

ST MICHAEL'S UNITING CHURCH



NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
“EVERYONE’S A CRITIC”

1 OCTOBER 2023



MINISTER: REV DR MARGARET MAYMAN

MUSIC: CAILIN HOWARTH (ALTO)
& RHYS BOAK (ORGAN & PIANO)

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

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.
<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.

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

AS WE MEET IN CELEBRATION

As we meet in celebration,
in this place of faith and prayer,
we remember those before us
whose inheritance we share;
and with joy, we join together
praising God who calls us here.

As each age brings new horizons
to the challenge of our faith
we give thanks for those whose vision
built of sturdy mass this place,
and, for those who coming after,
varied causes did embrace.

Many were the time and talents
given here in Jesus' name,
as the people sought for truth
in war and peacetime, joy and pain.
We now stand in that tradition
for our world, to do the same.

Now we gather here together,
looking forward from our past,
in this fragile world to follow
with God's grace, the truth that lasts,
that, with those who follow after,
we may worship with full hearts.

Words: Mary Pearson
Tune: Regent Square
Henry Thomas Smart (1813-1879)

PRAYER OF AWARENESS

JESUS' PRAYER

***Spirit of the Universe,
We respect and cherish your creativity,
And wish to live according to your example,
looking for and doing what is right.
Sustain our physical and spiritual needs.
In acknowledging our own imperfections,
we accept the frailties of others.
We seek to make right choices,
through the Wisdom of this and previous generations,
while acknowledging your Universal and Eternal presence.
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 stories of faith, ancient and new,

We give thanks.

MUSIC FOR CONTEMPLATION

GOSPEL: MATTHEW 21:23-32

For the life and teaching of Jesus,

We give thanks.

HYMN

WE ARE MANY, WE ARE ONE

We are many, we are one,
and the work of Christ is done
when we learn to live in true community,
as the stars that fill the night,
as a flock of birds in flight,
as the cluster of the grapes upon the vine;
as the branches of a tree,
as the waves upon the sea,
as the cluster of the grapes upon the vine.

All division is made whole
when we honour every soul,
find the life of God in every you and me
as the fingers of a hand,
as the grains that form the sand,
as the cluster of the grapes upon the vine
as the threads upon the loom,
as a field of flowers in bloom,
as the cluster of the grapes upon the vine.

We will join creation's song
make a world where all belong,
build as one in peace and loving harmony,
as the voices of a choir,
as the flames within a fire,
as the cluster of the grapes upon the vine;
as the snowflakes in the snow,
as the colours of a bow,
as the cluster of the grapes upon the vine.

Words and tune: Colin Gibson (1933-2022)

Tune: Hamilton

CONTEMPORARY READING

"For Equilibrium" by John O'Donohue.

For the Spirit speaking still,

We give thanks.

REFLECTION

"Everyone's a Critic"

MUSIC FOR CONTEMPLATION

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.*

Hear our prayers, O Holy One.

Sustain us to seek the common good.

***Take all that we are, and nurture us so that we might become
agents of hope for the world.***

In your many names, we pray.

Amen.

OFFERING

We give to restore life.

We give to heal the broken relationships.

We give as a step on the journey to renewed sharing.

***Use our gifts, God, to restore, heal,
and renew us in faith with one another.***

Amen.

HOLY COMMUNION

COMMUNION HYMN ALL THE HUNGRY, ALL THE THIRSTY

All the hungry, all the thirsty,
all who look for strength may come,
all the needy, all the lonely,
all who long to find a home.
Here's a door that's always open,
here a table spread for all,
here a welcome, here a family,
here your heart can heed God's word.

All the gifted, all the joyful.
All whose hope is strong, come too;
come with overflowing blessings,
come with treasures old and new.
Here's a task that needs those riches,
here good news is always heard,
here a living faith grows bolder,
here your voice can speak God's word.

All the gifts of all God's people,
all the struggles, all the pain,
all the Spirit-sent abundance,
all the grief and loss and gain –
brought together in one Body,
burdens lighten, joys increase,
and together we can ask for
Jesus' strength and Jesus' peace.

All God's people, praise your Maker,
praise the one who called you here.
All disciples praise your Teacher,
loving, leading, always near.
All you faithful, praise the Spirit,
lifting every heart to pray.
Praise the Holy One who gives us
grace along the traveller's way.

Words: E J Smith

Tune: Hymn to Joy

Adapted from Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827)

WELCOME TO THE TABLE

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

The peace of God be with you,

And also with you.

In the presence of the living God

We lift our hearts in joy and give thanks.

Let us give thanks for the continuity of the universe;

for the sun rising day by day,

and the moon rising night by night;

for all the life with which we share this planet;

for the interactions and connections that bind us to it,

and the elements of which all is composed.

Let us give thanks,

And seek to live in harmony with all about us.

Let us give thanks for the flow of human history;

for the events that have shaped and moulded us

and all our sisters and brothers, our siblings;

for the ones who question that history;

for the ones who unearth the stories of the vanquished,

the oppressed, the forgotten, the unrecorded.

Let us give thanks,

***And take our place in the human story,
struggling for the unity of humankind.***

Let us give thanks for the ones who have provided
inspiration and hope;
for prophets and martyrs and poets;
thinkers and preachers and healers;
for the ones who have linked thought and action;
for reformers and rebels and protesters.
Let us give thanks,

And join with them in the quest for justice.

Let us give thanks for all who have revealed or discovered
deep and lasting truths;
let us celebrate their lives and deaths,
their thoughts and writings,
their continuing witness in the world today.
Let us give thanks,

And share in spreading this prophetic vision.

Today we give thanks for Jesus of Nazareth,
in whom Christians believe that God was especially present,
one of the channels through which God
was made known to humanity...

For all that Jesus of Nazareth means to us,

We give thanks.

May the Spirit that guides us all
be present in this feast, taking this bread and wine,
the concerns that we have expressed,
the lives that we lead, and transforming them all
for the unity of all creation and the service of love.

***God, whose body is all creation,
may we come to know you in all the earth
and feel you in our blood.
So will no part of us, or the world,
be lost to your transforming grace.***

Thanks be to God, say all who worship in spirit and truth.

Thanks be to God, for the gift of life.

SHARING COMMUNION

The bread of life.

Amen.

The cup of blessing.

Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

***Holy source of life and love,
With all that we are we thank you.
You share with us the gifts of life.
We go now to live your love
and to seek your liberation and peace for all creation.
Amen.***

NOTICES

MAREE McDONALD

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

Go forth and share in the recreating of the world.

May the sun warm your soul

and the moon be gentle above you.

May the God known in creation touch your heart,

and the Sacred known in humanity accompany you.

May the God known in Spirited Life dance in your living,

and grace be found in your way.

Amen.

POSTLUDE

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Art: “Moses strikes the rock in wilderness” by Marc Chagall

Jesus’ Prayer. St. Luke’s Family Church, Napier, NZ

For Equilibrium by John O’Donohue. From *To Bless the Space Between Us: A Book of Blessings*

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>

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

Ubi Caritas – M. Duruflé (1902-1986)

Based on plainchant, this serenely beautiful motet by twentieth century composer Maurice Duruflé is among the most loved choral music in the repertory. It is a setting of a tenth century hymn text which translates as follows: “Where charity and love [are], there is God. Love has gathered us together in one Christ. Let us exult and take joy in it.”

The St. Michael’s Singers directed by Rhys Boak

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

‘Haven’ from ‘Sea Pictures’ – Edward Elgar (1857-1934)

This song, from Elgar’s song cycle ‘Sea Pictures’ describes a loving safe haven for those caught, perhaps metaphorically, in the storms and tumult of being lost at sea.

Cailin Howarth (Alto) & Rhys Boak (Piano)

‘O thou that tellest good tidings to Zion’ from ‘Messiah’

– G.F. Handel (1685-1759)

The Messiah, or Messiah by George Frederick Handel is the best known of all oratorios. Although Handel was born in Germany, he settled in the UK and is best remembered for this oratorio, and for several coronation anthems, which are all still performed.

Cailin Howarth (Alto) & Rhys Boak (Organ)

POSTLUDE

Carillon de Westminster from 24 Fantasy Pieces

– Louis Vierne (1870-1937)

Composed by the famous blind organist of Notre Dame de Paris, Louis Vierne, the Carillon de Westminster is a fantasia on the theme played by London’s famous Big Ben. The piece invokes the movement of the clock, and indeed the passage through time, the swirling activity of modern city life and how we are all caught up in the ceaseless motion of the universe. Interestingly, the grand organ of Notre Dame de Paris was opened in 1867, making it one year younger than the organ of St Michael’s (1866).

Rhys Boak (Organ)

MUSICIANS

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