

ST MICHAEL'S
UNITING CHURCH



SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

“TELL ME, WHAT IS IT YOU PLAN TO DO
WITH YOUR ONE WILD AND PRECIOUS LIFE?”

21 MAY 2023



GUEST MINISTER: REV LAUREN MOSSO

EDWINA CORDINGLEY (CELLO)
& 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

Mission Coordinating

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

The Spirit of God has long dwelled with the First Peoples of this ancient land.

We gather today on the unceded land of the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nation who have cared for this country since time immemorial.

***We pay our respects to Wurundjeri elders
past and present,
and 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

COME AND FIND THE QUIET CENTRE

Come and find the quiet centre
in the crowded life we lead,
find the room for hope to enter,
find the frame where we are freed:
clear the chaos and the clutter,
clear our eyes, that we can see
all the things that really matter,
be at peace, and simply be.

Silence is a friend who claims us,
cools the heat and slows the pace,
God it is who speaks and names us,
knows our being, touches base,
making space within our thinking,
lifting shades to show the sun,
raising courage when we're shrinking,
finding scope for faith begun.

In the Spirit let us travel,
open to each other's pain,
let our loves and fears unravel,
celebrate the space we gain:
there's a place for deepest dreaming,
there's a time for heart to care,
in the Spirit's lively scheming
there is always room to spare!

Shirley Erena Murray (1931-2020)

Tune: Austria

Adapted from Franz Joseph Haydn (1732-1809)

PRAYER OF AWARENESS

JESUS' PRAYER

***Ground of all being,
Mother of Life, Father of the universe,
Your name is sacred, beyond speaking.
May we know your presence,
may your longings be our longings
in heart and in action.
May there be food
for the human family today
and for the whole earth community.***

***Forgive us the falseness
of what we have done
as we forgive those who are untrue to us.***

***Do not forsake us
in our time of conflict
but lead us into new beginnings.
For the light of life,
the vitality of life,
and the glory of life
are yours now and for ever.
Amen.***

SHARING A SIGN OF PEACE

May the peace of the Risen Christ be with you.
And also with you.

FIRST READING: ACTS 1: 6-14

VAL GILL

For our ancestors in faith,
We give thanks.

MUSIC FOR CONTEMPLATION

GOSPEL: JOHN 17: 1-11

For the Word that was in the beginning,
for the Word that invites and inspires,
for the Word embodied among us,
We give thanks.

CONTEMPORARY READING

“The Summer Day” by Mary Oliver

For the Spirit speaking still,
We give thanks.

For the beauty of the earth,
for the beauty of the skies,
for the love which from our birth
over and around us lies.

*Holy One, our song we raise,
this our testament of praise.*

For the beauty of each hour
of the day and of the night,
hill and vale, and tree and flower,
sun and moon and stars of light,

*Holy One, our song we raise,
this our testament of praise.*

For the joy of ear and eye,
for the heart and mind's delight,
for the mystic harmony
linking sense to sound and sight.

*Holy One, our song we raise,
this our testament of praise.*

For the joy of human love,
brother, sister, parent, child,
friends on earth and friends above,
for all gentle thoughts and mild,

*Holy One, our song we raise,
this our testament of praise.*

For each perfect gift of thine
to our world so freely given,
graces human and divine,
flowers of earth and buds of heaven,

*Holy One, our song we raise,
this our testament of praise.*

Words: Folliott Sandford Pierpoint (1835-1917) alt.

Tune: Lucerna Laudoniae

David Evans (1874-1948)

REFLECTION

“Tell me, what is it you plan to do
with your one wild and precious life?”

HYMN

EVERY DAY

Every day I will offer you,
loving God, my heart and mind,
every way I discover you
in the work your hand has signed;
help me see I'm your image, and
you have dreamed what I might be,
every day in your Spirit
I'll find the love and energy!

Every day I will look to Christ,
and give thanks for wine and bread
through the pain and the emptiness
where your world cries to be fed;
help me see I can work for change,
and wherever I might be,
every day in your Spirit,
I'll find the love and energy!

Every day I will take your word,
answer your compassion's claim,
celebrate every sign of hope,
every deed done in your name;
help me see you are always there,
and your light can shine through me,
every day in your Spirit,
I'll find the love and energy!

Words: Shirley Erena Murray (1931-2020)
Tune: Lynnefrith
Colin Gibson (1933-2022)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

MUSIC FOR CONTEMPLATION

OFFERING

***Spirit of life and love, receive our offering.
Guide those who use it, that it may help to
bring fullness of life, inclusive community,
support for people who are struggling,
and relief to people who live in need
and long for justice and compassion.
Amen.***

NOTICES

VAL GILL

HYMN

GOD GIVES US A FUTURE

God gives us a future,
daring us to go
Into dreams and dangers
on a path unknown.
We will face tomorrow
with the Spirit's power
We will let God change us
for new life starts now.

We must leave behind us
sins of yesterday
For God's new beginning
is a better way
Fear and doubt and habit
must not hold us back
God gives hope and insight
and the strength we lack.

Holy Spirit teach us
how to read the signs
How to meet the challenge
of our troubled times
Love us into action
stir us into prayer
Till we choose God's life
and find our future there.

Words: Elizabeth J Smith (1956-)
Tune: Camberwell
John Michael Brierley (1932-)

BLESSING AND SUNG AMEN

Go...
to live well
to forgive generously
to create peace and justice.

Go...
with the love of God enfolding you,
the peace of the Risen One within you,
and the breath of the Holy Spirit inspiring your life.

POSTLUDE

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Art: Contemplation, detail from the doors of the Nativity Façade entrance, Sagrada Familia Cathedral, Barcelona. Photo by Rev. Lauren Mosso

Jesus' Prayer by J Philip Newell, in *Ground of All Being: The Prayer of Jesus in Color*, published by New Beginnings, an imprint of Material Media, 2008.

"The Summer Day" by Mary Oliver in *New and Selected Poems*, Beacon Press, Boston, MA

"Come and find the quiet centre." Shirley Erena Murray.
Tune: Austria. Adapted from Franz Joseph Haydn.

"For the beauty of the earth." Words: Folliott Sandford Pierpoint alt.
Tune: Lucerna Laudoniae. David Evans

"Every Day." Words: Shirley Erena Murray. Tune: Lynnefrith.
Colin Gibson

"God gives us a future." Words: Elizabeth J Smith. Tune: Camberwell.
John Michael Brierley.

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NOTICES

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

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MUSIC ONLINE

MUSIC FOR CONTEMPLATION

Aria – Otar Taktakishvili (1924 – 1989)

Otar Taktakishvili, 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

Scherzo from Petit Suite – Henri Busser (1872-1973)

Henri Busser was a highly successful composer based in Paris in the early 20th century. This petit suite for flute and piano was written when Busser was just a mere 14 years old in 1886. Remarkably, Busser who lived to be 101 years old, revised and orchestrated the suite in the mid 1950s when it enjoyed renewed success.

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

MUSICIANS

You can find biographical profiles of St Michael's Guest Musicians on our website. <https://tinyurl.com/St-Mic-Musician-Biographies>