

*Sunday at
St Michael's*

SEASON OF CREATION
12 SEPTEMBER 2021

“HUMANITY SUNDAY”
MINISTER: REV DR MARGARET MAYMAN

MUSIC: GEORGIA WILKINSON (SOPRANO) &
RHYS BOAK (ORGAN & PIANO)

CANTORS: KATHERINE NORMAN,
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

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

When I among the trees by Mary Oliver

When I am among the trees,
especially the willows and the honey locust,
equally the beech, the oaks and the pines,
they give off such hints of gladness.
I would almost say that they save me, and daily.

I am so distant from the hope of myself,
in which I have goodness, and discernment,
and never hurry through the world
but walk slowly, and bow often.

Around me the trees stir in their leaves
and call out, "Stay awhile."
The light flows from their branches.

And they call again, "It's simple," they say,
"and you too have come
into the world to do this, to go easy, to be filled
with light, and to shine."



Anthropocene
www.npr.org

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY & WELCOME

In the season of Creation,
we celebrate all life as sacred and interconnected.

We reflect on generous wisdom, love and humanity
held in the faith traditions of Earth, and we pay tribute
to all the first peoples and their long history
of being custodians of the land

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

The earth does not belong to us.
We belong to the earth.
All things are connected
in earth community.
We did not weave the web of life.
We are a strand in it.
Whatever we do to the web,
we do to ourselves.
So let us love and care.

HYMN

FOR THE BEAUTY OF THE EARTH
CANTOR: CHRISTOPHER WATSON



For the beauty of the earth,
for the beauty of the skies,
for the love which from our birth
over and around us lies.

*Holy One, our song we raise,
this our testament of praise.*

For the beauty of each hour
of the day and of the night,
hill and vale, and tree and flower,
sun and moon and stars of light,

*Holy One, our song we raise,
this our testament of praise.*

For the joy of ear and eye,
for the heart and mind's delight,
for the mystic harmony
linking sense to sound and sight.

*Holy One, our song we raise,
this our testament of praise.*

For the joy of human love,
brother, sister, parent, child,
friends on earth and friends above,
for all gentle thoughts and mild,

*Holy One, our song we raise,
this our testament of praise.*

For each perfect gift of thine
to our world so freely given,
graces human and divine,
flowers of earth and buds of heaven,
Holy One, our song we raise,
this our testament of praise.

*Words: Folliott Sandford Pierpoint (1835-1917) alt.
Tune: Lucerna Laudoniae
David Evans (1874-1948)*

PRAYER OF AWARENESS

“KEEPING QUIET”
PABLO NERUDA

Now we will count to twelve
and we will all keep still
for once on the face of the earth,
let's not speak in any language;
let's stop for a second,
and not move our arms so much.

It would be an exotic moment
without rush, without engines;
we would all be together
in a sudden strangeness.

Fishermen in the cold sea
would not harm whales
and the man gathering salt
would not look at his hurt hands.

Those who prepare green wars,
wars with gas, wars with fire,
victories with no survivors,
and walk about with their brothers and sisters
in the shade, doing nothing.

What I want should not be confused
with total inactivity.
life is what it is about, I want no truck with death.

If we were not so single minded
about keeping our lives moving,
and for once could do nothing,
perhaps a huge silence
might interrupt this sadness
of never understanding ourselves
and of threatening ourselves with death.

Perhaps the earth can teach us
as when everything seems dead in winter
and later proves to be alive.

Now I'll count up to twelve
and you keep quiet and I will go.

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.*

HEBREW BIBLE: GENESIS 1:26-28; 2:7-8, 15-19 - DR LIZ BOASE

For the human quest
to understand our relationship with the Sacred
and our place on the Earth,

We give thanks.

HYMN

TOUCH THE EARTH LIGHTLY
CANTOR: GEORGIA WILKINSON



Touch the earth lightly,
use the earth gently,
nourish the life of the world in our care:
gift of great wonder,
ours to surrender,
trust for the children tomorrow will bear.

We who endanger,
who create hunger,
agents of death for all creatures that live,
we who would foster
clouds of disaster,
God of our planet, forestall and forgive!

Let there be greening,
birth from the burning,
water that blesses and air that is sweet,
health in God's garden,
hope in God's children,
regeneration that peace will complete.

God of all living,
God of all loving,
God of the seedling, the snow and the sun,
teach us, deflect us,
Christ reconnect us,
using us gently and making us one.

*Words: Shirley Erena Murray (1931-2020)
Tune: Tenderness. Colin Gibson (1933-)
Words and Music © Hope Publishing Company*

CONTEMPORARY READING

“Blessed is our mother earth” by Glynn Cardy

**Papakainga is a Māori word for original home village, home base.*

Blessed is our mother Earth
when she knows that she is deeply loved,
not a ‘thing’, a ‘resource’, to be used;
but our papakainga*,
our only home.

Blessed is our mother Earth
when indifference is countered by passion,
and the parched and abused ground
is tended by our tears,
our resolve to restore.

Blessed are we when finding
wisdom and courage,
memory and resilience,
and non-compliance,
for the facing of these hours.

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

REFLECTION

“SEASON OF CREATION: HUMANITY”

MUSIC FOR REFLECTION

Je veux vivre from Romeo et Julie - Charles Gounod (1818-1893)

A recent advertising campaign by Opera Australia declared that Opera is ‘Life amplified’. This song is certainly bursting at the seams with joy and a mood of celebration of life.

Georgia Wilkinson (Soprano) & 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.*

Let us pray together:

***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

WE ARE MANY, WE ARE ONE
CANTOR: KATHERINE NORMAN

We are many, we are one,
and the work of Christ is done
when we learn to live in true community,
as the stars that fill the night,
as a flock of birds in flight,
as the cluster of the grapes upon the vine;
as the branches of a tree,
as the waves upon the sea,
as the cluster of the grapes upon the vine.

All division is made whole
when we honour every soul,
find the life of God in every you and me
as the fingers of a hand,
as the grains that form the sand,
as the cluster of the grapes upon the vine
as the threads upon the loom,
as a field of flowers in bloom,
as the cluster of the grapes upon the vine.

We will join creation's song
make a world where all belong,
build as one in peace and loving harmony,
as the voices of a choir,
as the flames within a fire,
as the cluster of the grapes upon the vine;
as the snowflakes in the snow,
as the colours of a bow,
as the cluster of the grapes upon the vine.

Words and tune: Colin Gibson (1933-)

Tune: Hamilton

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 sky uplift us.

May the fierceness of the wild call us into action.

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

Amen.

POSTLUDE

Pilgrim's Chorus from Tannhauser – R. Wagner (1813-1883)

transcribed by Edwin H. Lemare (1865-1935)

This stirring melody from Wagner's opera Tannhauser was arranged for the organ by Edwin H. Lemare, an English virtuoso organist who is to this day, unrivalled in his ingenious orchestral transcriptions and the astonishing technical virtuosity demonstrated in his recordings.

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

"

Pablo Neruda. "Keeping Quiet," *Extravagaria. A Bilingual Edition*. Pablo Neruda; Translated from the Spanish by Alastair Reid. Farrar, Straus and Giroux.

"Blessed is our mother earth" by Glynn Cardy. *A Book of Blessings*. Coventry Press 2021.

Lord's Prayer: An Interpretation- Jim Burklo
<https://tcpc.blogs.com/musings/2012/12/jim-burklos-book-of-common-prayer.html>

"For the beauty of the earth." Words: Folliott Sandford Pierpoint alt. Tune: Lucerna Laudoniae. David Evans.

"Touch the earth lightly." Words: Shirley Erena Murray. Tune: Tenderness. Colin Gibson. Words and Music © Hope Publishing Company.

"We are many, we are one." Words and tune: Colin Gibson. Tune: Hamilton.

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GUEST MUSICIAN

Georgia Wilkinson

With over 14 years of experience performing, Georgia Wilkinson is making a name for herself as one of Australia's most versatile young sopranos. Since beginning her classical voice training at the Victorian College of the Arts Secondary School, Georgia has progressively built her repertoire of operatic and musical theatre credits. Companies she has worked with include Victorian Opera, Left Bauer Productions, Gippsland Opera, Weimar Lyric Opera Studio (Germany) and

Gertrude Opera. Georgia has had the pleasure of performing alongside some of Australia's most celebrated and illustrious artists, including Yvonne Kenny, Marina Prior, David Hobson, Sylvie Paladino, Roy Best, Kamahl, and James Morrison. She also works regularly with Teddy Tahu Rhodes. In addition to opera, Georgia has also taken on many musical theatre roles. These include the roles of Christine in Phantom of the Opera, Belle in Beauty and the Beast, and Maria in West Side Story. For her impressive musical theatre performances, Georgia has been recognised with a Guild Award and four Lyrebird Awards. Georgia graduated from the University of Melbourne's Conservatorium of Music with a Bachelor of Music and has studied opera abroad in Italy, Germany, the United Kingdom and the United States. Georgia's studies in London and New York, where she had the opportunity to learn from some of the world's most renowned vocal coaches, were supported by grants from the Ian Potter Foundation and the Australia Council for the Arts.

Through her operatic career, Georgia has received various awards, including 'Opera Scholar of the Year' through the illustrious Opera Scholars Australia program and first place in the Ringwood Aria Competition. In 2019 Georgia won Australia's prestigious *Herald Sun* Aria competition.

SEASON OF CREATION

St Michael's is celebrating 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 – 19 September 2021

"Sky Sunday"

Minister: Rev Dr Margaret Mayman

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

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

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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>

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>.

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