

*Sunday at
St Michael's*

24TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
7 NOVEMBER 2021

“LOVE WITHOUT BORDERS”

MINISTER: REV DR MARGARET MAYMAN

MUSIC: SAMANTHA SHELDON (PIANO)
& RHYS BOAK (ORGAN)

CANTOR: JESIKA CLARK

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

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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 are offered Online.

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

MEDITATIONS

Leonardo da Vinci, 16th century

“The depth and strength of a human character are defined by its moral reserves. People reveal themselves completely only when they are thrown out of the customary conditions of their life, for only then do they have to fall back on their reserves.”

Kahlil Gibran, 20th century

“Tenderness and kindness are not signs of weakness and despair but manifestations of strength and resolution.”

Natalie Angier, 20th century

“Hard as it may be to believe in these days of infectious greed and sabres unsheathed, scientists have discovered that the small, brave act of cooperating with another person, of choosing trust over cynicism, generosity over selfishness, makes the brain light up with quiet joy.”



Jane Goodall, Harvest for Hope: A Guide to Mindful Eating, 21st century

“We have so far to go to realize our human potential for compassion, altruism, and love.”

Virginia Woolf, Night and Day, 20th century

“What is nobler,” she mused, turning over the photographs, “than to be a woman to whom every one turns, in sorrow or difficulty?”

Ruth and Naomi

Chana Helen Rosenberg

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

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

Let there be joy in our coming together this morning.
Let there be silence for the voice within us and beyond us.
Let there be peace in our community.

HYMN

HOW GREAT THE MYSTERY OF FAITH
CANTOR: JESIKA CLARK



How great the mystery of faith,
how deep the purposes of God,
in birth and ageing, life and death,
unveiled, yet never understood!

Attracted by life's deepest claim
we wait, assembled in this place,
with needs and hopes we cannot name,
a thirst for healing, truth and grace.

The best that we can do and say,
the utmost care of skill and art,
are sweepers of the Spirit's way
to reach the depths of every heart.

Come, walk among us, Holy Friend,
as all are gathered and prepared,
that scattered lives may meet and mend
through open Word and worship shared.

Words: Brian Wren (1936-)

Tune: Ombersley

William Henry Gladstone (1840-1901)

PRAYER OF AWARENESS

Unseeable

We have seen you this day
in the light of the skies,
in the green of the earth,
in flowing waters.

Untouchable

We have felt you this day
in the warmth of the sun
in the wildness of the wind
in the touch of another.
In and beyond my senses,
in taste and touch and sound,
your mystery has been made known.

At the dawning of the day
in the darkness of the night
let us know your presence, O God,
let us know your everlasting presence.

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

JESUS' PRAYER

***Abba God in heaven, glory to you!
Your rule of love renews the earth.
In your name, we take part in that renewal
helping, and not harming,
caring, and not coercing ...
We pray that we might receive with thanks
the bread we need,
the money we need,
the warmth we need ...
We pray that forgiveness and freedom
flow through our lives.
Teach us that in sharing life we live life to the full ...
Remind us that evil is real.
Still, we are not afraid of it,
but confident
that love is stronger than hate,
justice other than revenge,
true peace the work of your Spirit.
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.*

For surprising stories of wisdom,
We give thanks.

MUSIC FOR REFLECTION

Fantasia-Impromptu - Frédéric François Chopin (1810-1849)

During Chopin's tragically short life, he wrote a great deal of timeless music. One of the best known of his works for piano is this Fantasia-Impromptu, which he wrote at the age of just 24 in 1834. The work however was not published till 1855, several years after the composer had passed away in 1849 at the age of just 39.

Samantha Sheldon (Piano)

GOSPEL: MARK 12:38-44

For Jesus' who disturbed piety and disrupted power.
We give thanks.

CONTEMPORARY READING

"What I have learned so far" by Mary Oliver

Meditation is old and honorable, so why should I not sit, every morning of my life, on the hillside, looking into the shining world? Because, properly attended to, delight, as well as havoc, is suggestion. Can one be passionate about the just, the ideal, the sublime, and the holy, and yet commit to no labor in its cause? I don't think so. All summations have a beginning, all effect has a story, all kindness begins with the sown seed. Thought buds toward radiance. The gospel of light is the crossroads of — indolence, or action. Be ignited, or be gone.

For the Spirit speaking still in poetry and song,
We give thanks.

HYMN

FOR EVERYONE BORN, A PLACE AT THE TABLE



For everyone born, a place at the table,
 for everyone born, clean water and bread,
 a shelter, a space, a safe place for growing,
 for everyone born, a star over head.

*And God will delight when we are creators
 of justice and joy, compassion and peace;
 yes, God will delight when we are creators
 of justice, justice, and joy.*

For woman and man, a place at the table,
 revising the roles, deciding to share,
 with wisdom and grace, dividing the power,
 for woman and man, a system that's fair.

Refrain

For young and for old, a place at the table,
 a voice to be heard, a part in the song,
 the hands of a child in hands that are wrinkled,
 for young and for old, the right to belong.

Refrain

For just and unjust, a place at the table;
God gathering in, abundance to give,
injustice and hurt, make way now for mercy,
for just and unjust, a new way to live.

Refrain

For everyone born, a place at the table,
to live without fear, and simply to be,
to work, to speak out, to witness and worship,
for everyone born, the right to be free.

Refrain

Words: Shirley Erena Murray (1931-2020)

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Tune: For Everyone Born

Brian Mann

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

In thanksgiving and solidarity...

MUSIC FOR REFLECTION

Partita No. 3 BWV 1006 - J.S. Bach (1685-1750)
arranged by S. Rachmaninoff (1873-1943)

In 1933 the great Russian pianist and composer, Sergei Rachmaninoff was so inspired by the violin partita No. 3 of Bach that he translated the work into a piano piece with his own clear influence.

Samantha Sheldon (Piano)

OFFERING PRAYER

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

***God of our lives and our world.
We offer these gifts and our lives,
not for the sake of appearance,
but in gratitude for all that has been given to us.
We give thanks for the gift of Jesus,
for his turning the tables on power and piety.
May these commitments also be reflected in our lives. Amen.***

NOTICES AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF MUSICIANS

HYMN THIS IS MY SONG, O GOD OF ALL THE NATIONS



This is my song, O God of all the nations,
A song of peace for lands afar and mine.
This is my home, the country where my heart is;
Here are my hopes, my dreams, my holy shrine;
But other hearts in other lands are beating
With hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.

My country's skies are bluer than the ocean,
and sunlight beams on cloverleaf and pine;
but other lands have sunlight too, and clover,
and skies are everywhere as blue as mine:
O hear my song, thou God of all the nations,
a song of peace for their land and for mine.

May truth and freedom come to every nation;
may peace abound where strife has raged so long;
that each may seek to love and build together,
a world united, righting every wrong;
a world united in its love for freedom,
proclaiming peace together in one song.

Words: Lloyd Stone (v1-2) and Georgia Harkness (v3)

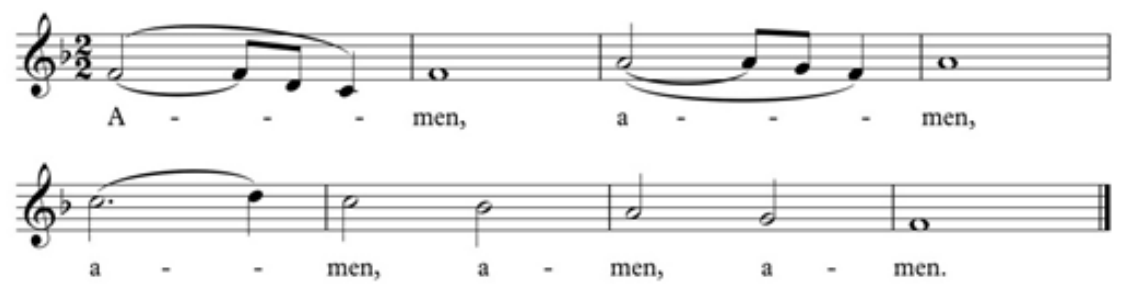
Tune: Finlandia

Jean Sebelius (1865-1957)

BLESSING

May the God of peace and joy,
who is continually making all things new,
embrace us as partners in the divine creating
blessing us to be a blessing to all whom we encounter along the way.
Amen.

SUNG AMEN



The musical notation consists of two staves in 2/2 time. The first staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody begins with a half note G4, followed by a quarter note A4, a quarter note B4, and a quarter note C5. This is followed by a whole note G4. The second staff continues with a half note A4, a half note B4, and a whole note G4. The lyrics are: 'A - - - men, a - - - men,' on the first staff and 'a - - - men, a - - - men, a - - - men.' on the second staff.

African-American spiritual

POSTLUDE

March on a theme of Handel- A. Guilmant (1837-1911)

Alexandre Guilmant was considered to be the doyen of French organ music in the late 19th century. A noted composer and recitalist, Guilmant wrote more organ music than that of his colleagues Widor and Vierne combined. Guilmant was an admirer of the works of the much earlier George Frederick Handel (1685-1759) who is most famous for his oratorio Messiah and, in particular, the Hallelujah Chorus. Guilmant based this work loosely on another chorus from this oratorio, Lift up ye heads, O ye gates. However, most often, people recognise the theme of this work as being the almost identical first few notes of 'Caro mio ben'.

Rhys Boak (Organ)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

“What I have learned so far” by Mary Oliver. *New and Selected Poems*.

Prayer of Awareness by J Philip Newell. *Sounds of the Eternal*.

Jesus’ Prayer. Translation by Rev Andrew Collis, South Sydney
Uniting Church. Unpublished.

“How great the mystery of faith”. Words: Brian Wren.

Tune: Ombersley. William Henry Gladstone.

“For everyone born, a place at the table”.

Words: Shirley Erena Murray. © 2004 Hope Publishing Company.

Tune: For Everyone Born. Brian Mann.

“This is my song, O god of all the nations”.

Words: Lloyd Stone (v1-2) and Georgia Harkness (v3)

Tune: Finlandia. Jean Sebelius.

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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

Samantha Sheldon

At the age of five Samantha Sheldon had her first piano lessons at Yamaha Music School. By the time she was eleven she had successfully completed her piano exams, won piano competitions and was offered music scholarships. During her time at secondary school she studied piano at Melbourne University and performed concertos by Mozart, Haydn, Beethoven and Grieg.

Samantha has recently graduated from secondary school and while undertaking further studies is now accepting students of all ages and stages.

NOTICES

NEXT SUNDAY @ ST MICHAEL'S AND ONLINE

“The end of the age or the beginning of a new one?”

25th Sunday after Pentecost – 14 November 2021

Guest Minister: Rev Peter Burnham

Music in Church: Ceridwen McCooley (Cello) & Rose Riebl (Piano)

Music Online: Zoe Wallace (Cello) & Rhys Boak (Piano & Organ)

SUNDAY SERVICES AT CHURCH – COVID-19 VACCINATION

From Sunday 7 November, St Michael's services will be offered online and in-person at the Church.

To attend St Michael's, you will 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 from Medicare, or proof of exemption from an authorised medical provider. The card from the vaccination hub or your GP is unfortunately not sufficient.

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

The letter from Church Council explains the Council's discernment and decision, and our ongoing care for people who are not yet able to attend church in person. There is also information explaining how to download an electronic certificate to your phone or request a print certificate from Medicare. Please do read it carefully so that re-opening the church is a safe and happy occasion.

ST MICHAEL'S ZOOM CUPPA

With the resumption of in-person Sunday services at the church, St Michael's Zoom Cuppa has concluded. Occasional online Programs will continue to be offered. These will be advertised in the eNews and the order of service.

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. Margaret will be taking annual leave from 11-24 November.

ST MICHAEL'S SOCIAL MEDIA



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



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

PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

ST MICHAEL'S AGM & COUNCIL ELECTION

Subject to COVID restrictions allowing us to gather at church, the St Michael's Annual General Meeting and Election of Church Councillors will be held on **Sunday, 28 November 2021** in St Michael's at **11:45 am**. The St Michael's Council Election will follow.

WOMEN'S POETRY DISCUSSION GROUP

The second session of the Poetry Discussion Group will be held via Zoom on **Wednesday, 24 November 2021 from 7.30pm – 8.30pm**. We will continue our discussions of some of the poems we have found to be meaningful and inspirational during our long lockdowns. Please join us to share our experiences of some of these poems. Register with the church office, office@stmichaels.org.au, for Zoom connection details.

Facilitator: Pamela Blood

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

