

ST MICHAEL'S
UNITING CHURCH



THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT
"WHEN DO YOU BELIEVE?"

12 MARCH 2023



MINISTER: REV DAVID DAWES

MUSIC: PETER SHERIDAN (FLUTE)
& 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

Deputy Chair: Val Gill

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

ST MICHAEL'S UNITING CHURCH OFFICE

120 Collins Street Melbourne

Phone: 03 9654 5120

Email: office@stmichaels.org.au

Minister: minister@stmichaels.org.au

Web: www.stmichaels.org.au



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



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



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

We gather today on the unceded land of the Wurundjeri people
of the Kulin Nation.

***We pay our respects to Wurundjeri 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.*

LENTEN GATHERING

We gather as a community of faith to make our Lenten journey.

***May the Spirit be with us in our letting go
and in our living with hope.***

In the season of Lent,
we gather here to celebrate life's beauty and find healing for its pain;
***to honour our kinship with each other and with the earth;
and to create a more compassionate world.***

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)

LENTEN CANDLE MEDITATION

Five lit candles on the table

Listen in silence. Sacred Mystery is calling you.

A time of silence.

A candle is extinguished.

As we extinguish this light, we acknowledge the darkness and pain of suffering and injustice in the world.

Sacred energy is with us.

***We may encounter it no matter where we are
or what we are feeling.***

***Keep us mindful of this presence
and trusting in the promise of God-with-us
in the moment-by-moment unfolding of our lives.
Amen.***

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.

HEBREW BIBLE: EXODUS 17:1-7

ANTHONY BENDALL

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

MUSIC FOR CONTEMPLATION

GOSPEL: JOHN 4:5-42

For the stories of Jesus and his outsider friends,
We give thanks.

CONTEMPORARY READING

"Blessing by the well," by Jan Richardson

For Wisdom revealed in scripture and poetry,
For Wisdom made known among us,
For the Wisdom that dwells within us,

We give thanks.

HYMN

GOD BE IN MY HEAD

God be in my head,
and in my understanding;

God be in mine eyes,
and in my looking;

God be in my mouth,
and in my speaking;

God be in my heart,
and in my thinking;

God be at mine end,
and at my departing.

Words: Book of Hours, 1514

Tune: God be in my head

Henry Walford Davies (1869-1941)

REFLECTION

When do you believe?

HYMN

FOR THE MUSIC OF CREATION

For the music of creation,
for the song your Spirit sings,
for your sound's divine expression,
burst of joy in living things:

God, our God, the world's composer,
hear us, echoes of your voice,
music is your art, your glory,
let the human heart rejoice!

Psalms and symphonies exalt you,
drum and trumpet, string and reed,
simple melodies acclaim you,
tunes that rise from deepest need,
hymns of longing and belonging,
carols from a cheerful throat,
lilt of lullaby and love song
catching heaven in a note.

All the voices of the ages
in transcendent chorus meet,
worship lifting up the senses,
hands that praise, and dancing feet;
over discord and division
music speaks your joy and peace,
harmony of earth and heaven,
song of God that cannot cease.

Words: Shirley Erena Murray (1931-2020)

Words © 1992 Hope Publishing Company

Tune: Rustington

Charles Hubert Hastings Parry (1848-1918)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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

These are the prayers of our hearts,

***May our prayers move to live with passion and compassion.
Amen.***

MUSIC FOR CONTEMPLATION

OFFERING

***Source of life, whose heart abounds with gifts,
we bring our offerings as a sign
of our intention to live
surrounded by your compassion,
inspired by your Spirit,
open to the joy of your presence,
hospitable toward one another,
and generous toward your world.
Amen.***

NOTICES

VAL GILL

HYMN

GUIDE ME, O MY GREAT REDEEMER

Guide me, O my great Redeemer,
pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak, but you are mighty;
hold me with your loving hand:
*bread of heaven, bread of heaven,
feed me now and evermore,
feed me now and evermore.*

Open now the crystal fountain,
where the living waters flow.
Let the fire and cloudy pillar
lead me all my journey through:
*strong deliverer, strong deliverer,
ever be my strength and shield,
ever be my strength and shield.*

When I tread the verge of Jordan,
bid my anxious fears subside;
death of death, and hell's destruction,
land me safe on Canaan's side:

*Songs of praises, songs of praises
I will ever sing to you,
I will ever sing to you.*

*Words: William Williams 1717-91
Tune: Cwm Rhondda
John Hughes (1873–1932)*

BLESSING AND SUNG AMEN

Travel gently through the journey of Lent
Know that Holy One who holds all things will be there.
That Christ who calls us friend will walk beside us
And the Spirit who makes all things new
will lead us with light and hope.

POSTLUDE

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Photo by Rev. David Dawes

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

"Blessing by the well" by Jan Richardson. From *Circles of Care*.

Hymns are printed and streamed with permission.

Church Copyright License (CCL): 261070

Church Streaming License (CSL): 569311

NOTICES

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

Subscribe to the eNews on the home page of the website
www.stmichaels.org.au or email office@stmichaels.org.au

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

'Fear no more the heat of the sun' - Gerald Finzi (1901-1956)

This song is one of 6 in a cycle set to the words of William Shakespeare known as 'Let us garlands bring' (op. 18). The English born Finzi wrote these songs between 1929 and 1942, the cycle was first performed on the 70th birthday of the dedicatee of the work, Ralph Vaughan Williams on the 12th of October 1942.

James Emerson (Baritone) & Rhys Boak (Piano)

POSTLUDE

Nimrod from The Enigma Variations

– Edward Elgar (1857-1934)

Elgar's Enigma variations are amongst his earliest orchestral works. Nimrod is number 9 of the 14 variations. Elgar dedicated the piece to "my friends pictured within" and in the score each variation is prefaced with either a nickname or initials, a clue to the identity of the friend depicted. Nimrod is dedicated to Augustus J. Jaeger, Elgar's best friend. The name of the variation cleverly refers to Nimrod, the Old Testament patriarch who was described as a mighty hunter. The name Jaeger being the German word for hunter. This individual variation has become famous in its own right, and has become a firm part of the organist's repertoire even though it was originally written for orchestra.

Rhys Boak (Organ)

MUSIC IN CHURCH

MUSIC FOR CONTEMPLATION

Ballet des Champs-Élysées – Christoph von Gluck (1714-1787)

Gluck's Ballet des Champs-Élysées or Dance of the blessed spirits comes from his 1774 opera, Orfeo and Euridice.

Peter Sheridan (Flute) & Rhys Boak (Piano)

Variations of a theme by Rossini – Frédéric Chopin (1810-1849)

This infectiously joyful set of variations is based on a theme from Rossini's 1817 opera, La Cenerentola.

Peter Sheridan (Flute) & Rhys Boak (Piano)

POSTLUDE

Nimrod from The Enigma Variations

– Edward Elgar (1857-1934)

Elgar's Enigma variations are amongst his earliest orchestral works. Nimrod is number 9 of the 14 variations. Elgar dedicated the piece to “my friends pictured within” and in the score each variation is prefaced with either a nickname or initials, a clue to the identity of the friend depicted. Nimrod is dedicated to Augustus J. Jaeger, Elgar's best friend. The name of the variation cleverly refers to Nimrod, the Old Testament patriarch who was described as a mighty hunter. The name Jaeger being the German word for hunter. This individual variation has become famous in its own right, and has become a firm part of the organist's repertoire even though it was originally written for orchestra.

Rhys Boak (Organ)