

Sunday at St Michael's

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

9 JANUARY 2022

“DEEPER INTO LIFE”

MINISTER: REV DR MARGARET MAYMAN

MUSIC: RHYS BOAK (ORGAN)

CANTOR: 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! ♥

Sunday Gatherings are offered Online and In-Church.

<http://www.stmichaels.org.au/>

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist/SundayatStMichaels>

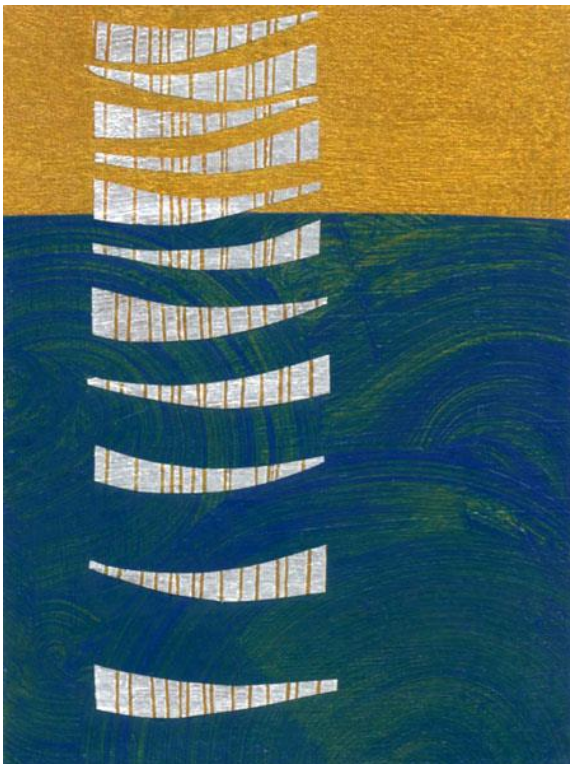
MEDITATIONS

Rachel Held Evans, Searching for Sunday: Loving, Leaving, and Finding the Church, 21st century

“Philip got out of God's way. He remembered that what makes the gospel offensive isn't who it keeps out, but who it lets in. Nothing could prevent the eunuch from being baptized, for the mountains of obstruction had been plowed down, the rocky hills had been made smooth, and God had cleared a path. There was holy water everywhere.”

Abraham Joshua Heschel, 20th century

“Just to be is a blessing. Just to live is holy.”



Brennan Manning, 20th century

“Define yourself radically as one beloved by God. This is the true self. Every other identity is illusion.”

Victor Hugo, 19th century

“What a grand thing, to be loved! What a grander thing still, to love!”

Henry David Thoreau, 19th century

“Life in us is like the water in a river.”

Leonardo da Vinci, 15th century

“Water is the driving force in nature.”

Baptised and blessed
Jan Richardson

ONLINE GATHERING NOTES

CANTORS

Jesika Clark, Christopher Watson & Georgia Wilkinson

MUSICIANS

Joe Chindamo (Piano) & Rhys Boak (Organ)

MUSIC FOR REFLECTION

Improvisation on 'A Londonderry Air' - Joe Chindamo (b.1961)

A spontaneous rhapsody on the much-loved folk melody, 'A Londonderry Air (Also known as 'O Danny Boy').

Joe Chindamo (Piano)

POSTLUDE

Toccata in G major – Th. Dubois (1837-1924)

This joyous toccata was written by the French organist and composer Théodore Dubois. Dubois was a noted composer, conductor, organist, pianist and music educator. He served as organist at Paris' Église de Madeleine for many years as well as directing the celebrated Paris Conservatoire.

Rhys Boak (Organ)

PROCESSIONAL

The people stand, as they are able, for the processional.

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

Out of the silence, the Spirit comes.
The Spirit comes with healing,
to a world longing for transformation and renewal.
She is a breath of the power of God.
She is a reflection of Eternal light.
Let us celebrate with joy, Divine presence,
here in this place and in our world.

HYMN

IMMORTAL, INVISIBLE
CANTOR: GEORGIA WILKINSON

Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
most blessèd, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
belovèd, enfolding, your great name we praise.

Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,
nor wanting, nor wasting, but ruling in might;
your justice like mountains high soaring above,
your clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.

You give life to all life, to both great and small;
in all life now living, the true life of all;
we blossom and flourish as leaves on a tree,
and wither and perish: but unchanged you will be.

Creator of glory, creator of light,
your angels adore you, all veiling their sight;
of all your rich graces this grace, God, impart -
take the veil from our faces, the veil from our heart.

All praise we would render: reveal to our sight,
what hides you is only the splendour of light;
and so let your glory, O Lover, impart
through Christ in the story, your Christ to the heart.

*Words: Walter C. Smith (alt)
Tune: St Denio. Welsh melody*

PRAYER OF AWARENESS

Sacred and Loving Presence,
may time dissolve as we enter into your eternal now.
May we connected once again
to essential truths and timeless wisdom.
Open us to an inner knowing.

May we be enabled to release our worries about the future,
and regrets over the past.

May we be empowered to live well,
open to grace and beauty in each moment,
so that we might be attentive to our world,
and enhance the well-being of all whom we encounter.

JESUS' PRAYER

***God, you are life for us,
Holy be your name.
Your new day come,
Your will be done
On earth as in your vision.
Give us this day our bread for the morrow;
And forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Strengthen us in the time of test,
And deliver us from evil.
For the power and the splendour
and the fulfillment are yours,
Now and forever. 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 gestures of peace.*

HEBREW BIBLE: ISAIAH 43:1-7

PAMELA BLOOD

For the assurance of Divine presence in troubled times,

We give thanks.

HYMN

BE NOT AFRAID

1. You shall cross the bar-ren des-ert, but you shall not die of
 2. If you pass through ra-ging wa-ters in the sea, you shall not
 3. Bless-ed are you poor, for the King-dom shall be
 thirst. You shall wan-der far in safe-ty though you do not know the
 drown. If you walk a-mid the burn-ing flames, you shall not be
 yours. Blest are you that weep and mourn, for one day you shall
 way. You shall speak your words in for-eign lands and all will un-der-stand. You shall see the
 harm-ed. If you stand be-fore the pow'r of hell and death is at your side, know that I am
 laugh. And if wick-ed ones in-sult and hate you all be-cause of me, bless ed,
 1. face of God and live. to Refrain
 2. with you through it all. to Refrain 3. bless ed are you! to Refrain Refrain Be not a afraid. I go be-
 fore you al-ways. Come, fol-low Me, and I will give you rest.
 1. 2. Final

You shall cross the barren desert
but you shall not die of thirst.
You shall wander far in safety
though you do not know the way.
You shall speak your words in foreign lands
and all will understand.
You will see the face of God and live.

Be not afraid.

I go before you always.

*Come, follow me,
and I will give you rest.*

If you pass through raging waters
in the sea, you shall not drown.
If you walk amid the burning flames,
you shall not be harmed.
If you stand before the power of hell
and death is at your side,
know that I am with you through it all.

Be not afraid.

I go before you always.

*Come, follow me,
and I will give you rest.*

Blessed are your poor,
for the kingdom shall be theirs.
Blest are you that weep and mourn,
for one day you shall laugh.
And if wicked tongues insult and hate you
all because of me,
blessed, blessed are you.

Be not afraid.

I go before you always.

*Come, follow me,
and I will give you rest.*

Words and tune: Robert J Dufford, SJ

GOSPEL: LUKE 3:15-17, 21-22

For the word that was in the beginning,
For the word that made known in Jesus,
For the word embodied in us,

We give thanks.

MUSIC FOR CONTEMPLATION

Es ist ein Ros' entsprungen – Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)

In English, the title of this work translates to 'Behold a Rose is blooming'. The Rose is a metaphor for Jesus Christ. Brahms wrote this work in a collection of eleven preludes for the organ towards the end of his life featuring some of his most beautiful writing.

Rhys Boak (Organ)

CONTEMPORARY READING

"Citizen of Dark Times" by Kim Stafford

Agenda in a time of fear: Be not afraid.
When things go wrong, do right.
Set out by the half-light of the seeker.
For the well-lit problem begins to heal.
Learn tropism toward the difficult.
We have not arrived to explain, but to sing.
Young idealism ripens into an ethical life.
Prune back regret to let faith grow.
When you hit rock bottom, dig farther down.
Grief is the seed of singing, shame the seed of song.
Keep seeing what you are not saying.
Plunder your reticence.
Songbird guards a twig, its only weapon a song.

For contemporary insights in poetry and song,

We give thanks.

REFLECTION

DEEPER INTO LIFE

HYMN

LOVING SPIRIT



Loving Spirit, loving Spirit,
you have chosen me to be -
you have drawn me to your wonder,
you have set your sign on me.

Like a mother, you enfold me,
hold my life within your own
feed me with your very body,
form me of your flesh and bone.

Like a father, you protect me,
teach me the discerning eye,
hoist me up upon your shoulder,
let me see the world from high.

Friend and lover, in your closeness
I am known and held and blessed:
In your promise is my comfort,
in your presence I may rest.

Loving Spirit, loving Spirit,
you have chosen me to be -
you have drawn me to your wonder,
you have set your sign on me.

Words: Colin Gibson (1933-)

Tune: Omni Die

*Melody from David Gregor Corner's 'Gesangbuch'
Nuremburg, 1631 arr. W. S. Rockstro (1823-1895)*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

MUSIC FOR CONTEMPLATION

Chant Pastorale – Th. Dubois (1837-1924)

This charming work for organ, written in 1889, makes great use of the organ's oboe stop giving the work a somewhat pastoral feel.

Rhys Boak (Organ)

OFFERING PRAYER

*We bring our gifts, and we bring our lives,
blessing upon blessing, that the earth and its peoples
may be healed and transformed. Amen.*

NOTICES & ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF MUSICIANS

HYMN

SHE FLIES ON

1, 3 D.S.

*She comes sailing on the wind,
her wings flashing in the sun,
on a journey just begun, she flies on.
And, in the passage of her flight,
her song rings out through the night,
full of laughter, full of light, she flies on.*

Silent waters rocking on the morning of our birth,
like an empty cradle waiting to be filled,
And from the heart of God,
the Spirit moved upon the earth,
Like a mother breathing life into her child.

Many were the dreamers whose eyes were given sight,
when the Spirit filled their dreams with life and form;
Deserts turned to gardens,
broken hearts found new delight,
And then down the ages, still, she flew on.

Refrain

To a gentle girl from Galilee, a gentle breeze she came,
a whisper softly calling in the dark,
The promise of a child of Peace,
whose reign would never end,
Mary sang the Spirit song within her heart.

Flying to the river, she waited circling high,
above the child now grown full of grace.
As he rose up from the water,
she swept down from the sky,
and she carried him away in her embrace.

Refrain

Long after the deep darkness that fell upon the world,
after dawn returned in flame of rising sun,
The Spirit touched the earth again,
again her wings unfurled,
bringing life in wind and fire as she flew on.

Refrain

Words: Gordon Light

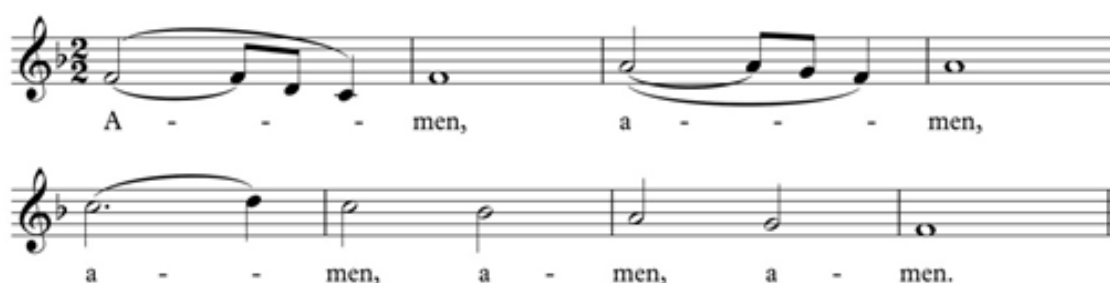
Tune: Gordon Light

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BLESSING

Go into the world to take up your life.
May Divine Presence enlighten your way,
Christ's love as Christa/Community surround you,
and the holy and abiding Spirit be your energy and strength.

SUNG AMEN



African-American spiritual

Arr. N. T. Johnson

POSTLUDE

Toccata in G major – Th. Dubois (1837-1924)

This joyous toccata was written by the French organist and composer Théodore Dubois. Dubois was a noted composer, conductor, organist, pianist and music educator. He served as organist at Paris' Église de Madeleine for many years as well as directing the celebrated Paris Conservatoire.

Rhys Boak (Organ)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

“Citizen of Dark Times,” Kim Stafford from *Wild Honey, Tough Salt*.

Jesus’ Prayer by David B. Royer and Jonathan C. Nelson
in Ruth C. Duck, ed. *Flames of the Spirit*.

“Immortal, invisible.” Words: Walter C. Smith (alt). Tune: St Denio.
Welsh melody

“Be not afraid.” Words and tune: Robert J Dufford, SJ

“Loving spirit.” Words: Colin Gibson. Tune: Omni Die. Melody from
David Gregor Corner’s ‘Gesangbuch’. Nuremburg, 1631
arr. W. S. Rockstro

“She flies on.” Words: Gordon Light. Tune: Gordon Light.
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MUSICIANS ONLINE

Joe Chindamo ranks amongst the world's best jazz pianists and composers. His equal gifts as composer, arranger and improviser enable him to skate between musical genres with deftness and integrity, creating a unique music which eschews boundaries. A man with an international reputation, Joe has performed concerts all over the world. Of particular note, at the Umbria Jazz Festival, The Tokyo Dome and The Lincoln Centre in New York. He also toured with famed US drummer Billy Cobham for over 10 years. Numerous of his recordings reached number 1 on the modern jazz charts in Japan. His formidable pianism has earned him admiration from amongst the classical elite.

In 2008 Joe was invited to perform 3 concerts in Italy by the celebrated classical pianist Michele Campanella, who was curator of a respected piano festival. In the same year, as a result of an enthusiastic recommendation by the formidable Nickolai Demidenko, piano maker Paolo Fazioli invited Joe to perform at his auditorium in Venice, a venue normally reserved for the likes of Angela Hewitt, Nickolai Demidenko and Aldo Ciccolini.

Joe is an artist who has done it all. He has performed and recorded with the best such as Shirley Bassey, Anne Sophie von Otter, Ricky Lee Jones, Dame Kiri Te Kanawa, Yvonne Kenny and Olivia Newton John, and worked on over 60 film soundtracks, providing the piano work for iconic Australian movies such as *Pharlap*, *The Man from Snowy River II*, *Babe*, and *The Sound of One Hand Clapping*.

NOTICES

NEXT SUNDAY @ ST MICHAEL'S AT CHURCH

“Sacred Extravagance”

Second Sunday after Epiphany – 10 am, 16 January 2022

Minister: Rev Dr Margaret Mayman

Music in Church: Rhys Boak (Organ)

Music Online: Joe Chindamo (Piano) & Rhys Boak (Organ)

SUNDAY SERVICES AT CHURCH – COVID-19

St Michael's Sunday services are offered online and in-person at the Church.

St Michael's is responsible for ensuring everyone scans the QR code or registers name and contact number with the Welcomers.

Evidence of vaccination or proof of exemption from an authorised medical provider is required to attend morning tea in the hall.

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 with 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

THURSDAY TWILIGHT ORGAN RECITALS RETURN

Twilight Organ Recitals have resumed for 2022.

Rhys Boak will give the twilight recital on Thursday 13th of January.

When: Thursdays 6:15pm – 6:45pm | Free Entry

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