

ST MICHAEL'S UNITING CHURCH

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

15 MAY 2022

"BEING COMPASSIONATE IS MORE IMPORTANT
THAN BEING RIGHT"



MINISTER: REV DR MARGARET MAYMAN

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

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

Church Services

Chair: Lorraine Woolley

Culture of Safety Contact

(Keeping Children Safe)

Val Gill

Contact and Care

Chair: Lyndell O'Brien

Deputy Chair: Joy Arnot

Programs

Chair: Neil Blood

Organist & Manager of Music

Rhys Boak

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 <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 HANDS. ♥

Sunday Gatherings are offered Online and In-Church.

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

PROCESSIONAL

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The Spirit of God has long dwelled
with the First Peoples of this ancient land.
We acknowledge the traditional owners of this place;
recognising that land was taken from them
without consent, treaty or compensation.

***We acknowledge the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nation,
and pay our respects to their elders, past and present.
We stand with them in their quest for justice
for the people and the 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 AND WELCOME

In the Spirit of God who shares divinity with us,
In the Spirit of God who shares humanity with us,
In the Spirit of God who unsettles and inspires us...
Let us give thanks for this day and for the diversity of life on earth.

HYMN LET US BUILD A HOUSE WHERE LOVE CAN DWELL

Let us build a house where love can dwell
and all can safely live,
a place where saints and children tell
how hearts learn to forgive;
built of hopes and dreams and visions,
rock of faith and vault of grace;
here the love of Christ shall end divisions:

All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where prophets speak,
and words are strong and true,
where all God's children dare to seek
to dream God's reign anew.
Here the cross shall stand as witness
and as symbol of God's grace;
here as one we claim the faith of Jesus:

All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where hands will reach
beyond the wood and stone
to heal and strengthen, serve and teach,
and live the Word they've known.
Here the outcast and the stranger
bear the image of God's face;
let us bring an end to fear and danger:

All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place..

Let us build a house where all are named,
their songs and visions heard
and loved and treasured, taught and claimed
as words within the Word.
Built of tears and cries and laughter,
prayers of faith and songs of grace,
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter:

All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

Words and Tune: Marty Haugen (1950 -)

PRAYER OF AWARENESS

JESUS' PRAYER

*God, lover of us all, most holy one,
help us to respond to you
to create what you desire here on earth.
Give us today enough for our needs;
forgive our weak and deliberate offences,
just as we must forgive others
when they hurt us.
Help us to resist evil
and to do what is good;
for we are yours,
endowed with your power
to make our world whole.
Amen.*

SHARING A SIGN OF PEACE

May the heart of peace rest with you.
And also with you.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

*We are not alone,
we live in God's world.
We believe in God:
who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus,
the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others
by the Spirit.
We trust in God.*

***We are called to be the Church:
to celebrate God's presence,
to live with respect in Creation,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope.
In life, in death, in life beyond death,
God is with us.
We are not alone.
Thanks be to God.***

United Church of Canada

THE BAPTISM

SUNG BLESSING

May God bless you and keep you;
May God make her face to shine upon you,
and be gracious unto you;
May God lift up his countenance upon you,
and give you peace.

Numbers 6: 22-27

COMMITMENT OF THE CONGREGATION

People of St Michael's,
will you live out the truth of the Gospel for Oscar
and for all who gather here
and will you point to the love of God in our world?

With God's grace, we will.

We promise our love and support.

***Together, we will seek to open our eyes and hearts
to the wonders of Divine Presence in our midst.***

BAPTISMAL CANDLE, BIBLE AND CERTIFICATE

HYMN

WE ARE AN EASTER PEOPLE

We are an Easter people,
ours is an Easter faith,
the yeast is rising in our hearts,
our wine has vintage taste.

Christ is risen, Christ is risen, risen in our lives.

We are an Easter people,
ours is an Easter faith,
our tears are freed to flow and heal
our shattered hopes and hearts.

Christ is risen, Christ is risen, risen in our lives.

We are an Easter people,
ours is an Easter faith,
our fears have died, we rise to dream,
to love, to dance, to live.

Christ is risen, Christ is risen, risen in our lives.

Words: Bill (W L) Wallace

Tune: Alive, Alison Carey

EARLY CHURCH: ACTS 11:1-18

LORRAINE WOOLLEY

For Jesus' friends, living out the inclusive love of God,

We give thanks.

MUSIC FOR CONTEMPLATION

The Holy City

– Stephen Adams (aka Michael Maybrick)(1841-1913)

Georgia Wilkinson (Soprano) & Rhys Boak (Piano)

CONTEMPORARY READING

“The Rainbow Seder” by Rabbi Arthur Waskow

For the Spirit made known in the sacred rituals of many faiths,

We give thanks.

REFLECTION

“Being compassionate is more important than being right”

HYMN

ALL OF HUMANITY, NOW AND FOREVER

All of humanity, now and for ever
Glow with the beauty we're favoured to share;
Each race and culture, unknown or familiar,
Brings with it treasures both complex and rare.

Stories and liturgies, sacred and holy
Tell of the cosmos, of virtue and life;
Some tell of evil, of hell and of glory;
Guiding the faithful through conflict and strife.

Peace and equality, freedom and justice,
We would confirm these as values we hold.
Sharing our faiths with discretion and with frankness;
Open to learn so new truth may unfold.

We must repudiate all of the conflicts
Caused in the name of some pious intent;
Let us denounce and dismiss hateful edicts;
Let love abound. For the past we repent!

With deep sincerity, honour all goodness,
Kindness and courage, all mercy and grace,
Patience and loyalty, both love and forgiveness;
Found in each culture and found in each race.

Words: George Stuart

Tune: Russia. Melody by A.F. Lvov (1798-1870) arr. G. Bartle (b.1928)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

In thanksgiving and solidarity...

MUSIC FOR CONTEMPLATION

'Let the bright seraphim' from *Samson* (1741)

–G. F. Handel (1685-1749)

Georgia Wilkinson (Soprano) & Rhys Boak (Organ)

OFFERING PRAYER

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

***Gracious God, you welcome us all
and blanket the earth with an invitation to love.
In the ministry of Jesus you were present among us,
sharing abundant life without discrimination.
Even today your Spirit fills the hearts of all people
reaching beyond culture, religion or language.
With these gifts may we build our church
into a community of radical inclusion
that reflects your Love.
Amen.***

NOTICES & ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF MUSICIANS

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 overhead.
*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 the 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 hand of a child in hands that are wrinkled,
for young and for old, the right to belong.

Refrain.

For gay and for straight, a place at the table,
a covenant shared, a welcoming space,
a rainbow of race and gender and colour,
for gay and for straight, the chalice of grace,

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 (2006)

BLESSING AND SUNG AMEN

... May the blessing of God,
Creator, Liberator and Life-giver be with you
as you go to share love and life in the world.

POSTLUDE

Toccata from the Organ symphony No. 5 in F minor
– C.M. Widor (1844-1937)

Rhys Boak (Organ)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Cover image: "Celebration" by John August Swanson

Arthur Waskow, "The Rainbow Seder." In *New Jewish Agenda* (ed.).
The Shalom Seders: Three Haggadahs. Adama Books. 1984.

Jesus' Prayer by Lala Winkley, in *Celebrating women*. Hannah Ward,
Jennifer Wild, and Janet Morley (eds). London. SPCK. 1995.

"Let us build a house where love can dwell."

Words and Tune: Marty Haugen

"We are an Easter people." Words: Bill (W L) Wallace.

Tune: Alive, Alison Carey.

"All of humanity, now and Forever." Words: George Stuart.

Tune: Russia. Melody by A.F. Lvov. arr. G. Bartle.

"For everyone born, a place at the table."

Words: Shirley Erena Murray. Hope Publishing Company.

Tune: For Everyone Born. Brian Mann.

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NOTICES

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

CONTEMPORARY READING

“The Rainbow Seder” by Rabbi Arthur Waskow

In the beginning, darkness covered the face of the deep.
Then the rushing breath of God hovered over the waters.
Let us breathe together.
Let us catch our breaths from slavery, from anxiety,
and from the need to do, to make.
Let us be conscious of the Breath of Life,
the One Who breathes us.
God breathed, “Be Light!”
And Light came into being.
We are the generation
That stands between the fires.
Behind us is the flame and smoke
That rose from Auschwitz and from
Hiroshima.
Before us is the nightmare of a Flood
of Fire:
The scorching of our planet
From a flood of greenhouse gases,
Or the blazing of our cities
In thermonuclear fires.
It is our task to make from fire
Not an all-consuming blaze
But the light in which we see each other;
Each of us different,
All of us made in the image of God.
We light this fire to see more clearly
That the earth, the human race,
are not for burning.
We light this fire to see more clearly
The rainbow in our many-colored faces.
Blessed are you, Yahweh our God,
Breathing Spirit of the Universe,
who gives us light
that we may become a light for peace and freedom
for all peoples.

MUSIC IN CHURCH

MUSIC FOR CONTEMPLATION

The Holy City

– Stephen Adams (aka Michael Maybrick)(1841-1913)

Michael Maybrick, who wrote this Victorian era religious ballad under the pseudonym of ‘Stephen Adams’, was a celebrated pianist, baritone and composer.

The three verses of the song describe the Palm Sunday procession, the crucifixion of Jesus, and the hopeful vision of a New Jerusalem where “the light of God was on its streets, the gates were open wide, and all who would might enter, and no one was denied.”

Georgia Wilkinson (Soprano) & Rhys Boak (Piano)

‘Let the bright seraphim’ from *Samson* (1741)

–G. F. Handel (1685-1749)

This famous aria is sung towards the end of Handel’s oratorio *Samson*. It is sung after the death of Samson who has died along with his enemies. Samson’s father, Manoah, then calls upon the people to curtail their grieving and lamentations. A strong sense of triumph is expressed in this aria which is full of joyousness and lofty inspiration. Since this work was sung by Dame Kiri Te Kanawa at the wedding of Prince Charles and Diana Spencer, this aria has been extremely popular.

Georgia Wilkinson (Soprano) & Rhys Boak (Organ)

MUSICIAN IN CHURCH

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.

MUSIC ONLINE

MUSIC FOR CONTEMPLATION

The Holy City

– Stephen Adams (aka Michael Maybrick)(1841-1913)

Michael Maybrick, who wrote this Victorian era religious ballad under the pseudonym of 'Stephen Adams', was a celebrated pianist, baritone and composer. The three verses of the song describe the Palm Sunday procession, the crucifixion of Jesus, and the hopeful vision of a New Jerusalem where "the light of God was on its streets, the gates were open wide, and all who would might enter, and no one was denied."

Christopher Watson (Tenor) & Rhys Boak (Piano)

POSTLUDE

Aubade – Gabriel Pierne (1863-1927)

Gabriel Pierne was in his time a highly successful composer and organist, having succeeded the great Cesar Franck as organist at the much-celebrated Parisienne church of St. Clothilde. However, he seems to have fallen through the cracks of history and his music is seldom heard today. Pierne wrote several operas, symphonic pieces and other music and was the recipient of many awards during his life. There is today, even a Gabriel Pierne square in Paris named in his honour.

Annabelle Farid (Oboe) & Amir Farid (Piano)

MUSICIANS ONLINE

Amir Farid

Winner of the 2006 Australian National Piano Award, US born Iranian-Australian pianist Amir Farid has been described as “a highly creative musician – a pianist of great intelligence and integrity. He brings strong musical substance to all that he does, imbuing it with his own particular experience and understanding”, and who “in a well-populated field...distinguishes himself for all the right reasons”.

As one of the most versatile and loved musicians in Australia, the currently New York-based pianist has performed concerti with major orchestras, collaborating with conductors such as Christopher Hogwood, Oleg Caetani, Johannes Fritzsche, Alexander Briger, Marko Letonja and Benjamin Northey. Highlights include Rachmaninoff's 2nd piano concerto with the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra in front of a 13,000-strong crowd at the Sidney Myer Music Bowl, Mozart's concerto No.14 with the Sydney Symphony Orchestra, and “The Mozart Dances” with the Mark Morris Dance Group and West Australian Symphony Orchestra as part of the 2015 Perth Festival.

Since graduating with distinction from the Royal College of Music London in 2009 with Andrew Ball, he has performed as a solo recitalist and collaborative artist in concert halls and festivals internationally, including Carnegie Hall New York, St. Martin in the Fields London, Mostly Mozart festival at Lincoln Center New York,

Al-Hashemi-II Kuwait, MONA FOMA Festival Hobart, Coriole Festival SA, Huntington Festival NSW, as well as other venues in USA, Canada, Germany, Switzerland, New Zealand and China.

Annabelle Farid

is an Australian freelance oboist who has been based in New York City since 2017. She has performed with the American Symphony Orchestra in Carnegie Hall, the American Ballet Theatre Orchestra at the Lincoln Center, and performed in the popular Christmas Eve concert at The Cathedral of St. John the Divine. Annabelle has performed across Australia with the Melbourne, West Australian, Canberra, Sydney, Adelaide, Darwin, and Tasmanian Symphony Orchestras, also with the Opera Australia and Victorian Opera Orchestras. She has appeared as soloist with Orchestra Victoria and Stonnington Symphony playing the Strauss and Mozart Oboe Concertos, and has performed orchestral and chamber music in Malaysia, Hong Kong, Taiwan, South Korea, the Middle East, Europe, New Zealand and in many centres in China, including a performance at the 2016 Beijing Music Festival on tour with the West Australian Symphony Orchestra. Annabelle has a Bachelor of Music from Monash University, a Master of Music from the Sydney Conservatorium of Music, and attended the Australian National Academy of Music in Melbourne.

Christopher Watson

The English tenor, Christopher Watson, studied music at Exeter University, and after spending a number of years as a Lay Clerk in the choirs of Durham Cathedral and then Christ Church, Oxford, he moved to London in 1997 when he was appointed as Lay Clerk in the choir of Westminster Cathedral. With the cathedral choirs he has sung in a great many successful concerts and highly acclaimed recordings and at the same time has established a reputation as one of the most sought-after tenors in the Early Music field.

Christopher is also a notable choral conductor and has resided in Melbourne for the last several years. Christopher is the director of the world-famous Choir of Trinity College within the University of Melbourne.