

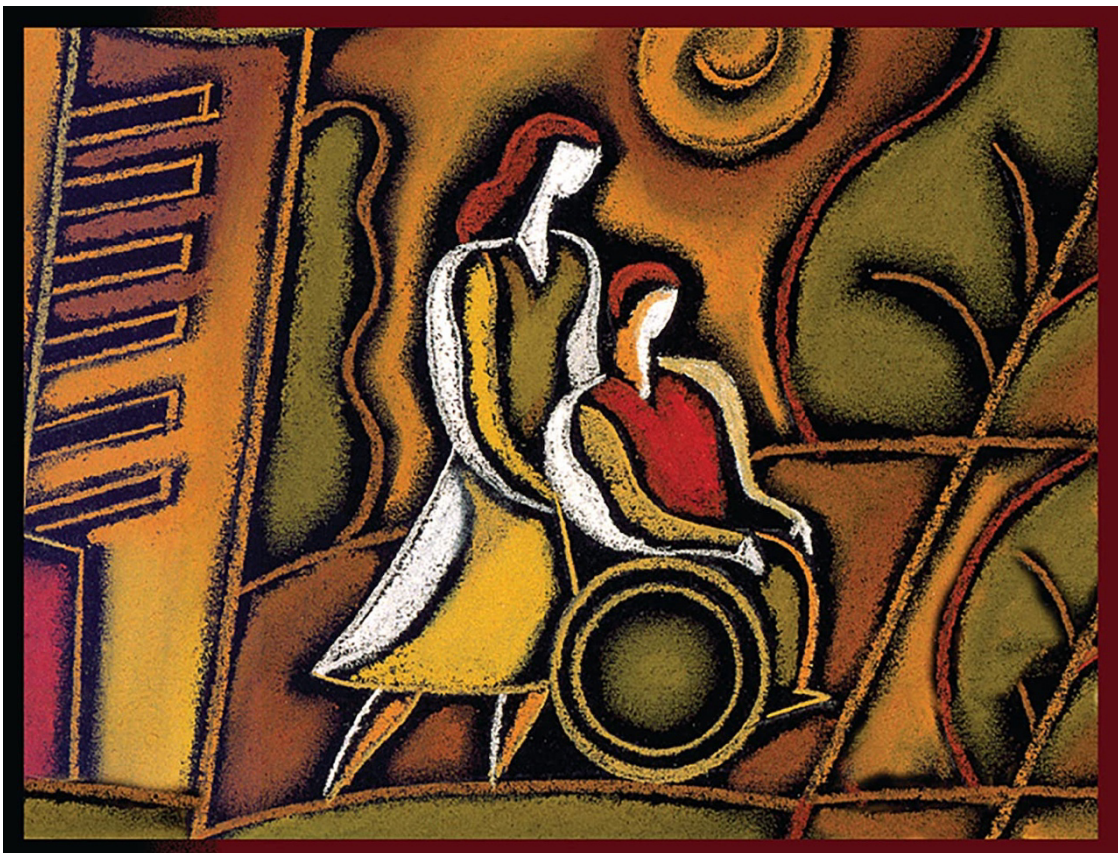
ST MICHAEL'S UNITING CHURCH



FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

“SEEING BY HEART”

19 MARCH 2023



MINISTER: REV DR MARGARET MAYMAN

MUSIC: DR. ELYANE LAUSSADE
& 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

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

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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

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.

Breathe in the morning air; inhale its fragrancY.
be still and trust the sacredness that dwells within;
who's ever near; who knows our fears;
whose presence calms our restless souls

Rest in this sacred space; lie down in pastures green.
Be present to the myst'ry of this holy place.
Hear singing streams; feel earth's embrace;
see how our lives are touched by grace.

Walk in the way of love, of justice and of peace.
Bring loving to a world of pain and loneliness.
Reach out in love and gentleness
to heal the hurt of brokenness.

Here in this darkest vale, shadowed by grief and fear,
we sense a loving presence that our hearts sustain.
Our fears subside; our minds are calm;
our panic flees, and peace remains.

Trust in the love of God; believe that goodness lives,
that hope and joy and beauty will embrace our days.
Pursued by love and touched by grace,
our thankful hearts will offer praise.

Words: Helen Wiltshire, Pilgrim Publishing

Tune: Love Unknown

John Ireland (1879-1962)

LENTEN CANDLE MEDITATION

Three of the seven Lenten candles remain lit.

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 fear caused by the lack of basic needs—lack of food, of shelter, of education, of medical resources, of love.

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.

PSALM 23 (SUNG)

THE LORD'S MY SHEPHERD

The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want.
He makes me down to lie
in pastures green; he leadeth me
the quiet waters by.

My soul he doth restore again;
and me to walk doth make
within the paths of righteousness,
ev'n for his own name's sake.

Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale,
yet will I fear no ill:
for thou art with me; and thy rod
and staff me comfort still.

My table thou hast furnishèd
in presence of my foes;
my head thou dost with oil anoint,
and my cup overflows.

Goodness and mercy all my life
shall surely follow me:
and in God's house for evermore
my dwelling place shall be.

Scottish Psalter (1650)

Tune: Crimond.

Melody by Jessie Seymour Irvine (1836-87)

arr. David Grant (1833-93)

GOSPEL: JOHN 9: 1-41

CHRIS PHILLIPS

For Jesus, whose life invites us on the journey of our lives,

We give thanks.

MUSIC FOR CONTEMPLATION

CONTEMPORARY READING

“The Bridge,” by Joy Cowley

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

We give thanks.

REFLECTION

“Seeing by heart”

HYMN

OH WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

Oh where are you going,
and can I come with you,
and what is your method
for keeping alive:
no pack or possessions,
no clothing or shelter,
no food to sustain you -
how can you survive?

Oh where are you going,
and can I come with you,
and why is your company
never the same?
You sit among beggars,
you argue with bankers,
debate with the lawyers
and walk with the lame.

Oh where are you going,
and can I come with you,
and what can you show
for your talents and time -
no profit from trading,
no thing of your making
no mark or memento,
no picture or rhyme?

Oh where are you going,
and can I come with you,
and what is the secret,
towards which you strive?
What hidden inspirer,
what unseen admirer,
what dream is the substance
upon which you thrive?

I'm going on a journey
and welcome companions,
but don't ask me
how we'll survive, where we'll go,
or who will come with us,
or what we'll be doing.
Just join me in travelling
and learn all I know.

*Words: John Bell (1949 -)
& Graham Maule (1958-2019)*

Tune: Laredo. American traditional melody

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Thanksgiving, compassion, justice..

*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

CHRIS PHILLIPS

HYMN

GOD OF HISTORY, RECENT, ANCIENT

God of history - recent, ancient -
God of every yesterday,
still our God in this day's moments,
where we go or where we stay:
You have set us in this context,
time, relationship, and place,
hear our praise and glad thanksgiving
for all signs of present grace.

You have called us from division
into unity and hope.
Each and all belong together
in the world's kaleidoscope.
Help us listen to the voices
daring us to be and do
what you plan for church and people,
loving others, praising you.

How are we, then, called to answer
as we work and as we live,
called to justice, called to mission,
learning to receive and give?

Shall we build a bridge of promise?
Tear down walls that split, divide?
Fling wide doorways, open windows?
Let the Spirit come inside?

God you point us toward the future
where Christ leads and shows the way.
Here and now, work not yet finished
needs our strength and will today
thus we move into tomorrow,
called to live and work and be
reconcilers, pilgrim people,
called by Christ, by Christ set free.

Words: Jane Parker Huber (1926-2008)

Tune: Hymn to Joy

Adapted from Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827)

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

Art: "Disability and the church," Artist unknown.

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

Reading: "The Bridge" by Joy Cowley, in *Psalms Down Under*.

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NOTICES


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

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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

Automne – Cécile Chaminade (1857–1944)

Cécile Chaminade was a prolific composer who published more than four hundred pieces over her eighty-six years. Her compositions cover a wide range of forms, from quasi-concertos with soloist and orchestra such as the Concertino or her Concertstück, Op. 40, to character pieces for solo piano of which we hear 'Automne' (Autumn) today.

Dr. Elyane Laussade (Piano)

POSTLUDE

Lascia ch'io pianga – G.F. Handel (1685-1759)

This is one of Handel's most enduring and loved melodies. It comes from his opera Rinaldo, though it is most often performed as a separate work. It was arranged for the organ by the English 19th century organ virtuoso William Thomas Best.

Rhys Boak (Organ)

MUSIC IN CHURCH

MUSIC FOR CONTEMPLATION

Berceuse Op. 57 – Fryderyk Franciszek Chopin (1810-1849)

The author, George Sand wrote of Chopin in her biography: “His genius was filled with the mysterious sounds of nature, but transformed into sublime equivalents in musical thought, and not through slavish imitation of the actual external sounds. The gift of Chopin is [the expression of] the deepest and fullest feelings and emotions that have ever existed. He made a single instrument speak a language of infinity. He could often sum up, in ten lines that a child could play, poems of a boundless exaltation, dramas of unequalled power.”

Dr. Elyane Laussade (Piano)

Sarabande from the 5th French suite BWV 816
– J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

Originally written for the harpsichord, the precursor instrument to the modern piano, this French suite was written for Bach’s wife in 1722. We hear the 3rd movement of this suite, a Sarabande this morning.

Dr. Elyane Laussade (Piano)

POSTLUDE

Liebestraum – Franz Liszt (1811-1886)

This melody is one of the most loved in all classical music. Published in 1850, this piece is conceived as a song based upon the poetry of Ludwig Uhland and Ferdinand Freiligrath.

Dr. Elyane Laussade (Piano)