

ST MICHAEL'S
UNITING CHURCH



NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
“PERSISTING IN KINDNESS, RESISTING INJUSTICE”

16 OCTOBER 2022



MINISTER: REV DR MARGARET MAYMAN

MUSIC: KATE MACFARLANE (SOPRANO)
& RHYS BOAK (ORGAN & PIANO)

CANTOR: KATE MACFARLANE

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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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 can be found at the end of the order of service.

PROCESSIONAL

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

As we gather, we acknowledge that we meet on the unceded land of the traditional owners, the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nation.

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

We honour their custodianship and care for the lands and waters since time immemorial.

***Walking together toward a just and peaceful future,
we accept the invitation of the Uluru Statement from the Heart.***

WELCOME & GATHERING

*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.*

We gather together to entrust ourselves
and the world
to the Spirit of Love and to each other.
To find peace and healing
in the joy of music and words,
in the stillness of prayer,
and in the Spirit's enfolding love.

HYMN

HOW GREAT THE MYSTERY OF FAITH

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

Let us gather to hear the voices of all people
and especially the sounds of our city:
the relentless pleading of persistent ones
the soundless longings of the silent ones.

We gather to contemplate voices
of those who are shameless,
who do not hear the pleas
of the unacceptable and powerless
the “widows and orphans” of our day—
those without loving relationships or homes—
and to show them a new way.

We gather to listen to those who feel shamed
—not by others' persistent prayers
but past decisions, errors of judgement,
failures to act...
Sometimes it is our own inner voice
blaming, shaming, quiet but persistent...
We come here to let it rest, to still its yearning.

We gather to find new energy
for real, persistent prayer:
acting to make the world anew:

To be for our city a loving heart
to read its signs of grace
and hear the Spirit's voice,
bringing life, love and justice to the city.

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 of Divine Presence be with you.
And also with you.

HEBREW BIBLE: JEREMIAH 31:27-34

REV CLARE BROCKETT

For ancient stories of a relational God,

We give thanks.

MUSIC FOR CONTEMPLATION

'Au pied du mon lit'

GOSPEL: LUKE 18:1-8

For the ones who persist in the face of injustice,

We give thanks.

CONTEMPORARY READING

“All people are human,”

For Wisdom that was in the beginning,

For Wisdom that invites and inspires,

For Wisdom in the world today,

We give thanks.

HYMN

O WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

Oh where are you going,
and can I come with you,
and what is your method
for keeping alive:
no pack or possessions,
no clothing or shelter,
no food to sustain you -
how can you survive?

Oh where are you going,
and can I come with you,
and why is your company
never the same?

You sit among beggars,
you argue with bankers,
debate with the lawyers
and walk with the lame.

Oh where are you going,
and can I come with you,
and what can you show
for your talents and time -
no profit from trading,
no thing of your making
no mark or memento,
no picture or rhyme?

Oh where are you going,
and can I come with you,
and what is the secret,
towards which you strive?
What hidden inspirer,
what unseen admirer,
what dream is the substance
upon which you thrive?

I'm going on a journey
and welcome companions,
but don't ask me
how we'll survive, where we'll go,
or who will come with us,
or what we'll be doing.
Just join me in travelling

*Words: John Bell (1949 -)
& Graham Maule (1958-2019)
Tune: Laredo
American traditional melody*

REFLECTION

'Persisting in kindness, resisting injustice'

God whose power has called to being
All that fills the earth below,
myriad stars beyond our seeing,
tiniest creature that we know.
Earth and air and fire and water
woven in the grand design
witness to the final meaning
of your love for human kind.

Human lives are made for sharing;
joined in trust and truth we grow,
speech or silence opening pathways
to the hearts we seek to know.
Welcome Love, by your renewal
worn out ways turn upside down;
weak is strong, success is failure
and the wise becomes the clown.

From your Self we take our nature,
Maker, Parent, Love divine.
Bound into your life we flourish,
leaves and branches of the vine.
Through the Christ we see the pattern,
life surrendered, life restored;
echoing through all creation
sounds the spirit's deep accord.

Love releases us for taking
one more risk than we might dare;
glory breaks through dark and danger,
shows the Christ transfigured there.

God who planted our affections,
help your gifts to grow more free
fan in us the fires of loving,
daring, dancing Trinity.

*Words: Jim Cotter (1942-2014)
Tune: Abbot's Leigh
Cyril Taylor (1907-1991)*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

In thanksgiving and solidarity

*In a time of silence, we pray for people and places
Known to us, where compassion, justice and peace are needed.*

Holy Spirit, in us and with us,
enable us to be creators of justice and joy.

***Empower us to be a community
that brings hope and life to the city.
Amen.***

MUSIC FOR CONTEMPLATION

'Desire for hermitage'

OFFERING

***Gracious God, you have given us the gift of your Spirit,
shared down through the ages with your people.
You come to us still in the splendour of creation,
in struggles for peace and justice,
and in the love of family and friends.
We bring these our gifts
and we offer ourselves and our lives
to live in harmony with your Spirit.
Amen.***

NOTICES

MAREE MCDONALD

HYMN

DEEP IN THE HUMAN HEART

Deep in the human heart
the fire of justice burns;
a vision of a world renewed
through radical concern.
As Christians we are called
to set the captives free,
to overthrow the evil powers
and end hypocrisy.

This is our task today -
to build a world of peace;
a world of justice, freedom, truth,
where kindness will increase;
a world from hunger freed,
a world where people share,
where every person is of worth
and no-one lives in fear.

Taking the step of faith,
we leave the past behind
and move into the future's world
with open heart and mind.
By grace we work with Christ,
as one community,
to bring new hope and fuller life
to all humanity.

Words: William L. (Bill) Wallace (1933-)

Tune: Diademata

George Job Elvey (1816-93)

BLESSING AND SUNG AMEN

May the blessings of life be with us
and those we love.

May the memories we gather here
give us hope for the future.

May the love that we share

bring strength and joy to our hearts

and the peace of this community sustain us as we go.

May the blessing of God,
Lover, beloved and Spirit of Love
Be with us and with all creation
This day and forever more.
Amen.

POSTLUDE

Andante from Symphony No. 94 in G - The Surprise

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Art: Persistent Widow. Icon.

Prayer of awareness. Based on a call to worship by Bronwyn White.

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

Contemporary Reading: "All people are human." Anonymous poem.

"How great the mystery of faith" Words: Brian Wren.

Tune: Ombersley. William Henry Gladstone.

"O, where are you going?" Words: John Bell. & Graham Maule

Tune: Laredo. American traditional melody

"God whose power has called to being." Words: Jim Cotter.

Tune: Abbot's Leigh. Cyril Taylor.

"Deep in the human heart." Words: William L. (Bill) Wallace.

Tune: Diademata. George Job Elvey (1816-93)

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NOTICES


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MUSICIANS

You can find biographical profiles of St Michael's Guest Musicians on our website. <https://tinyurl.com/St-Mic-Musician-Biographies>

MUSIC ONLINE

MUSIC FOR CONTEMPLATION

Pavane – Gabriel Fauré (1845-1924)

Fittingly, this haunting Pavane was filmed in Mingary, which, as a unique space in all of Melbourne, designed for the healing of the spirit.

The Nuovo Quartet led by Susannah Ng

POSTLUDE

Allegro Moderato from the String Quartet in D Major, Op. 64 No. 5

"The Lark" - F. J. Haydn (1732-1809)

Haydn's music is often imbued with a sense of optimism, positivity and often humour. His string quartet nicknamed 'The Lark' is amongst the most celebrated music for String Quartet. The idea of birdsong, of nature and of joy is appropriate for this season of spring.

The Nuovo Quartet led by Susannah Ng

MUSIC IN CHURCH

MUSIC FOR CONTEMPLATION

'Au pied du mon lit'

– Lili Boulanger (1893-1918)

Au pied do mon lit, or 'At the foot of my bed' is a song that celebrates the kindness and love of motherhood. Lili Boulanger was a celebrated composer during her short life, winning many prizes at the celebrated Paris conservatoire.

Kate Macfarlane (Soprano) & Rhys Boak (Organ)

'Desire for hermitage' – Samuel Barber (1910-1901)

This song, by the contemporary American composer, Samuel Barber speaks of the solace and comfort of meditation and reflection.

Kate Macfarlane (Soprano) & Rhys Boak (Piano)

POSTLUDE

Andante from Symphony No. 94 in G - The Surprise

– F. J. Haydn (1732-1809)

transcribed for organ by King Hall.

The symphony from which this Andante comes is the second of the twelve "London Symphonies." This movement became extraordinarily popular and was transcribed for organ solo by King Hall and published in Schott's Gray Album of organ music in 1910.

Rhys Boak (Organ)