

ST MICHAEL'S
UNITING CHURCH



2ND SUNDAY IN THE SEASON OF CREATION
“NOURISHING LIFE ON EARTH”

10 SEPTEMBER 2023



MINISTER: REV DR MARGARET MAYMAN

MUSIC: DR. JOEL BRENNAN (TRUMPET),
& LEIGH ASKEW (ORGAN)

CANTOR: JESIKA CLARK

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

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Deputy Chair: Brian Smith

Church Services

Chair: Lorraine Woolley

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(Keeping Children Safe)

Val Gill

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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.
<https://www.stmichaels.org.au/>

Music notes can be found at the end of the order of service.

PROCESSIONAL

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

We meet on the land of the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nation;
on land that was taken from them without consent, treaty, or
compensation.

***We acknowledge, with respect,
Wurundjeri elders – past and present,
the ones who carry the traditions and the dreaming.***

With the First Peoples we yearn for justice –

***for constitutional recognition
and for a Voice to shape our destiny together.***

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

IMMORTAL, INVISIBLE, GOD ONLY WISE

Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
most blessèd, 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

PRAYER OF AWARENESS

JESUS' PRAYER

***Eternal Spirit,
Life-Giver, Pain-Bearer, Love-Maker,
Source of all that is and shall be,
Father and Mother of us all,
Loving God, in whom is heaven:
The Hallowing of your name
echo through the universe!
The way of your Justice be followed
by the peoples of the world!
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!***

***Your Commonwealth of Peace and Freedom
sustain our hope and come on earth!
With the bread that we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.
From trials too great to endure, spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.
For you reign in the glory of the power that is love,
now and for ever. Amen.***

SHARING A SIGN OF PEACE

May the peace of Divine Presence be with you.
And also with you.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

***We trust in God, the Creator Spirit
who moved upon the face of the deep
at the beginning of creation,
who created all that is,
and who spoke through the prophets of old.***

***We trust in Jesus Christ
into whom God's spirit was poured
in fullness and in power,
that the whole creation might be restored and unified;
and who promised that the Spirit would come
and fill the faithful with power to witness
to the passionate love of God.***

***We await on that Spirit today with longing hearts,
seeking to be empowered to share God's love,
with fresh words and courageous actions
of love and hope and justice. So may it be.***

SUNG BLESSING

May God bless you and keep you;
May God make her face to shine upon you,
and be gracious unto you;
May God lift up his countenance upon you,
and give you peace.

PROMISES, PRESENTATION OF GIFTS AND PRAYER

HYMN

WE ARE NOT OUR OWN

We are not our own, Earth forms us,
human leaves on nature's growing vine,
fruit of many generations,
seeds of life divine.

We are not alone, Earth names us:
past and present, peoples near and far,
family and friends and strangers
show us who we are.

Through a human life God finds us;
dying, living, love is fully known,
and in bread and wine reminds us:
we are not our own.

Therefore let us make thanksgiving,
and with justice, willing and aware,
give to earth, and all things living,
liturgies of care.

And if love's encounters lead us
on a way uncertain and unknown,
all the saints with prayer surround us:
we are not alone.

Let us be a house of welcome,
living stone upholding living stone,
gladly showing all our neighbours
we are not our own.

*Words: Brian Wren
Tune: Yarnton
Composer: Brian A. Wren
Arr. Fred Graham*

EARLY JESUS' COMMUNITIES:

ROMANS 13:8-14
MAREE MCDONALD

For the movement of the Spirit among the early followers of Jesus,
We give thanks.

CONTEMPORARY READING 1

"Summer Day," by Mary Oliver.

For the Spirit speaking still in the glory of creation,
We give thanks.

MUSIC FOR CONTEMPLATION

CONTEMPORARY READING 2

Excerpt from "A Clean Environment Is A Human Right,"
by the Dalai Lama.

For the Spirit stirring us to action,
We give thanks.

CONTEMPORARY READING 3

SALLY CLARKE

Excerpts from "Watershed and Commonwealth," and *The Long-
Legged House*, by Wendell Berry

For the Spirit drawing us into connection with all life on earth,
We give thanks.

HYMN

TOUCH THE EARTH LIGHTLY

Touch the earth lightly,
use the earth gently,
nourish the life of the world in our care:
gift of great wonder,
ours to surrender,
trust for the children tomorrow will bear.

We who endanger,
who create hunger,
agents of death for all creatures that live,
we who would foster
clouds of disaster,
God of our planet, forestall and forgive!

Let there be greening,
birth from the burning,
water that blesses and air that is sweet,
health in God's garden,
hope in God's children,
regeneration that peace will complete.

God of all living,
God of all loving,
God of the seedling, the snow and the sun,
teach us, deflect us,
Christ reconnect us,
using us gently and making us one.

Words: Shirley Erena Murray

Tune: Tenderness. Colin Gibson

Words and Music © Hope Publishing Company

REFLECTION

“Nourishing life on earth”

VIDEO:

FAITHS 4 CLIMATE JUSTICE
A GRASSROOTS, FAITH-ROOTED CLIMATE JUSTICE MOVEMENT

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L4aK4ldRB5U>

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*In a time of silence, we pray for the needs of the world:
people we know, people we don't, planet earth,
for ourselves as we seek fullness of life.*

Holy Spirit, in us and with us,
enable us to be people of creative love.

***Empower us to be an Earth community
where all creatures find hope and life.
Amen.***

MUSIC FOR CONTEMPLATION

OFFERING

***Spirit of life,
as we offer these gifts and ourselves
make us to be one
with all who cry out for justice
for human and planetary life;
that we may share
in the renewal of creation.
Amen.***

NOTICES

MAREE MCDONALD

HYMN

O GOD OF EARTH AND SPACE

O God of earth and space,
Of sea and fire and air,
Your providence surrounds us here,
And everywhere.
In fruit and grain and tree,
In shelter from the cold,
In cooling breezes, flowing wells,
Now as of old.

Where faithfulness is shown,
Where love and truth abound,
Where beauty graces human life,
There You are found.
Inspirer of all thought!
Creative force of art!
The melody on every tongue,
In every heart!

Wherever freedom reigns,
Where sin is overthrown,
Where justice fused with mercy rules,
There You are known.
Give us the courage clear,
To make the earth a home
For all to live in harmony
In Christ's shalom.

Your word commands response
And summons us to life.
We follow, strengthened by Your grace,
In calm or strife.
Our ever present help,
Our challenge and our prod,
We praise You now and to life's end,
Eternal God.

Words: Jane Parker Huber (1926-2008)

Tune: Leoni

Hebrew Melody, arr. Meyer Lyon (1751-1797)

BLESSING AND SUNG AMEN

POSTLUDE

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Jesus' Prayer. "A Version of the Lord's Prayer" by Jim Cotter, in *Uniting in Worship 2*.

"The summer day" by Mary Oliver. From *House of Light*.
Beacon Press.

"Watershed and Commonwealth" by Wendell Berry. Excerpt from
Citizenship Papers: Essays. Counterpoint, USA: 2014

Excerpt from *The Long-Legged House* by Wendell Berry.
Counterpoint, USA: 2003.

"A Clean Environment Is A Human Right" by the Dalai Lama.
www.dalailama.com/messages/environment/clean-environment

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NOTICES


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GIVING

Offerings and donations enable us to continue the mission and
ministry of St Michael's. Your generosity is appreciated.

Information about ways to give is available on our website.

<https://stmichaels.org.au/giving/>

MUSIC ONLINE

MUSIC FOR CONTEMPLATION

Down by the Salley Gardens – John Ireland (1914-1992)

The well-known folk melody, Down by the Salley Gardens has been set and arranged into song by several composers. This work is a celebration of both creation and of love.

Christopher Watson (Tenor) & Rhys Boak (Piano)

POSTLUDE

'Crossing the Spheres' - Michelle Nelson

'Crossing the spheres' is the title movement from Melbourne-based composer Michelle Nelson's 2020 work, 'Crossing the Spheres'. This piece reflects on the spiritual dimension of migrating between cultures, inspired in part by the ancient notion of the 'music of the spheres'.

Meredith Connie & Michelle Nelson (Guitar duo)

MUSIC IN CHURCH

MUSIC FOR CONTEMPLATION

Ave Maria

– Vladimir Fyodorovich Vavilov (1925-1973) arr. Rhys Boak.

This famous piece, originally for Soprano was infamously attributed to the Italian early Baroque composer Giulio Caccini (1551-1681). It was in fact, an entirely new work, composed by the Russian composer Vladimir Vavilov in 1970. It has since become extremely popular. The composer sadly did not live long enough to enjoy the work's success, dying in poverty from pancreatic cancer at age 48.

Dr. Joel Brennan (Trumpet) & Leigh Askew (Organ)

Trumpet Voluntary – John Stanley (1712-1786) arr. Rhys Boak

John Stanley was a noted organist and composer, admired by Handel and many of his era. He was famous for his ability to spontaneously create beautiful music, reflecting the creation around us. Although blind since birth and unable to write down his music, many of his compositions were notated and survive to this day.

Dr. Joel Brennan (Trumpet) & Leigh Askew (Organ)

POSTLUDE

Prelude on 'Rhosymedre' - R. Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

The 20th century English composer, Ralph Vaughan Williams was captivated by the beautiful English countryside. He spent much of his time gathering traditional folk melodies, many of which have become well known hymns. This gentle postlude though is based on a Welsh tune, given the name 'Rhosymedre' or 'Lovely' in different hymnals.

Leigh Askew (Organ)

MUSICIANS

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