

*Sunday at
St Michael's*

19TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
3 OCTOBER 2021

“READING THE BIBLE WITH SOFT HEARTS”
MINISTER: REV DR MARGARET MAYMAN

MUSIC: DR. ELYANE LAUSSADE (PIANO)
& RHYS BOAK (ORGAN)

CANTORS: JAMES EMERSON
& 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

120 Collins Street Melbourne


Phone: 03 9654 5120

Email: office@stmichaels.org.au

Minister: minister@stmichaels.org.au

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 are offered Online.

<http://www.stmichaels.org.au/>
<https://www.youtube.com/playlist/SundayatStMichaels>

MEDITATIONS

Margaret Farley, Just Love, 21st century.

"Whether persons are single or married, gay or straight, bisexual or ambiguously gendered, old or young, abled or challenged in the ordinary forms of sexual expression, they have claims to respect from the Christian community as well as the wider society. These are claims to freedom from unjust harm, equal protection under the law, an equitable share in the goods and services available to others, and freedom of choice in their sexual lives—within the limits of not harming or infringing on the just claims of the concrete realities of others. Whatever the sexual status of persons, their need for incorporation into the community, for psychic security and basic well-being, make the same claims for social cooperation among us as do those of us all. This is why I call the final norm 'social justice.' If our loves for one another are to be just, then this norm obligates us all."



Profile Portrait of a Woman reading a Bible
William Tolliver

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY & WELCOME

Today we acknowledge that the land on which St Michael's stands is the sovereign and unceded country of the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nation.

We pay our respects to their Elders, past and present, who have cared for this country since its creation. We commit ourselves to working for a more just sharing of resources and power between the First and Second peoples of Australia.

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

We gather as a community of hope, believing in the dawning of light in the dark places, remembering the voices of prophets and visionaries who told of new possibilities.

We gather as a community of hope, knowing for ourselves the birth of life in barren places, seeking to be the embodiment of hope for others.

We gather as a community of hope, bearing witness to uncontainable love.

HYMN

GOD THE ALL HOLY
CANTOR: JAMES EMERSON



God, the All-Holy,
Maker and Mother,
gladly we gather,
bringing in prayer
old hurts for healing,
new hopes for holding,
giving, receiving,
loving and care.

Spirit, All-Seeing,
knitting and blending
joy in desiring,
friendship and ease,
make our belonging
loyal and lasting,
so that our pledging
freshens and frees.

Christ, All-Completing,
Nature enfolding,
evil exhausting
in love's embrace,
weaving and mending,
make every ending
God's new beginning
glowing with grace.

*Words: Brian Wren (1936-)
Tune: Bunessan
Gaelic melody*

PRAYER OF AWARENESS

JESUS' PRAYER PARAPHRASE

*Ground of all being,
Mother of Life, Father of the universe,
your name is sacred, beyond speaking.
May we know your presence,
may your longings be our longings
in heart and in action.
May there be food
for the human family today
and for the whole earth community.
Forgive us the falseness
of what we have done
as we forgive those who are untrue to us.
Do not forsake us
in our time of conflict
but lead us into new beginnings.
For the light of life,
the vitality of life,
and the glory of life
are yours now and for ever.
Amen.*

SHARING A SIGN OF PEACE

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

*People are invited to offer greetings
and share signs of peace.*

GOSPEL: MARK 10: 2-16

REV CLARE BROCKETT

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

MUSIC FOR REFLECTION

'Reflections in the water' - Claude Debussy (1862-1918)

This piece comes from a collection published in 1905 known as 'Images'. The beautiful, life giving complexity of water was a favourite subject of impressionist painters of the time. In 1911, Debussy wrote to a colleague, Edgard Varèse, "I love pictures almost as much as music". This statement does not quite do justice the French composer's unique ability to paint pictures with tones and to create visions that have never been rivalled in music.

Dr. Elyane Laussade (Piano)

CONTEMPORARY READING

"May we be blessed by a book" by Glynn Cardy

May we be blessed with a book,
the words of which are being written
in the way we live.

May we be blessed with eyes to read,
with hearts to hear, and minds to discern
what might be true.

May a suspicious spirit bless us,
holding up all texts to the judgement
of just love and kind acts.

And may the flow of divine goodness
that bursts the banks of the written word
carry us, sustain us, and refresh us.

For sacred texts read with soft hearts,

We give thanks.

REFLECTION

"READING THE BIBLE WITH SOFT HEARTS"

HYMN

DEEP IN THE SHADOWS OF THE PAST
CANTOR: JAMES EMERSON

Deep in the shadows of the past,
Far out from settled lands,
Some nomads travelled with their God
Across the desert sands.
The dawn of hope for humankind
Was glimpsed by them alone -
A promise calling them ahead,
A future yet unknown.

While others bowed to changeless gods
They met a mystery:
God with an uncompleted name,
"I am what I will be";
And by their tents, around their fires,
In story, song and law
They praised, remembered, handed on
A past that promised more.

From Abraham to Nazareth
The promise changed and grew,
While some, remembering the past,
Recorded what they knew,
And some, in letters or laments,
In prophecy and praise,
Recovered, held and re-expressed
New hope for changing days.

For all the writings that survived,
For leaders long ago,
Who sifted, chose and then preserved
The Bible that we know,
Give thanks, and find its promise yet
Our comfort, strength and call -
The working model for our faith
Alive with hope for all.

Words: Brian Wren (1936-)

Tune: Kingsfold

From an English and Irish traditional melody coll.

Lucy Broadwood (1858-1929)

harm. and arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

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 and love,
receive our offering.
Guide those who use it
that it may help to bring fullness of life,
inclusive community,
support for people who are struggling,
and relief to people who live in need
and long for justice and compassion.
Amen.***

HYMN

SPIRIT OF GENTLENESS
CANTOR: GEORGIA WILKINSON



*Spirit, spirit of gentleness,
blow through the wilderness, calling and free,
Spirit, spirit of restlessness,
stir me from placidness, wind, wind on the sea.*

You moved on the waters, you called to the deep,
then you coaxed up the mountains from the valleys of sleep;
and over the eons you called to each thing;
wake from your slumbers and rise on your wings.

Refrain.

You swept through the desert, you stung with the sand
and you goaded your people with a law and a land;
and when they were blinded with idols and lies,
then you spoke through your prophets to open their eyes.

Refrain.

You sang in a stable, you cried from a hill,
then you whispered in silence when the whole world was still;
and down in the city you called once again,
when you blew through your people on the rush of the wind.

Refrain.

You call from tomorrow, you break ancient schemes.
From the bondage of sorrow all the captives dream dreams;
our women see visions, our men clear their eyes.
With bold new decisions your people arise.

Refrain.

Words and tune: Jim Manley (1940-)

Tune: Holy Spirit

BLESSING

May we continue to experience the birth of hope in our lives,
May we find ourselves watching for signs of new possibilities
and discover the treasures of love in surprising places.

The blessing of God – sacred presence,
The spirit of Jesus – unsettling teacher,
The breath of life – awakening every being,
be with us and with all creation, now and always.
Amen.

POSTLUDE

Nimrod from The Enigma Variations - Edward Elgar (1857-1934)

Elgar's Enigma variations are amongst his earliest orchestral works. Nimrod is number 9 of the 14 variations. Elgar dedicated the piece to "my friends pictured within" and in the score each variation is prefaced with either a nickname or initials, a clue to the identity of the friend depicted. Nimrod is dedicated to Augustus J. Jaeger, Elgar's best friend. The name of the variation cleverly refers to Nimrod, the Old Testament patriarch who was described as a mighty hunter. The name Jaeger being the German word for hunter. This individual variation has become famous in its own right, and has become a firm part of the organist's repertoire even though it was originally written for orchestra.

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

Glynn Cardy, "May we be blessed by a book." *A Book of Blessings*. Coventry Press, 2021.

Jesus' Prayer paraphrase by John Philip Newell. *Ground of All Being: The Prayer of Jesus in Color*, published by New Beginnings, an imprint of Material Media, 2008.

"God the all holy." Words: Brian Wren. Tune: Bunessan. Gaelic melody.

"Deep in the shadows of the past." Words: Brian Wren. Tune: Kingsfold. From an English and Irish traditional melody.

"Spirit of Gentleness." Words and tune: Jim Manley. Tune: Holy Spirit.

Hymns are printed and streamed with permission.
Church Copyright License (CCL): 261070
Church Streaming License (CSL): 569311

GUEST MUSICIANS

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."

NEXT SUNDAY @ ST MICHAEL'S ONLINE

Pentecost 20B – 10 October 2021

Mental Health Week: "All manner of things will be well"

Minister: Rev Dr Margaret Mayman

Music: Max Riebl (Countertenor), Rose Riebl (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

DAYLIGHT SAVING

This is a reminder to turn your clocks forward by one hour for the commencement of daylight saving on Sunday 3 October 2021 at 2.00am.

On the same day, everyone is urged to change the batteries in their smoke alarms.

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

Please join with us for the Women's Poetry Discussion Group on Wednesday, 6 October 2021 from 7.30pm to 8.30pm via Zoom, when Pamela Blood 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