

ST MICHAEL'S
UNITING CHURCH



SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

“NO-ONE IS GOING TO HELL”

12 FEBRUARY 2023



MINISTER: REV DR MARGARET MAYMAN

MUSIC: CAILIN HOWARTH (ALTO)
& RHYS BOAK (ORGAN & PIANO)

CANTOR: CAILIN HOWARTH

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

Deputy Chair: Brian Smith

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: Ann Kinnear

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 recognise 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 stand in solidarity with the call of the Statement from the
Heart for Treaty, Voice and Truth.***

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

GOD OF ALL TIME

God of all time, all seasons of our living,
source of our spark, protector of our flame,
blazing before our birth, beyond our dying—
God of all time, we come to sing your name.

Here in this place, where others have been building,
we come to claim the legacy of faith;
take, in our turn, the telling of your story;
and, though we tremble, speak your hope, your truth.

Spirit, who draws our fragile selves together;
Spirit, who turns a stranger to a friend:
be at the table where we greet each other;
be in the peace we pass from hand to hand.

Let us not die from poverty of caring;
let us not starve, where love is to be shared.
Come, break us open to receive your healing;
your broken body be our wine and bread.

Words: Shirley Erena Murray (1931-2020)
Tune: Highwood
Richard Runciman Terry (1865-1938)

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.

HYMN

LOVING SPIRIT

Loving Spirit, loving Spirit,
you have chosen me to be -
you have drawn me to your wonder,
you have set your sign on me.

Like a mother, you enfold me,
hold my life within your own
feed me with your very body,
form me of your flesh and bone.

Like a father, you protect me,
teach me the discerning eye,
hoist me up upon your shoulder,
let me see the world from high.

Friend and lover, in your closeness
I am known and held and blessed:
In your promise is my comfort,
in your presence I may rest.

Loving Spirit, loving Spirit,
you have chosen me to be -
you have drawn me to your wonder,
you have set your sign on me.

Words: Colin Gibson (1933-2022)

Tune: Omni Die

*Melody from David Gregor Corner's 'Gesangbuch'
Nuremburg, 1631 arr. W. S. Rockstro (1823-1895)*

HEBREW BIBLE: DEUTERONOMY 30:15-20

IAN COX

For the search for meaning in ancient times and in ours.

We give thanks.

GOSPEL: MATTHEW 5: 21-37

MUSIC FOR CONTEMPLATION

CONTEMPORARY READING

“Sometimes,” by David Whyte

For Wisdom that was in the beginning
For Wisdom that invites and inspires
For Wisdom in our world today

We give thanks.

REFLECTION

No-one is going to hell

CANTOR FIRST VERSE

ENEMY OF APATHY

She sits like a bird, brooding on the waters,
hovering on the chaos of the world’s first day;
she sighs and she sings, mothering creation,
waiting to give birth to all the Word will say.

HYMN

ENEMY OF APATHY

She sits like a bird, brooding on the waters,
hovering on the chaos of the world’s first day;
she sighs and she sings, mothering creation,
waiting to give birth to all the Word will say.

She wings over earth, resting where she wishes,
lighting close at hand or soaring through the skies;
she nests in the womb, welcoming each wonder,
nourishing potential hidden to our eyes.

She dances in fire, startling her spectators,
waking tongues of ecstasy where dumbness reigned;
she weans and inspires all whose hearts are open,
nor can she be captured, silenced or restrained.

For she is the Spirit, one with God in essence,
gifted by the Saviour in eternal love;
she is the key opening the scriptures,
enemy of apathy and heavenly dove.

*Words: Graham Maule (1958-)
Tune: Thainaky. John Bell (1949-)
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PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING AND SOLIDARITY

*In a time of silence we offer our prayers...
for people and places close to our hearts.*

These are our prayers of thanksgiving and solidarity.

***We embrace the present moment,
as the future unfolds before us,
in the company of the God made known in Jesus,
who illumines the Way.
Amen.***

MUSIC FOR CONTEMPLATION

OFFERING

***Let our gratitude for life be expressed in our generosity.
Let our faith be expressed in our commitment to justice.
Let our belief in the future find full expression
in simple acts of compassion
lived out in our everyday lives.
Amen.***

NOTICES

IAN COX

HYMN

BE THOU MY VISION

Be thou my vision, the joy of my heart;
nought be all else to me save that thou art.
Thou my best thought, by day or by night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, the lamp to my feet;
thy word, like honey, to my lips is sweet;
thou my delight, my joy, thy command;
my dwelling ever, be the palm of thy hand.

Riches I heed not, nor seek human praise;
thou mine inheritance, now and always;
thou and thou only, first in my heart,
high God of heaven, my treasure thou art.

High God of heaven, my victory won,
may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O ruler of all.

*Gaelic 8th Century Adapted
Tune: Slane
Irish Traditional Melody
harm. David Evans (1874-1948)*

BLESSING AND SUNG AMEN

May the God you see in all the colours of creation
arouse in you a sense of awe and wonder.
May the God who is a sacred presence be real to you.
May the God who is a source of inspiration and courage
keep calling you forward.
May your God go with you, and bless you.

Amen.

POSTLUDE

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Art: 'Compassion for earth' by Mary Southward.

Jesus' Prayer by Lala Winkley, in *Celebrating women*.

Reading: "Sometimes" by David Whyte, in *Everything is waiting for you*. Many Rivers Press, 2003.

'God of time'. Words: Shirley Erena Murray.

Tune: Highwood. Richard Runciman Terry.

'Loving spirit'. Words: Colin Gibson.

Tune: Omni Die. Melody from David Gregor Corner's 'Gesangbuch'. Nuremburg, 1631 arr. W. S. Rockstro.

'Enemy of apathy'. Words: Graham Maule.

Tune: Thainaky. John Bell. © Wild Goose Publications

'Be thou my vision'. Gaelic 8th Century Adapted.

Tune: Slane. Irish Traditional Melody. harm. David Evans.

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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/>

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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

Aria – Otar Taktakishvili (1924 – 1989)

Otar Taktakisvili, composer, conductor, teacher and musicologist was born in Georgia during the Soviet era. He composed the official anthem of the Georgian Republic when he was a student at the Tbilisi Conservatory. The flute sonata (1968) is one of his best-known works. Influences from Georgian folk music, its modal harmony, can be heard in this second movement entitled Aria.

Dr. Kim Tan (Flute) & Rhys Boak (Piano)

POSTLUDE

Morceau de Concours – Gabriel Urbain Fauré (1845-1924)

This work picks up on many themes of stillness and spiritual replenishment. Dating from the early 20th century, this work comes from the pen of the celebrated Parisienne composer, Gabriel Fauré who is best known for his celebrated setting of the Requiem.

Dr. Kim Tan (Flute) & Rhys Boak (Piano)

MUSIC IN CHURCH

MUSIC FOR CONTEMPLATION

'Silent Noon' - Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

This sublime song by the great English composer Ralph Vaughan Williams was composed in 1956. It is a setting of poem by Dante Gabriel Rossetti.

Cailin Howarth (Alto) & Rhys Boak (Piano)

'Haven' from 'Sea Pictures' - Edward Elgar (1857-1934)

This song, from Elgar's song cycle 'Sea Pictures' describes a loving safe haven for those caught, perhaps metaphorically, in the storms and tumult of being lost at sea.

Cailin Howarth (Alto) & Rhys Boak (Piano)

POSTLUDE

Tuba Tune - Dulcie Holland (1913-2000)

The title of this piece has nothing to do with the orchestral instrument called the tuba, rather, it is a piece written for the organ's Tuba or Trumpet stop. Dulcie Holland is a name familiar to most students of music in Australia, being the author of the ubiquitous 'Master Your Theory' textbooks. Dulcie was also a prolific composer and wrote this work in 1978.

Rhys Boak (Organ)