

*Sunday at
St Michael's*

SEASON OF CREATION
19 SEPTEMBER 2021

“SKY SUNDAY”

MINISTER: REV DR MARGARET MAYMAN

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

CANTORS: ALISON MCINTOSH-DESZCZ,
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

ST MICHAEL'S UNITING CHURCH OFFICE

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Web: www.stmichaels.org.au

 <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

Thomas Berry, 20th century

“We are talking only to ourselves. We are not talking to the rivers, we are not listening to the wind and stars. We have broken the great conversation. By breaking that conversation we have shattered the universe. Berry goes on to say, “The universe is a communion of subjects, not a collection of objects.”

Rachel Carson, Silent Spring, 20th century

“We stand now where two roads diverge. But unlike the roads in Robert Frost's familiar poem, they are not equally fair. The road we have long been traveling is deceptively easy, a smooth superhighway on which we progress with great speed, but at its end lies disaster. The other fork of the road — the one less traveled by — offers our last, our only chance to reach a destination that assures the preservation of the earth.”



Simultaneous contrasts sun and moon
Robert Delaunay 1913

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

Earth, sky and sea do not belong to us.
We belong to them.
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

WHEN MORNING GILDS THE SKIES

CANTOR: ALISON MCINTOSH-DESZCZ



When morning gilds the skies,
my heart awaking cries:
May Jesus Christ be praised!
Alike at work and prayer
I know my Lord is there:
May Jesus Christ be praised!

To God, the word on high
the hosts of angels cry:
May Jesus Christ be praised!
Let mortals, too, upraise
their voice in hymns of praise:
May Jesus Christ be praised!

Let earth's wide circle round
in joyful notes resound:
May Jesus Christ be praised!
Let air and sea and sky,
from depth to height, reply:
May Jesus Christ be praised!

Be this, when day is past,
of all my thoughts the last,
May Jesus Christ be praised!
The night becomes as day when
from the heart we say:
May Jesus Christ be praised!

Be this while life is mine
the song of praise divine,
May Jesus Christ be praised!
Be this the eternal song
through all the ages long,
May Jesus Christ be praised!

*Words: Anon., German, early 19th cent
tr. Edward Caswall (1814-1878) alt
Tune: Laudes Domini
Joseph Barnby (1838-1896)*

PRAYER OF AWARENESS

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: PSALM 19: 1-6

ANTHONY BENDALL

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

We give thanks.

HYMN

OUT OF SUCH SUN AND AIR
CANTOR: 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 and tune: Colin Gibson (1933-)
Tune: Northland*

CONTEMPORARY READING

“Such Singing in the Wild Branches” by Mary Oliver.

It was spring
and I finally heard him
among the first leaves--
then I saw him clutching the limb
in an island of shade
with his red-brown feathers
all trim and neat for the new year.
First, I stood still
and thought of nothing.
Then I began to listen.
Then I was filled with gladness--
and that's when it happened,
when I seemed to float,
to be, myself, a wing or a tree--
and I began to understand
what the bird was saying,
and the sands in the glass
stopped
for a pure white moment
while gravity sprinkled upward
like rain, rising,
and in fact
it became difficult to tell just what it was that was singing--
it was the thrush for sure, but it seemed
not a single thrush, but himself, and all his brothers,
and also the trees around them,

as well as the gliding, long-tailed clouds
in the perfect blue sky---all of them
were singing.
And, of course, yes, so it seemed,
so was I.
Such soft and solemn and perfect music doesn't last
for more than a few moments.
It's one of those magical places wise people
like to talk about.
One of the things they say about it, that is true,
is that, once you've been there,
you're there forever.
Listen, everyone has a chance.
Is it spring, is it morning?
Are there trees near you,
and does your own soul need comforting?
Quick, then--open the door and fly on your heavy feet; the song
may already be drifting away.

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

REFLECTION

“SEASON OF CREATION: SKY”

MUSIC FOR REFLECTION

‘Ah se in ciel’ (Ah if in heaven with the benign stars) -
W.A. Mozart (1756-1791) (arr. Rhys Boak)

The renowned Swiss theologian Karl Barth wrote “Mozart's music
always sounds unburdened, effortless, and light. This is why it
unburdens, releases, and liberates us. This aria, ‘Ah if in heaven,
benign stars’ is a very good example of what Karl Barth refers to.

Georgia Wilkinson (Soprano) & Rhys Boak (Organ)

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

LET ALL CREATION DANCE
CANTOR: GEORGIA WILKINSON



Let all creation dance
in energies sublime,
as order turns with chance,
unfolding space and time
for nature's art
in glory grows,
and newly shows
God's mind and heart.

God's breath each force unfurls,
igniting from a spark
expanding starry swirls,
with whirlpools dense and dark.
Though moon and sun
seem mindless things,
each orbit sings:
"Your will be done."

Our own amazing earth,
with sunlight, cloud and storms
and life's abundant growth
in lovely shapes and forms,
is made for praise,
a fragile whole,
and from its soul
heav'n's music plays.

Lift heart and soul and voice:
in Christ all praises meet
and nature shall rejoice
as all is made complete.
In hope be strong.
All life befriend
and kindly tend
creation's song.

*Words: Brian Wren (1936-)
Tune: Darwall
John Darwall (1731-1789)*

BLESSING

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 with shared with the whole creation
and remain with us always.

Amen.

POSTLUDE

Toccata in D major – Marcel Lanquetuit (1894-1985)

This memorable organ toccata, unlike no other, was written by the then 33-year-old French organist, Marcel Lanquetuit in 1927. It is dedicated to the blind French organist, Marcel Dupre. Its jubilant nature is a joyful way to start the week leading up to St. Michael's Day.

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

“

Mary Oliver. “Such Singing in the Wild Branches,” from *Owls and Other Fantasies* (2003).

Lord's Prayer: An Interpretation- Jim Burklo

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

First section of Prayers of the People, based on “Beatitudes for Earth Sunday” by Richard S Gilbert.

“When morning gilds the skies.” Words: Anon, German, early 19th cent tr, Edward Caswall alt. Tune: Lauds Domini. Joseph Barnby.

“Out of such sun and air.” Words: Colin Gibson. Tune: Northland.

“Let all creation dance.” Words: Brian Wren. Tune: Darwall. John Darwall.

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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

St Michael's Day – 26 September 2021

“Lament, healing and hope”.

Minister: Rev Dr Margaret Mayman

Music: The Susie Ng Trio, The Academy of St. Michael, Zoe Black (Violin), Joe Chindamo (Piano) & 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

+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>

PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

WOMEN'S POETRY DISCUSSION GROUP

Wednesday 6 October from 7.30pm to 8.30pm via Zoom

Please join with us for the Women's Poetry Discussion Group, presented by Pamela Blood. We will revisit some of the poetry from the services over the past eighteen months. The poems for discussion, along with the Zoom login details, will be emailed prior to the session.

You are invited to register with the church office by providing your name and email address to office@stmichaels.org.au.

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