

*Sunday at  
St Michael's*

1<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT

28 NOVEMBER 2021

“LOVE CHANGES EVERYTHING”

MINISTER: REV DR MARGARET MAYMAN

MUSIC: DR. KIM TAN (FLUTE)  
& RHYS BOAK (ORGAN & PIANO)

CANTOR: DR. LEIGHTON TRIPLOW





# Christmas Bowl

**“Love your neighbour as yourself.”**

Mark 12:31

**Share God’s love through the Christmas Bowl.**

**Please give today. 1800 025 101  
[www.actforpeace.org.au/christmasbowl](http://www.actforpeace.org.au/christmasbowl)**

ACT FOR PEACE  
The Christmas Bowl is the Christmas appeal of Act for Peace, the international aid agency of the National Council of Churches in Australia. ABN 86 619 970 188



**ACT FOR PEACE**  
COMMITTING HEARTS TOGETHER  
THROUGH THE GOSPEL

## 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.

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### OFFICE BEARERS

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Deputy Chair: Joy Arnot

#### **Programs**

Chair: Lorraine Woolley

Deputy Chair: Neil Blood

#### **Organist & Manager of Music**

Rhys Boak

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### ST MICHAEL'S UNITING CHURCH OFFICE

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Weekly eNews: [media@stmichaels.org.au](mailto:media@stmichaels.org.au)

Please send notices to [office@stmichaels.org.au](mailto: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

*Meister Eckhart, 14th century*

“We are all meant to be mothers of God. What good is it to me if this eternal birth of the divine Son takes place unceasingly but does not take place within myself? And, what good is it to me if Mary is full of grace if I am not also full of grace? What good is it to me for the Creator to give birth to his Son if I do not also give birth to him in my time and my culture? Then, then, is the fullness of time: When the Son of God is begotten in us.”

*Taylor Caldwell, 20th century*

“I am not alone at all, I thought. I was never alone at all. And that, of course, is the message of Christmas. We are never alone. Not when the night is darkest, the wind coldest, the world seemingly most indifferent. For this is still the time God chooses.”



*Rumi, 13th century*

“When you do things from your soul, you feel a river moving in you, a joy.”

*Barbara Kingsolver*

“The very least you can do in your life is figure out what you hope for. And the most you can do is live inside that hope. Not admire it from a distance but live right in it, under its roof.”

*Hope*

Lois Anderson (2013)

# ONLINE GATHERING NOTES

## CANTORS

Jesika Clark & Georgia Wilkinson

## MUSICIANS

Georgia Wilkinson (Soprano), The Nuovo Quartet  
& Rhys Boak (Organ)

## MUSIC FOR REFLECTION

*'The little road to Bethlehem'* - Michael Head

Michael Head followed his mother's lead in becoming a musician. Although he did compose a piano concerto and a tone poem early in his career, most of Michael Head's music is in the form of art song. We hear one of his finest this morning. This song has a particular charm to it as well as a great narrative as we approach the time of Christmas.

Georgia Wilkinson (Soprano) & Rhys Boak (Piano)

## POSTLUDE

Concerto Grosso in G minor, Op 6 no. 8 - Grave & Vivace  
– Arcangelo Corelli (1653-1713)

The Concerto Grossi of the Italian born violinist, Arcangelo Corelli have remained popular for centuries. Several of these concerti have been used in the soundtracks of many well-known films and other productions. The devout Corelli, born in the papal states, would perhaps approve of his music being used in the 21st century for an online church service.

The Nuovo Quartet led by Susannah Ng

## PROCESSIONAL

*The candles are lit.  
The chimes call the hour of worship.  
The people stand, as they are able, as the Bible is carried in.*

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY & WELCOME

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

With the rising of the sun,  
symbol of light, life and hope,  
we gather on this Advent Sunday.  
We are a community of hope,  
looking to the new day of compassion and peace,  
longing for the time when justice and peace  
shall reign on the earth.

## HYMN

PRAISE BE TO GOD, THE ALMIGHTY  
CANTOR: DR LEIGHTON TRIPLOW

Praise be to God, the Almighty, who rules all creation!  
O my soul, worship the well-spring of health and salvation!  
Let all who hear, now to God's temple draw near,  
Joining in glad adoration.

Praise be to God, who o'er all things is wondrously reigning,  
Bringing new life, in great mercy redeeming, sustaining.  
Ponder anew, what the Almighty can do;  
Ponder God's gracious ordaining.

Praise be to God, who works justice, who ends all oppressing!  
God's name most holy, let Israel always be blessing!  
Rise up on wings! Healing and wholeness God brings!  
Always God's deeds be confessing!

Praise be to God! O forget not God's manifold graces!  
All that has life and breath, one song of gratitude raises!  
Let the amen, sound from God's people again.  
Gladly for ever sing praises!

*Lyrics: adapted by Ruth Duck (1947-)*  
*Tune: Lobe den Herren*  
*Later form of a chorale melody in*  
*the 'Stralsund Gesangbuch', 1665*



## LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE OF HOPE

In this way, with others around the world,  
we celebrate the coming of Christ long ago,  
and the coming of Christa/community among us now,  
by lighting candles to proclaim our trust  
in the unquenchable light of Divine love,  
that came into the world with the birth of Jesus.

***Advent is a time of hope.  
As we light this first candle,  
we dare to hope.***

*The candle is lit*

ADVENT HYMN

COME, NOW, LONG EXPECTED JESUS



Come, now, long-expected Jesus,  
born to set creation free;  
from our deepest fears release us,  
into love and liberty.

You our rest and consolation,  
hope and light for all, you bring;  
peace between us and our nations,  
joy for every heart to sing.

Born so unexpected, Jesus,  
not a king we'd recognise:  
yours a realm of peace and justice,  
welcome for the smallest lives.

With Creator, and with Spirit,  
unify our diverse hearts;  
grace and love we do inherit,  
one within your Holy Heart.

*New words: Sarah Agnew  
Tune: Stuttgart  
Christian Friedrich Witt (1660-1717)*

## PRAYER OF AWARENESS

Still us, O Spirit,  
until we hear your heartbeat  
quiet us  
until we feel your breathing  
make us  
one with your rhythms  
move us  
to the cadence of your love.

*Be still and aware of Sacred presence within and all around.*

Things are stirring,  
there is something in the air,  
new possibilities are emerging.  
Sacred Energy is moving,  
bringing justice,  
drawing people and earth into right relationship.  
Be attentive.  
The Advent of Jesus embraces and implicates us all...

## JESUS' PRAYER

***Most compassionate Life-giver,  
may we honour and praise you:  
may we work with you to establish your new order of  
justice, peace and love.***

***Give us what we need for growth,  
and help us, through forgiving others,  
to accept forgiveness.***

***Strengthen us in the time of testing,  
that we may resist all evil.***

***For all the tenderness,  
strength and love are yours,  
now and forever.***

***Amen.***

## SHARING A SIGN OF PEACE

May the peace and presence of the Divine be with you.

***And also with you.***

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

## GOSPEL: LUKE 1:26-38

For faithful trust and liberating hope,

***We give thanks.***

## MUSIC FOR CONTEMPLATION

Adagio from the flute sonata in G minor BWV 1020

– J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

The music of Bach is like a vast lake into which rivers have flowed and which continues to provide humanity with a source of spiritual and musical refreshment. Bach wrote several sonatas for Flute and Harpsichord during his life, and we hear this sonata for flute played on the modern flauto traverso and the successor to the harpsichord, the piano.

Dr. Kim Tan (Flute) and Rhys Boak (Piano)

## CONTEMPORARY READING

“The Coming of God” by Ann Weems.

Our God is the One who comes to us  
in a burning bush,  
in an angel’s song,  
in a newborn child.

Our God is the One who cannot be found  
locked in the church,  
not even in the sanctuary.

Our God will be where God will be  
with no constraints,  
no predictability.

Our God lives where our God lives,  
and destruction has no power  
and even death cannot stop  
the living.

Our God will be born where God will be born,  
but there is no place to look for the One who comes to us.

When God is ready

God will come  
even to a godforsaken place  
like a stable in Bethlehem.

Watch...

for you know not when  
God comes.

Watch, that you might be found  
whenever  
wherever  
God comes.

For wisdom in the Word of old  
for contemporary insights in poetry and song  
for Word made flesh in a baby—and in us

***We give thanks.***

REFLECTION

LOVE CHANGES EVERYTHING

## HYMN

## YOU ARE BORN IN US AGAIN



You are born in us again.  
 Like the warmth of the summer wind you come,  
 to melt away the icicles of vanity and pride;  
 you come to blow the very doors of loving open wide.  
 Like the warmth of the summer wind you come,  
 like the warmth of the summer wind you come.

You are born in us again.  
 Like the scent of the summer rain you come.  
 You come to quench the thirsty and to freshen up the land;  
 you come to clean away dust that's settled in our hand.  
 Like the scent of summer rain you come,  
 like the scent of the summer rain you come.

You are born in us again.  
 Like the light of the summer sun you come,  
 to give light to the places that have never seen the sun:  
 you come now to embrace us, you're the holy, holy one.  
 Like the light of the summer sun you come,  
 like the light of the summer sun you come.

*Words: Shona Murray  
 Tune: Dunstan. Mark Wilson  
 arr. Shona Murray*

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*In thanksgiving and solidarity...*

## MUSIC FOR CONTEMPLATION

Allegro from the flute sonata in G minor BWV 1020

– J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

Dr. Kim Tan (Flute) & Rhys Boak (Piano)

## OFFERING PRAYER

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

***Spirit of life, we believe in what these gifts can do,  
the good that can come of them,  
and the light that can dawn through them.  
Bless these gifts as they make their way in the world.  
Amen.***

## NOTICES AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF MUSICIANS

### HYMN

### WORD MADE FLESH, WE SEE CHRIST JESUS



Word made Flesh! We see Christ Jesus  
Sharing our humanity,  
Loving, graceful, always truthful,  
Close to others bodily,  
Full of passion, full of healing,  
Touch of God to set them free.

Wonderful are these our bodies,  
Flesh and blood to touch and see,  
Place of pain and contradiction,  
Yet of joy and ecstasy,  
Place of passion, place of healing,  
Touched by God who sets us free.

O how glorious and resplendent,  
Fragile body you shall be,  
When endued with so much beauty,  
Full of life and strong and free,  
Full of vigour, full of pleasure,  
That shall last eternally.

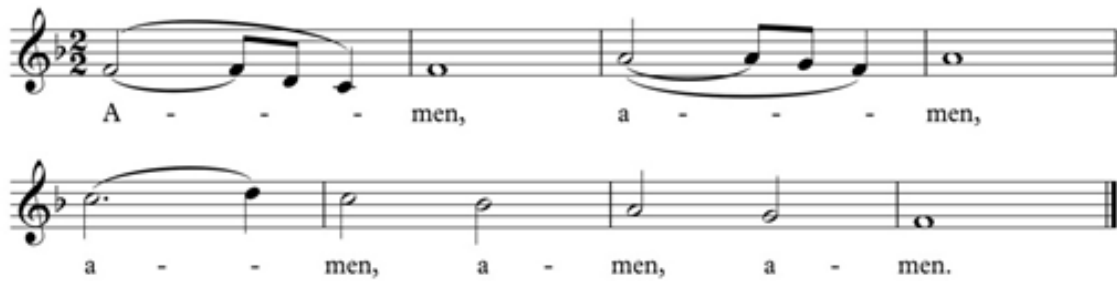
Glory give to God the Lover,  
Grateful hearts to the Beloved,  
Blessed be the Love between them,  
Overflowing to our good;  
Praise and worship, praise and worship,  
To the God whose Name is Love.

*Words: Jim Cotter (1942-2014)*  
*Tune: Regent Square*  
*Henry Thomas Smart (1813-1879)*

## BLESSING

Follow where the Spirit of Hope leads you,  
listen, as the Child of Peace cries for you,  
rejoice, as Sacred Love embraces you.  
Go forward with Hope, Peace, Joy and Love in your heart  
and the blessing of God – Lover, Beloved and Spirit of Love  
be with you and with all creation, now and always.

## SUNG AMEN



*African-American spiritual*  
*Arr. N. T. Johnson*

## POSTLUDE

### Tuba Tune - Craig Sellar Lang (1891-1971)

This joyful work, despite the name, was not written for the Tuba. It was written to showcase the organ's Tuba or Trumpet stop. Craig Lang was born in New Zealand, although he spent most of his life in England. This piece is perhaps the only work of his to receive regular performances, and is a perennial recital favourite amongst organists.

Rhys Boak (Organ)

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

“The Coming of God” by Ann Weems in *Kneeling in Bethlehem*.

Jesus’ Prayer by Rev William Wallace. Retired Methodist minister.  
New Zealand.

“Praise be to God, the almighty”. Lyrics: adapted by Ruth Duck.  
Tune: Lobe den Herren. Later form of a chorale melody in the  
'Stralsund Gesangbuch', 1665.

“Come, now long expected Jesus”. New words: Sarah Agnew.  
Tune: Stuttgart. Christian Friedrich Witt.

“You are born in us again”. Words: Shona Murray.  
Tune: Dunstan. Mark Wilson, arr. Shona Murray.

“Word made flesh, we see Christ Jesus”. Words: Jim Cotter.  
Tune: Regent Square. Henry Thomas Smart.

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## 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

## GUEST MUSICIAN IN CHURCH

Dr. Kim Tan is a Melbourne based interdisciplinary musician and teacher whose practice is defined by the creative diversity of contemporary music performance. Studying with local teachers such as Mardi McCuslea, Greg Dikmans, Lawrence Whiffin, and Margaret Crawford, Kim has developed an approach to her craft that embraces the cross-section between several musical disciplines. She studied in Germany in 2009 under the tutelage of flautist, Camille Hoitenga (Cologne) and during this time she had lessons with international soloists including Andras Adorjan (Musikhochschule Munich), Felix Renggli (Musikhochschule Freiburg), and Renate Greiss-Armin (Musikhochschule Karlsruhe). Kim has also performed in masterclasses and lessons with international soloists including Michael Cox (the Royal Academy of Music, London) and Katherine Kemler (Louisiana State University).

Kim completed a PhD at the University of Melbourne; her thesis is a philosophical inquiry into music performance with the aim of establishing a more inclusive and creative discourse at the academic level. Kim has been employed as casual staff by the Conservatorium of Music at the University where she tutored a range of academic music subjects including history and theory.

She has performed world premieres of works by Thomas Meadowcroft and Klaus Lang, her repertoire also includes local premiers of works by Salvatore Sciarrino, Clarence Barlow, Liza Lim, Elliot Carter, and Morton Feldman.

## GUEST MUSICIANS ONLINE

### **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.

**The Nuovo Quartet** is a quartet made up of players from various professional ensembles and came together for the very first time to record music especially for our online services at St. Michael's. The members of the quartet are Susannah Ng (Leader / Violin), Zoe Black (Violin), Ceridwen Davies (Viola) and Josephine Vains (Cello).

# NOTICES

## NEXT SUNDAY @ ST MICHAEL'S AT CHURCH

“Sacred the body”

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent – 5 December 2021

Minister: Rev Dr Margaret Mayman

Music in Church: Dr. Elyane Laussade (Piano) & Rhys Boak (Organ)

Music Online: Dr. Elyane Laussade (Piano), The St. Michael's Brass Ensemble & Rhys Boak (Organ)

## SUNDAY SERVICES AT CHURCH – COVID-19 VACCINATION

St Michael's Sunday services are offered online and in-person at the Church. To attend St Michael's, you need to be fully vaccinated or have a medical exemption.

St Michael's is responsible for ensuring everyone scans the QR code and provides evidence of vaccination or proof of exemption from an authorised medical provider.

There is important information from the Church Council on our website <https://stmichaels.org.au/the-church/covid-19-response/>

## 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>

## ST MICHAEL'S AGM & COUNCIL ELECTION

The Annual General Meeting and will be followed by the Church Council Election. Everyone is very welcome to attend the meeting, however, membership is a requirement for voting.

**When:** Today | 11:45am

## NOMINEES FOR ST MICHAEL'S COUNCIL ELECTION

Peter Anderson

Lyndell O'Brien

Neil Blood

Cheryl Power

John Coppock

Brian Smith

Catherine Jones

Lorraine Woolley

Ann Kinnear

## PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

### THURSDAY LUNCHTIME ORGAN RECITALS

The Thursday Lunchtime Organ Recitals have returned.

Every Thursday, the church doors open and the Grand Organ comes to life with performances from St Michael's organist, Rhys Boak, and guest artists.

**When:** Thursdays | 1.00pm to 1:30pm | Free Entry

Visit [www.stmichaels.org.au/music](http://www.stmichaels.org.au/music) for more details.

### MEN'S DISCUSSION MEETING

Fr. Martin Fleming, the Priest at St Ambrose Church Woodend, will give a talk on his experience as an Australian Army Chaplain over 15 years, attaining the rank of Major. He will reflect as a religious/spiritual person being in a very male dominated military context and culture.

Open to all men, including those who are Gender Fluid, Non-Binary, Transmen. People who are not members of St Michael's are very welcome.

**When:** Wednesday 1 December | 7:30pm via Zoom

Register with the office to be sent the Zoom link

[office@stmichaels.org.au](mailto:office@stmichaels.org.au)

### 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, free call 1800 391 393 or email

[clinic@cairnmillar.org.au](mailto:clinic@cairnmillar.org.au)