

ST MICHAEL'S
UNITING CHURCH



TRANSFIGURATION

“VALUING MYSTERY IN EVERYDAY LIFE”

19 FEBRUARY 2023



MINISTER: REV DR MARGARET MAYMAN

MUSIC: JOE CHINDAMO (PIANO)
& RHYS BOAK (ORGAN)

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.*

Let us go to the place where the land meets the sky
where the earth touches the heavens,
to the place of meeting,
to the place of mists,
to the place of listening,
open to the mystery found in everyday life.
May Sacred light, shining through us,
be embodied here in compassionate community.

HYMN

GOD, THE ALL HOLY

God, the All-Holy,
Maker and Mother,
gladly we gather,
bringing in prayer
old hurts for healing,
new hopes for holding,
giving, receiving,
loving and care.

Spirit, All-Seeing,
knitting and blending
joy in desiring,
friendship and ease,
make our belonging
loyal and lasting,
so that our pledging
freshens and frees.

Christ, All-Completing,
Nature enfolding,
evil exhausting
in love's embrace,
weaving and mending,
make every ending
God's new beginning
glowing with grace.

Words: Brian Wren (1936-)

Tune: Bunessan

Gaelic melody

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: EXODUS 24:12-18

ANN KINNEAR

For the search for mystery in ancient times,
We give thanks.

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 anew, 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.

Words: Jane Parker Huber (1926-2008)

Tune: Lobe den Herren

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

GOSPEL: MATTHEW 17:1-9

For the stories of Jesus lighting our path,

We give thanks.

CONTEMPORARY READING

“Bird of paradise,” by Monica Furlong

For Sacred Wisdom in ancient scripture and modern thought,
for Wisdom among us and around us,
for the Wisdom within us,

We give thanks.

MUSIC FOR CONTEMPLATION

REFLECTION

“Valuing mystery in everyday life”

HYMN

WE WAIT UPON THE MOUNTAIN

We wait upon the mountain,
our hearts and minds confused,
to penetrate the mystery
of love by light suffused.
The darkness of our living
obscures our sight till we,
with fear changed into boldness,
find life in Christ set free.

We find new inspiration
in glimpses of your grace;
we see once more before us,
your love with human face.
We see again the mystery
of Christ on earth, and find
life given for the needy,
and poor of humankind.

No selfish place of safety
will keep us in the light;
it's only in life's valleys
we truly find our sight,
O help us heed the prophets,
and clear our eyes to see:
the way you show before us,
where now our steps should be.

*Words: Mary Pearson
Tune: Thornbury
Basil Harwood (1859-1949)*

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.***

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.***

MUSIC FOR CONTEMPLATION

NOTICES

ANN KINNEAR

HYMN

IMMORTAL, INVISIBLE

Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
belovèd, enfolding, your great name we praise.

Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,
nor wanting, nor wasting, but ruling in might;
your justice like mountains high soaring above,
your clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.

You give life to all life, to both great and small;
in all life now living, the true life of all;
we blossom and flourish as leaves on a tree,
and wither and perish: but unchanged you will be.

Creator of glory, creator of light,
your angels adore you, all veiling their sight;
of all your rich graces this grace, God, impart -
take the veil from our faces, the veil from our heart.

All praise we would render: reveal to our sight,
what hides you is only the splendour of light;
and so let your glory, O Lover, impart
through Christ in the story, your Christ to the heart.

Words: Walter C. Smith (alt)

Tune: St Denio

Welsh melody

BLESSING AND SUNG AMEN

Be transformed and transforming...
As you go, may Love's guidance keep you strong
the light of sacred presence surround you
and the fire of justice and peace burn within you.

POSTLUDE

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Art: *Transfiguration* by Armando Alemdar Ara

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

Contemporary Reading by Monica Furlong, from *Bird of Paradise: Glimpses of Living Myth*. Mowbray, 1995, p. 1.

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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

Andante from the Sonata for Cello in G minor

– S. Rachmaninoff (1873-1943)

One of the greatest pianists ever to have lived, Sergei Rachmaninov was also an extremely gifted composer. Born in Russia, he emigrated

to the USA after the Russian revolution of 1917. His output ranged from brilliant piano music to a great deal of sacred choral music and chamber music.

Zoe Wallace (Cello) & Rhys Boak (Piano)

POSTLUDE

The enchanted garden - Maurice Ravel (1875-1937)

This exquisite piece dates from just three years after Debussy's Reflections in the water. It comes from the Mother Goose suite of 1908. This short piece takes us on a journey from quiet expectation to an exuberant, joyful conclusion.

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

MUSIC IN CHURCH

MUSIC FOR CONTEMPLATION

'Somewhere' - Leonard Bernstein (1918-1990)

This is Joe's adaptation and interpretation of Bernstein's 'Somewhere' from 'West Side Story'. This song speaks of longing for a place of safety and acceptance.

Joe Chindamo (Piano)

'Say a little prayer for you' - Burt Bacharach (1928-2023)

Burt Bacharach passed away recently and was an extremely prolific and gifted song writer. Today we hear Joe Chindamo's take on the well-known song.

Joe Chindamo (Piano)

POSTLUDE

Les Barricades Mystérieuses - François Couperin (1668-1733)

Originally for the harpsichord, this keyboard work comes from the pen of the great French organist François Couperin. The work is one that celebrates and revels in mystery.

Joe Chindamo (Piano)