

ST MICHAEL'S
UNITING CHURCH



SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
29 MAY 2022

RECONCILIATION: BE BRAVE. MAKE CHANGE



MINISTER: REV DR MARGARET MAYMAN

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

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.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 HANDS! ♥

Sunday Gatherings are offered Online and In-Church.

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

*Music notes, musicians' bios, and the text of the contemporary reading
can be found at the end of the order of service.*

PROCESSIONAL

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

We pay our respects to the traditional owners of the land where we meet, land that was never ceded by them.

***We acknowledge the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nation,
and pay our respects to their elders, past and present.***

We honour the custodianship of the First Peoples of Australia,
who have cared for the lands and waters since time immemorial.

***We stand in solidarity with the call for a First Nations voice to
parliament; that we may hear the truth and work for justice.***

*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 Reconciliation Week,
we gather as a community of faith on sacred ground.
This church, recognised as heritage, is part of a recent story.

The land on which it is built is the ancient story,
upholding the footsteps of the Wurundjeri people,
bearing the record of lives for thousands of years.

Earth and air.
Fire and water.
Creation sustained love and life,
language and spirit.
As it was then, so it is now.

We gather as a community of faith to hear stories
which call us to reconciliation.

HYMN

THE LOVE OF GOD COMES CLOSE



The love of God comes close
where stands an open door
to let the stranger in,
to mingle rich and poor:
The love of God is here to stay
embracing those who walk God's way.

The peace of God comes close
to those caught in the storm,
forgoing lives of ease
to ease the lives forlorn:
The peace of God is here to stay
embracing those who walk this way.

The joy of God comes close
where faith encounters fears,
where heights and depths of life
are found through smiles and tears:

The joy of God is here to stay
embracing those who walk this way.

The grace of God comes close
to those whose grace is spent,
when hearts are tired or sore
and hope is bruised or bent:
The grace of God is here to stay
embracing those who walk this way.

*Words: John Bell and Graham Maule
Tune: Love Unknown
John Ireland(1879-1962)*

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.

HYMN OUR RECONCILING GOD OF PEACE AND MERCY



Our reconciling God of peace and mercy,
give us the mind revealed when Jesus came;
so that, together, we may sing your praises,
and live to glorify your name.

Your Spirit is at work among your people,
when truth and honour take the place of lies;
when walls and fences which divide are toppled;
when grace and love abound, and discord dies.

In covenant your people come together
and pledge to follow Jesus' great command-
to make redress for wrongs that have been suffered
and bring new hope and justice to this land.

Tune: Tree of Peace
Alfred Ernest Floyd (1877-1974)

EARLY CHURCH: ACTS 16:16-34

NEIL BLOOD

For the memory of early Jesus' communities,
We give thanks.

MUSIC FOR CONTEMPLATION

CONTEMPORARY READING

“Songlines” by Nola Gregory

For the generosity of spirit of the First Peoples,
We give thanks.

REFLECTION

“Reconciliation: Be Brave. Make Change”

HYMN

FOLLOW THE SONGLINES

Refrain



D.C.

*Follow the songlines,
follow the Spirit
singing the world into being anew,
follow the theme of the ancient ones' dreaming,
footprints in faith that the track will run true.
Time beyond time, dream before dreaming,
one Holy Spirit has sung the design:
pathways of peace, widening circles,
music and dance that declare the divine,*

*Follow the songlines,
follow the Spirit
singing the world into being anew,
follow the theme of the ancient ones' dreaming,
footprints in faith that the track will run true.*
Time beyond time, dream before dreaming,
one Holy Spirit has sung the design:
pathways of peace, widening circles,
music and dance that declare the divine,

*Follow the songlines,
follow the Spirit
singing the world into being anew,
follow the theme of the ancient ones' dreaming,
footprints in faith that the track will run true.*
Bushfire may flare, searing our courage,
earthquake of doubt shake the words that we pray:
look for the shoots, green-growing saplings,
look for the hopeful amid the decay,

*Follow the songlines,
follow the Spirit
singing the world into being anew,
follow the theme of the ancient ones' dreaming,
footprints in faith that the track will run true.*
New songs be born, sensed by God's longing,
new lines be drawn, in the rock, in the dust,
calling out love, calling out justice,
calling a people to grow and to trust,

*Follow the songlines,
follow the Spirit
singing the world into being anew,
follow the theme of the ancient ones' dreaming,
footprints in faith that the track will run true.*

Words: Shirley Erena Murray (1931-2020)

*Tune: Wollongong
Colin Gibson (1933-)*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

In thanksgiving and solidarity...

MUSIC FOR CONTEMPLATION

OFFERING

***We bring these gifts and offer them
for the ministry of reconciliation
in this congregation and beyond.
With our hands and hearts,
we commit ourselves
to the work of reconciliation and healing
in the church and in the community.
Amen.***

NOTICES & ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF MUSICIANS

HYMN

GOD GIVES US A FUTURE



God gives us a future,
daring us to go
Into dreams and dangers
on a path unknown.
We will face tomorrow
with the Spirit's power
We will let God change us
for new life starts now.

We must leave behind us
sins of yesterday
For God's new beginning
is a better way
Fear and doubt and habit
must not hold us back
God gives hope and insight
and the strength we lack.

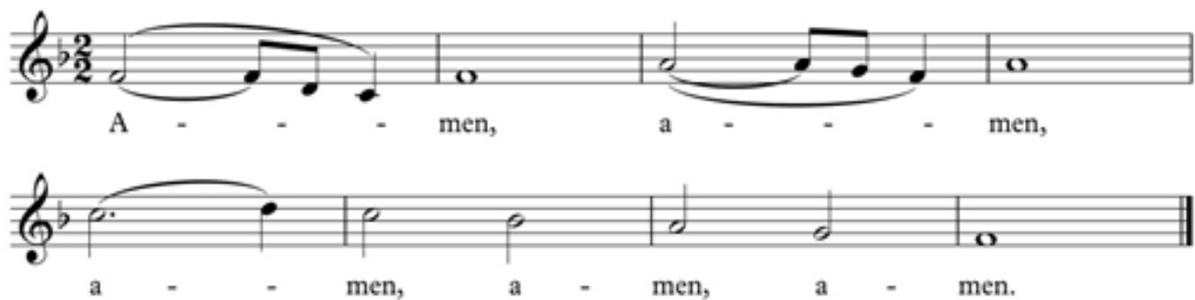
Holy Spirit teach us
how to read the signs
How to meet the challenge
of our troubled times

Love us into action
stir us into prayer
Till we choose God's life
and find our future there.

*Words: Elizabeth J Smith (1956-)
Tune: Camberwell
John Michael Brierley (1932-)*

BLESSING AND SUNG AMEN

May the Sacred Creator of this great south land, give us strength,
May the memory of Jesus, who calls us to be a just nation,
give us courage,
And may the Spirit of peace, who shares the journey with us,
be our inspiration and guide.



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

POSTLUDE

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Image: “Action” by Jessica Johnson.

<https://nrw.reconciliation.org.au/nrw2021-artwork-action/>

“Songlines,” a poem by Nola Gregory. Retrieved from

<https://www.creativespirits.info/aboriginalculture/arts/poems/songlines>

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

“The love of God comes close.” Words: John Bell and Graham Maule. Tune: Love Unknown. John Ireland.

“Our reconciling God of Peace and Mercy.” Tune: Tree of Peace. Alfred Ernest Floyd.

“Follow the songlines.” Words: Shirley Erena Murray. Tune: Wollongong. Colin Gibson.

“God gives us a future.” Words: Elizabeth J Smith. Tune: Camberwell John Michael Brierley.

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NOTICES

St Michael’s Notices are included in the weekly eNews.

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ST MICHAEL’S SOCIAL MEDIA

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

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

CONTEMPORARY READING

“Songlines” by Nola Gregory

Come with us on a journey
Through land and sea and time
Follow down our dreaming tracks
Listen carefully, look for signs.

You will feel them in your spirit
As they weave into your soul
Songlines, our Ancestral story
Are alive and strong and bold.

They created for us the rivers
The trees and all their girth
Spreading out our storylines
As they walked upon the earth.

They are for us a legacy
Our connection to our land
They are seen through our existence
As we walk upon ochre and sand.

So listen very carefully now
As you walk upon our land
Let it seep into your spirit
As we take you by the hand.

We'll lead you to our dreaming
And sing you songs of old
As through dance and art recorded
Our Ancestral story is told.

For 60,000 years it's been
Our heart, our spirit, our song
Something for us to be proud of
It's our existence, it's where we belong.

We follow in the footsteps
Of our Ancestral beings
We follow along our Songlines
And our journey to our Dreaming.

MUSIC IN CHURCH

MUSIC FOR CONTEMPLATION

Sorry Song – Kerry Fletcher

In the words of the composer, Sorry Song was “written and dedicated to all First Nations peoples whose lives have been affected by the policy of Indigenous Child Removals. The forced removal of so many Aboriginal children from their mothers, families and communities inflicted profound grief, suffering and loss that continues to affect them, their communities and descendants.

Kerry Fletcher wrote Sorry Song in 1998, on behalf of all of us whose hearts ache when we think of the pain those children and communities suffered and the pain which they still endure today.”

Sorry Song was born in Whadjuk Noongar Boodjar - Fremantle, Western Australia along the Derbarl Yerrigan - Swan River

Georgia Wilkinson (Soprano) & Rhys Boak (Piano)

‘Seufzer, Thranen, Kummer, Noth’ from BWV21

– J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

This beautiful aria, written for the season of Lent is from a cantata Bach wrote during his time at the court of Weimar to the gravely ill Prince Johann Ernst of Sachsen-Weimar who had been a close friend and cherished pupil of J.S. Bach. The text is ‘Sighing, weeping, trouble and distress’.

Georgia Wilkinson (Soprano) & Rhys Boak (Organ)

POSTLUDE

'Elegy' - George Thalben-Ball (1896-1987)

Australian organist and composer George Thalben-Ball composed this 'Elegy' on the spot during a live BBC broadcast from the Temple Church, London in the 1950s to fill a gap caused by a service ending earlier than expected. The BBC and composer were swamped with requests for the sheet music, which at that time did not exist. It has subsequently become an integral part of the repertoire.

Rhys Boak (Organ)

MUSICIAN

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

'Pie Jesu' from Requiem in D minor - Fauré, Gabriel (arr. Rhys Boak)

This haunting movement from Faure's "Requiem" is one of the most sublime moments in all church music. Today it is sung not in its original orchestration, but in a version made for string quartet, organ and soprano soloist. This work is both an expression of grief and loss as well as a cry to Jesus.

Katherine Norman (Soprano) The Nuovo Quartet
and Rhys Boak (Organ)

POSTLUDE

'Elegy' - George Thalben-Ball (1896-1987)

Australian organist and composer George Thalben-Ball composed this 'Elegy' on the spot during a live BBC broadcast from the Temple Church, London in the 1950s to fill a gap caused by a service ending earlier than expected. The BBC and composer were swamped with requests for the sheet music, which at that time did not exist. It has subsequently become an integral part of the repertoire.

Rhys Boak (Organ)

MUSICIANS ONLINE

Katherine Norman is a Soprano with over 19 years' experience, including five European concert tours, several recordings and numerous live concert broadcasts presented by ABC Classic FM. An early sacred & Bach specialist whose repertoire also includes modern composition, Katherine is an accomplished soloist & blended ensemble singer.

Katherine studied voice with Vivienne Hamilton & Steven Grant at the University of Melbourne, Conservatorium of Music. Career highlights include Soprano soloist for the much-loved and vocally demanding Allegri Miserere, Mozart's Requiem, and the Pergolesi Stabat Mater, presenting the world Premiere of Hodgson Lamentations, and performing in four separate years of the annual Melbourne Festival.

Notable collaborations have included performances with the Tallis Scholars, the Rolling Stones, Warren Trevelyan-Jones, Steven Layton & Jeremy Summerly.

Katherine has sung with the Consort of Melbourne since 2009 and was recently a guest artist for the St James King St (Sydney) European concert tour, performing in such distinguished venues as Westminster Abbey and Notre Dame.

Katherine is also Secretary of the Board for the Consort of Melbourne. When not singing, Katherine is the Senior Account Manager in Presenter Services at Arts Centre Melbourne – leading the entire Event Management team to deliver 3,000 shows every year. She also lectures in Venue Management and is on the Venue Management School Committee. She & her partner also volunteer for Asylum Seekers Resource Centre (ASRC) & dote on their two Wheaten Terrier dogs.

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).