

ST MICHAEL'S  
UNITING CHURCH



CHRISTMAS DAY  
25 DECEMBER 2022

Love Makes a Family



MINISTER: REV DR MARGARET MAYMAN

MUSIC: GEORGIA WILKINSON (SOPRANO)  
THE ST. MICHAEL'S STRING QUARTET,  
DAVID MUSK (TRUMPET)  
& RHYS BOAK (ORGAN & PIANO)

# 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.

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## 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: Catherine Jones

### **Programs**

Chair: Neil Blood

### **Organist & Manager of Music**

Rhys Boak

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## ST MICHAEL'S UNITING CHURCH OFFICE

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Please send notices to [office@stmichaels.org.au](mailto: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

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have dwelled in this place since time before dreaming.

We acknowledge that land was taken from Indigenous people without their consent, treaty or compensation.

***We acknowledge the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nation,  
and pay our respects to their elders, past and present.  
We join with them in yearning for the establishment  
of a Voice to Parliament.***

## WELCOME & GATHERING

*Wherever you are on your faith's journey, wherever you have come from and wherever you are going to, whatever you believe, whatever you do not believe, you are welcome here.*

The earth is warm with hope  
and the seas rock gently in anticipation.  
The wind holds its breath in wonder  
as the day of Christmas dawns.  
The trees sway in quiet celebration  
and the flowers lift their heads in praise.  
The earth holds its breath  
as we enter the moment of Christmas.

## CAROL

## ONCE IN ROYAL DAVID'S CITY

Once in royal David's city  
stood a lowly cattle shed  
where a mother laid her baby  
in a manger for his bed:  
Mary was that mother mild,  
Jesus Christ her little child.

He came down to earth from heaven  
who is God and Lord of all,  
and his shelter was a stable,  
and his cradle was a stall;  
with the poor, despised and lowly  
lived on earth our Saviour holy.

*Cecil Frances Alexander(1818-1895) alt*

*Tune: Irby*

*H.J. Gauntlett (1805-1876) and A.H. Mann (1850-1929)*

*Descant: Rhys Boak*

## LIGHTING THE CHRISTMAS CANDLE

*The Advent candles of hope, peace, joy and love are lit again.*

Sophia, Holy Wisdom,  
Christ, light of the world,  
growing from creation's birth  
source of life and hope;  
Jesus, child in the manger,  
we give thanks for this day of celebration,  
for the renewal of love that never fails.

*The Christ candle is lit.*

***We pray for all people and for all creation,  
that today even in the darkest places  
a lamp of hope may be lit  
and the eternal light may shine  
bringing joy and peace.  
Amen.***

## PRAYER OF AWARENESS

Holy Centre of this most holy season,  
Jesus, child and ruler,  
all our stars point to your birth;  
all our wanderings come home to you;  
all our griefs and delights find a place in the stable  
where you choose to transform poverty and pain  
and loneliness and rejection.

Your light shines in our lives,  
your peace embraces our anger, sorrow and loss;  
your life opens us to a new discovery  
of our most intimate selves and our neighbours,  
however we may find them –  
as poor as shepherds, as foreign as magi,  
as thoughtless as innkeepers,  
as helpless as infants.

In your humble birth we discover  
your everlasting majesty and grace.  
We welcome you and offer our thanks and praise,  
in your glorious name.

Wherever this birth is announced  
and this day is honoured,  
wherever this humble child  
is welcomed and adored:  
Glory to God in the highest!  
On earth peace, and good will to all!

## 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

The Holy Child of peace is born!  
Christ has come to dwell among us!

May the joy and peace of Christmas be with you.  
***And also with you.***

#### SANTA'S FAVOURITE STORY BY HISAKO AOKI

*if children are present*

#### CAROL

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head,  
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,  
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,  
but little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.  
I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky,  
and stay by my side until morning is nigh.

#### AWAY IN A MANGER

*Words: Author unknown  
Tune: Cradle Song  
William James Kirkpatrick (1838-1921)  
Harmony and descant: Rhys Boak*

For the promise of peace,

***We give thanks.***

GOSPEL 1: LUKE 2:1-7

THE BIRTH

MUSIC FOR CONTEMPLATION

GOSPEL 2: LUKE 2:8-14

THE ANGELS

CAROL

ANGELS FROM THE REALMS OF GLORY

Angels from the realms of glory,  
wing your flight o'er all the earth;  
ye who sang creation's story,  
now proclaim Messiah's birth:  
*come and worship Christ, the new-born king,  
come and worship, worship Christ, the new-born king.*

Shepherds, in the fields abiding,  
watching o'er your flocks by night,  
God with us is now residing,  
yonder shines the infant Light:  
*come and worship Christ, the new-born king,  
come and worship, worship Christ, the new-born king.*

*Words: James Montgomery (1771-1854)*

*Tune: Iris. French traditional melody*

*arr. Martin Shaw (1875-1958)*

GOSPEL 3: LUKE 2:15-20

THE SHEPHERDS

## CAROL

## THE FIRST NOWELL

The first nowell the angels did say  
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay,  
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep  
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

*Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell,  
born is the king of Israel.*

They looked up and saw a star  
shining in the east, beyond them far,  
and to the earth it gave great light,  
and so it continued both day and night.

*Refrain*

This star drew nigh to the northwest;  
over Bethlehem it took its rest,  
and there it did both stop and stay  
right over the place where Jesus lay.

*Refrain*

*Words: Anon English c. 17<sup>th</sup> cent.*

*Tune: The First Nowell  
English traditional melody  
harm. David Evans*

## CONTEMPORARY READING

“Before Jesus” by Alla Renée Bozarth

## REFLECTION

## LOVE MAKES A FAMILY

## CAROL

## HER BABY NEWLY BREATHING

Her baby, newly breathing,  
with wailing needful cry,  
by Mary kissed and cradled,  
is lulled in lullaby.  
Long months of hope and waiting,  
the thrill and fear of birth,  
are crowned with exultation,  
and God is on the earth.



The eyes that gaze at Mary  
have yet to name or trace  
the world of shape and colour,  
or recognize a face;  
yet Holiness Eternal  
is perfectly expressed  
in hands that clutch unthinking,  
and lips that tug the breast

The milk of life is flowing  
as Mary guides and feeds  
her wordless Word, embodied  
in infant joys and needs.  
Enormous, formless strivings,  
and yearning deep and wide,  
becradled in communion,  
are fed and satisfied.

How mother-like the Wisdom  
that carried and gave birth  
to all things, seen and unseen,  
and nurtured infant earth:  
unstinting, unprotected,  
prepared for nail and thorn,  
constricted into maleness,  
and of a woman born.

*Words: Brian Wren (1936- )*  
*Tune: Aurelia*  
*S.S. Wesley (1810-1876)*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*In thanksgiving and solidarity...*

MUSIC FOR CONTEMPLATION

## OFFERING

*Together Australian Churches act together through the Christmas Bowl appeal to bring peace and hope to the world. As the family of God we will share this year's bowl with people who are displaced, oppressed or living in poverty, and pray that their lives may be filled with hope and peace.*

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

## CAROL

## JOY TO THE WORLD

Joy to the world! The promised one  
has come shalom to bring;  
let ev'ry heart prepare a room,  
and heav'n and nature sing,  
and heav'n and nature sing,  
and heav'n and heav'n and nature sing.

Joy to the world! The Saviour reigns;  
let all their songs employ;  
while fields and floods, rocks hills and plains  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat, repeat, the sounding joy.

Graceful and true, the Saviour rules,  
and makes the nations prove  
the glories of the ways of peace,  
and wonders of God's love,  
and wonders of God's love,  
and wonders, wonders of God's love.

*Words: Isaac Watts (1674-1748)  
Tune: Antioch  
Arranged from G. F. Handel (1685-1759)  
by Lowell Mason (1792-1872)*

## NOTICES

### CAROL

### HARK THE HERALD ANGELS SING

Hark! the herald angels sing  
glory to the newborn king,  
peace on earth and mercy mild,  
God and all life reconciled.

Joyful, all ye nations rise,  
join the triumph of the skies;  
with the angelic host proclaim,  
'Christ is born in Bethlehem.'

*Hark! the herald angels sing,  
Glory to the newborn king.*

Mild he lays his glory by,  
born that we no more may die,  
born to live as one with earth,  
born to give us second birth.

Hail the heaven-born source of peace!  
Hail the child of righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings,  
risen with healing in his wings

*Hark! the herald angels sing,  
Glory to the newborn king.*

*Words: Charles Wesley (alt.)*

*Music: Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)*

*Tune: Mendelssohn*

*Descant: Rhys Boak*

### BLESSING AND SUNG AMEN

May the star of hope shine above us  
and the voices of peace be raised in joy.  
May the Child of God's love be found among us  
and a new day be born  
as we go to live out the Good News that is for all the earth.

### POSTLUDE

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Art: *Love and peace*. V Myazin

Prayer of Awareness adapted from prayers in *Touch Holiness* edited by Ruth C Duck and Maren Tirabassi.

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

Contemporary Reading: "Before Jesus" by Alla Renée Bozarth. From her book *This Is My Body: Praying for Earth, Prayers from the Heart*. iUniverse, 2004.

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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

When a child is born

– Circo Dammicco arr. Rhys Boak

This modern carol, dating in various forms from the early 1970s.

Citing the importance of the birth of every child, as well as the importance of the birth of Christ, this carol has become something of a modern favourite in recent years.

Georgia Wilkinson (Soprano), The Nuovo String Quartet,  
Rhys Boak (Piano)

## POSTLUDE

O Holy Night

– Adolphe Adam (1803-1856) arr. Rhys Boak

A much-cherished song at the time of Christmas is Adolphe Adam's *Cantique de Noel* known in English speaking countries as 'O Holy Night'. This piece was composed in 1847 and is a setting of a poem called 'Midnight, Christmas' by Placide Cappeau (1808-1877). It is heard here in a new arrangement written for this service by Rhys Boak.

Georgia Wilkinson (Soprano), The Nuovo Quartet &  
Rhys Boak (Piano)

# MUSIC IN CHURCH

## MUSIC FOR CONTEMPLATION

When a child is born

– Circo Dammicco (b.1947) arr. Rhys Boak

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& Rhys Boak (Piano)

## POSTLUDE

'Rejoice Greatly' from 'Messiah' - G.F. Handel (1685-1759)

Handel's famous oratorio Messiah needs little introduction. Dozens of performances of the work are performed in Melbourne alone each year by many Melbourne choirs. Rejoice Greatly is one of the most celebrated and performed arias from this work.

Georgia Wilkinson (Soprano), The St. Michael's String Quartet  
& Rhys Boak (Harpsichord)