music of creation." Words: Shirley Erena Murray, © Hope Publishing Company. Tune: Rustington. Charles Hubert Hastings Parry.

"We not our own." Words: Brian Wren. Tune: Yarnton.
Composer: Brian A. Wren. Arr. Fred Graham.

"O God of earth and space." Words: Jane Parker Huber. Tune: Leoni.
Hebrew Melody, arr. Meyer Lyon.

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GUEST MUSICIAN

Christopher Watson

The English tenor, Christopher Watson, studied music at Exeter University and, after spending a number of years as a Lay Clerk in the choirs of Durham Cathedral and then Christ Church, Oxford, he moved to London in 1997 when he was appointed as Lay Clerk in the choir of Westminster Cathedral. With the cathedral choirs, he has sung in a great many successful concerts and highly acclaimed recordings and at the same time has established a reputation as one of the most sought-after tenors in the Early Music field.

Christopher is also a notable choral conductor and has resided in Melbourne for the last several years. Christopher is the director of the world-famous Choir of Trinity College within the University of Melbourne.

SEASON OF CREATION

St Michael's is participating in the international celebration of the Season of Creation in September. The theme for 2021 is "A home for all? Renewing the Oikos (home) of God".

<https://seasonofcreation.org>

NEXT SUNDAY @ ST MICHAEL'S ONLINE

Season of Creation – 12 September 2021

"Humanity Sunday"

Minister: Rev Dr Margaret Mayman

Music: Georgia Wilkinson (Soprano) & Rhys Boak (Organ & Piano)

ST MICHAEL'S ZOOM CUPPA

To help us stay in touch, the Sunday Zoom Cuppa has recommenced. Hosted by 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 smartphone, let them know they can join by landline.

<https://zoom.us/j/92292118658?pwd=YkJLS25JYmVZekxKRG9nRXpTNUZFUT09>

Meeting ID: 922 9211 8658

Passcode: 494938

One tap mobile

+61731853730,,92292118658# Australia

Dial by your location

+61 3 7018 2005 Australia

SUNDAY GATHERINGS @ ST MICHAEL'S

During the current COVID restrictions in Melbourne, our Gatherings are online only. When we are able to gather again in the church, Online Gatherings will continue for people who are not able to attend in person because of health, distance, or other commitments. 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 will remain confidential.

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

Lyndell O'Brien: Chair of Contact and Care

Joy Arnot: Deputy Chair

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 call the St Michael's office on 9654 5120 and ask for your first name and phone number to be passed on to Catherine Jones, who will then be in 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 call the office to arrange a time for Margaret to contact you.

ST MICHAEL'S SOCIAL MEDIA

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

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

KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE: ST MICHAEL'S UNITING CHURCH

St Michael's continues to implement all the policies and procedures necessary to be recognised as a SAFE CHURCH.

The UCA observes the UCA National Child Safe Week from 5 to 11 September. The week reminds us of the Church's commitment to keep children and young people safe. Concern for the safety and wellbeing of all, including children and young people, is part of our call to respect and value people universally. UCA's National Safe Church Unit works in partnership with Synods and the Assembly to provide tools and resources to help everyone across the life of the Church play their part in answering this call.

For information go to www.stmichaels.org.au/the-church/child-safe

PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

ONLINE MINDFUL MEDITATION

Take a moment to be still and breathe. Choose between the 15-minute or 30-minute sessions. The St Michael's Online Mindfulness Meditation sessions encourage slow breathing and an increased awareness of being in the present moment.

Presenter: Karen Ellis

www.stmichaels.org.au/the-church/mindfulness-meditation-sessions

THURSDAY LUNCHTIME ORGAN RECITAL

The Thursday Lunchtime Organ Recital series has been postponed due to current government restrictions. Check 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 the Mingary website.

<https://www.mingarycounselling.com.au>. For appointments, call 1800 391 393 (free call) or email clinic@cairnmillar.org.au