

ST MICHAEL'S
UNITING CHURCH



TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

“GLORY DAYS OR BETTER DAYS?”

6 NOVEMBER 2022



MINISTER: REV DR MARGARET MAYMAN

MUSIC: JUDITH DODSWORTH (SOPRANO)
& 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

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

*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

We come with open hearts
to hear the voice of the holy,
singing through our songs,
breathing the word into our silences,
challenging us in our speaking and listening
and calling to the people down the ages.
Let us celebrate life in touch with the depths of Being.

HYMN

O GOD OF VISION

O God of vision, far greater than all human scheming,
gather us now in your presence, refreshing, redeeming.
Show us a new Life, in your breath-taking view,
lovely beyond all our dreaming.

Pour out your Spirit on all now assembled before you.
May our diversity here be a means to adore you.
Women and men, young, old, and youthful again,
make us as one, we implore you.

Grant to us insight, O God, for this time of decision.
May we dream challenging dreams of both depth and precision.
Speak through the dark. Dispel by lightning's bright spark,
whatever clouds dim our vision.

Break the sun's rays into colour, a rainbow around us.
Storm clouds, though real and near, are not enough to confound us.
Arched in the sky, beauty and promise are high,
giving us hope to astound us.

Grateful, we come now by Christ's invitation clear spoken.
We seek the nourishment found in fruit crushed and bread broken.
Christ for us all! Come, let us answer the call,
offering our lives as the token.

Words: Jane Parker Huber

Tune: Lobe den Herren

*Later form of a chorale melody in
the 'Stralsund Gesangbuch', 1665*

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

HEBREW BIBLE: HAGGAI 1:15-2:9

LAURA BECKETT

For the courage of prophets, ancient and modern,
We give thanks.

GOSPEL: LUKE 20: 27-38

For the wisdom of Jesus,
We give thanks.

MUSIC FOR CONTEMPLATION

CONTEMPORARY READING

by Peter Millar, from *Lent and Easter Readings from Iona*

For Wisdom that was in the beginning,
For Wisdom that invites and inspires,
For Wisdom in the world today,
We give thanks.

HYMN

WALLS MARK OUR BOUNDARIES

Walls mark our bound'ries and keep us apart;
walls keep the world from our eyes and our heart.

Tables are round, making room for one more,
welcoming friends we had not known before.

So build us a table and tear down the wall!

Christ is our host. There is room for us all!

Walls make us sure who is in and who's out;
walls keep us safe from all question and doubt,
but at a table in open exchange

new ties are formed as our lives rearrange.

So build us a table and tear down the wall!

Christ is our host. There is room for us all!

Once we were strangers, divided, alone.
Hate and distrust built a wall stone by stone.
Now at a table the bread that we share
joins us to Christ in a circle of care.

So build us a table and tear down the wall!

Christ is our host. There is room for us all!

Words: Ruth Duck. (1947-)

Tune: Penrose, Jim Strathdee (1941-)

REFLECTION

Glory days or better days?

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

In thanksgiving and solidarity

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

OFFERING

*Spirit of life, take our gifts and our prayers
and let them be a balm against fear
and an impetus for all the good that is to come.
In your many names we pray.
Amen.*

HOLY COMMUNION

COMMUNION HYMN

Take my gifts and let me love you,
God who first of all loved me,
gave me light and food and shelter,
gave me life and set me free.

Now because your love has touched me,
I have love to give away,
now the bread of love is rising,
loaves of love to multiply!

Take the fruit that I have gathered
from the tree your Spirit sowed,
harvest of your own compassion,
juice that makes the wine of God,
spiced with humour, laced with laughter,
flavour of the Jesus life,
tang of risk and new adventure,
taste and zest beyond belief.

Take whatever I can offer,
gifts that I have yet to find,
skills that I am slow to sharpen,
talents of the hand and mind,

TAKE MY GIFTS

things made beautiful for others
in the place where I must be:
take my gifts and let me love you,
God who first of all loved me.

Words: Shirley Erena Murray (1931-2020)

Tune: Talavera Terrace

Colin Gibson (1933-)

WELCOME TO THE TABLE

St Michael's Uniting Church is an open community, and all are invited
to the table...

Gather around this open table
where all are welcome, and the good earth is affirmed.
From earth's generosity, we bring these gifts of bread and wine.

***Witnesses to hope,
we participate
in Christ's liberation.***

COMMUNION PRAYER

Be still
and know that I am God.

***In the presence of the Divine,
we are still.***

In Christ
we are accompanied by the Sacred,
embodied among us,
sharing our birthing
our living, our dying

***Sharing our dreams
of hope and liberation,
offering us new beginnings.***

In Christ
the Holy One appears as the host
at the ebbing and the flowing of our lives

***Beckoning us
to share holy hospitality,
and the challenge of love.***

In Christ
the Holy One sits as the guest
at the table of the stranger

***Blessing us with Divine presence,
in the reawakening of love.***

In Christ
God is present among us
as host and guest at the heart of this community

***Sharing vulnerability with us,
revealing love.***

As hosts with Christ....
we bless this bread.
As guests with Christ,
we pour this wine.
As welcomed strangers,
united in Christ's life, death,
and embodied liberation,
we hear the words of promise:

This is my body given for you;
take and eat to re-member me.

This cup poured out:
this is the new covenant in my blood;
take and drink to re-member me.

In this action of justice-making,
we recall
broken minds and bodies
blood shed through lust for power
and nature damaged by human hand.

***Restore and heal
all that is wounded.
Be present
in the stillness
of the waiting.
Roll back the stone
of prejudice and fear.
Release the signs
of new life.
Amen.***

BREAKING BREAD

We gently break this bread
of fragile life

***Our breaking down
becomes our breaking through.***

As we eat this living bread
and drink the wine of new life,
let us celebrate the cosmic Christ,
Christa/community present among us now
liberating and sustaining

***With divine tenderness
you remake us.
By transforming pain
you heal us.
Your passionate energy
empowers us.***

INVOCATION OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Holy God, let your spirit well up in us.
Be present in these gifts of bread and wine,
that we may be filled with hope for the journey.
Amen.

SHARING COMMUNION

The bread of life. The cup of blessing.
Gifts of Earth. Gifts of Spirit.
Christ made known among us.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God of heaven and earth,
you make us one in Christ.

***Inspire us with the wisdom of ancient dreams
and the power of new visions.***

***Give us eyes to see you in the stranger
that we may live out your radical hospitality.***

Amen.

NOTICES

LAURA BECKETT

HYMN

GOD OF HISTORY – RECENT, ANCIENT

God of history – recent, ancient
God of every yesterday,
still our God in this day's moments,
where we go or where we stay:
You have set us in this context,
time, relationship, and place,
hear our praise and glad thanksgiving
for all signs of present grace.

You have called us from division
into unity and hope.
Each and all belong together
in the world's kaleidoscope.
Help us listen to the voices
daring us to be and do
what you plan for church and people,
loving others, praising you.

How are we, then, called to answer
as we work and as we live,
called to justice, called to mission,
learning to receive and give?
Shall we build a bridge of promise?
Tear down walls that split, divide?
Fling wide doorways, open windows?
Let the Spirit come inside?

God you point us toward the future
where Christ leads and shows the way.
Here and now, work not yet finished
needs our strength and will today
thus we move into tomorrow,
called to live and work and be
reconcilers, pilgrim people,
called by Christ, by Christ set free.

Words: Jane Parker Huber (1926-2008)

Tune: Hyfrydol

Rowland Hugh Prichard (1811-1887)

BLESSING AND SUNG AMEN

May the love of the Holy One shine light in places of darkness.
May the presence of the Risen One
bring hope and healing in places of need.
May the transformation of the Spirit
bring change to places of struggle.

POSTLUDE

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Art: 'Sea Dancer' by Gino Severini. Peggy Guggenheim Collection, Venice.

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

Prayer of Awareness by Bruce Sanguin, in *If Darwin Prayed*.

Contemporary Reading by Peter Millar, in *Lent and Easter Readings from Iona*.

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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

Laudate Dominum K. 339

– W.A. Mozart (1756-1791) arr. Rhys Boak

This work was composed in 1779 at the request of Archbishop Colleredo of Salzburg for use during Sunday services. The work is one of Mozart's finest, and this sublime movement, Laudate Dominum, in particular has become very famous and much loved.

Georgia Wilkinson (Soprano) & Rhys Boak (Organ)

POSTLUDE

'A Blackbird Singing' – Michael Head (1900-1976)

Michael Head followed his mother's lead in becoming a musician.

Although he did compose a piano concerto and a tone poem early in his career, most of Michael Head's music is in the form of art song.

We hear one of his finest this morning. The text is a poem by Francis Ledwidge that speaks of a troubled soul in troubling times. The music was written in 1918-1919 at the end of World War 1 and the height of the Spanish Flu pandemic.

Georgia Wilkinson (Soprano) & Rhys Boak (Piano)

MUSIC IN CHURCH

MUSIC FOR CONTEMPLATION

'Nulla in mundo, pax sincera' – Antonio Vivaldi (1678-1741)

Antonio Vivaldi ranks as one of the greatest composers of classical music, though he was also a Catholic priest. He wrote this sacred motet in 1735 containing the text 'In this world there is no peace without bitterness'.

Judith Dodsworth (Soprano) & Rhys Boak (Organ)

'The call; from 5 mystical songs'

– Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

Vaughan Williams' 5 mystical songs were composed between 1906 and 1911. The text is by the Welsh cleric and poet George Herbert. 'The Call' has also been adapted as a hymn with the text 'Come my way, my truth, my life'

Judith Dodsworth (Soprano) & Rhys Boak (Organ)

POSTLUDE

Toccata – Wesley Jordan (b. 1943)

This toccata dates from the early 21st century and was written by the Queensland based composer and organist Wesley Jordan for the Newcastle Organ Competition in 2001.

Rhys Boak (Organ)