

ST MICHAEL'S
UNITING CHURCH



FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

“AMPLIFY LOVE”

18 DECEMBER 2022



MINISTER: REV DR MARGARET MAYMAN

MUSIC: THE ST. MICHAEL'S SINGERS
& RHYS BOAK (ORGAN)

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

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 spiritual journey,
wherever you've come from, wherever you're going to,
whatever you believe, whatever you do not believe,
you are welcome.*

HYMN

ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH

Angels we have heard on high
sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply,
echoing their joyous strains.

Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
Which inspire your heav'nly song?
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Come to Bethlehem and see
one whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee,
Christ is born, glad tidings ring.
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Words: Traditional French Carol
Tune: Gloria

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE OF LOVE

The candle is lit.

Advent is a time of love.

***In lighting the candle of love,
we symbolise our desire to “amplify love”
in our lives and in our communities.***

PRAYER OF AWARENESS

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

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

HYMN

LOVE CAME DOWN AT CHRISTMAS

Love came down at Christmas,
love all lovely, love divine;
love was born at Christmas,
star and angels gave the sign.

Love shall be our token,
love be yours and love be mine,
love to God and neighbours,
love for plea and gift and sign.

*Christina Georgina Rossetti (1830-94) alt
Tune: Gartan
From an Irish traditional melody
harm. David Evans (1874-1948)*

HEBREW BIBLE: ISAIAH 7:10-16

DR LIZ BOASE

For ancient words of promise,
We give thanks.

MUSIC FOR CONTEMPLATION

GOSPEL: MATTHEW 1:18-25

For stories that have challenged us and changed us,
We give thanks.

CONTEMPORARY READING

“Blessed are you who bear the light” by Jan Richardson

For the Spirit speaking still in poetry and art,

We give thanks.

HYMN

WHERE IS THE ROOM?

Where is the room,
where is the house of Christmas?
Where shall we welcome Jesus,
where are the signs of home?
where are the signs of home?

Let Christ have space,
place at the heart of living,
centre for birth's new breathing,
cradle for hope and peace,
cradle for hope and peace.

Let there be room,
room for the friend and stranger,
room without hurt or anger,
room for whoever come,
room for whoever come.

Let love be here,
love from the Christmas stable,
love at our open table,
love to be shared all year,
love to be shared all year.

Words: Shirley Murray (1931-2020)

Tune: Michaela

Music: David Dell (b.1959)

REFLECTION

Advent – Amplify Love

HYMN

WHILE SHEPHERDS WATCHED THEIR FLOCKS

While shepherds watched their flocks by night,
all seated on the ground,
an angel of the Lord came down,
and glory shone around.

'Fear not,' said he for mighty dread
had seized their troubled mind
'glad tidings of great joy I bring
you and all humankind.

'To you, in David's town this day
is born of David's line
a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord;
and this shall be the sign:

'the heavenly babe you there shall find
to human view displayed,
all meanly wrapped in swaddling clothes
and in a manger laid.'

Thus spake the seraph and forthwith
appeared a shining throng
of angels praising God, who thus
addressed their joyful song:

'All glory be to God on high,
and to the world be peace;
goodwill henceforth from heaven to earth
begin and never cease.'

Words: Nahum Tate (1652-1715)
Tune: Winchester Old
Attrib. George Kirbye (1565-1634)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

In thanksgiving and solidarity

MUSIC FOR CONTEMPLATION

ACT FOR PEACE – CHRISTMAS BOWL

OFFERING

***We dedicate our lives and these gifts
to the hope that draws us on in courage,
and with a directedness of heart and mind,
toward peace, joy and love.
Amen.***

NOTICES

VAL GILL

HYMN

O COME ALL YE FAITHFUL

O come, all ye faithful,
joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem:
come and behold the
fond desire of nations
*O come in adoration, O come in adoration,
O come in adoration, Christ is born.*

Sing, choirs of angels,
sing in expectation,
sing all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God,
all glory in the highest!
*O come in adoration, O come in adoration,
O come in adoration, Christ is born.*

Yes, child, we'll greet you,
born on Christmas morning,
Jesus, to you be all glory given.
Word of creation,
now in flesh appearing.

*O come in adoration, O come in adoration,
O come in adoration, Christ is born.*

Words: John Francis Wade (1711-1786)

Tune: Adeste Fideles

*Later form of melody, probably by
John Francis Wade (c.1711-1786)*

BLESSING AND SUNG AMEN

Follow where the Spirit of Hope leads us
listen, as the Child of Peace cries for us
rejoice, as the Love of God embraces us
and the blessing of God – Lover, Beloved and Spirit of Love
be with us and all creation, this day and evermore.

Amen

POSTLUDE

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Art: "Nativity" by Erland Sibuea (Indonesia)

Prayer of Awareness by Kate Compston from *Bread of Tomorrow:
Praying with the Word's Poor*.

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

Contemporary Reading: "Blessed are you who bear the light," by Jan
Richardson from *Circle of Grace: A Book of Blessings for the Seasons*.

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NOTICES


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

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eNews online <https://stmichaels.org.au/news-and-events/>

ST MICHAEL'S SOCIAL MEDIA

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

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

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

Nativity Carol – John Rutter

This gentle Christmas choral piece is not drawn from the myriad of traditional carols, but is an entirely new work by English composer, John Rutter.

The St Michael's Singers & Rhys Boak (Organ)

POSTLUDE

Ding dong, merrily on high! - Arr. David Willcocks

This much-loved traditional carol has been arranged for choir and organ by the English organist, arranger and composer, David Willcocks.

The St. Michael's Singers & Rhys Boak (Organ)

MUSIC IN CHURCH

MUSIC FOR CONTEMPLATION

Nativity Carol – John Rutter

This gentle Christmas choral piece is not drawn from the myriad of traditional carols, but is an entirely new work by English composer, John Rutter.

The St Michael's Singers & Rhys Boak (Organ)

Come thou, redeemer of the earth – Trad. Arr David Willcocks

This charming carol of ancient is known in many forms. This arrangement for choir and organ was written for the choir of Kings College, Cambridge by the late Sir David Willcocks.

The St. Michael's Singers and Rhys Boak (Organ)

POSTLUDE

Noel Ecosais (Scottish Carol) - Alexandre Guilmant (1837-1911)

This charming and unmistakably Scottish carol is perhaps surprisingly set by the French organist Alexandre Guilmant. With all the noise, bustle and spectacle of Christmas and its many carols, it is refreshing to hear this charming and reflective music for Christmas.

Rhys Boak (Organ)