

ST MICHAEL'S  
UNITING CHURCH



ST MICHAEL'S DAY

“PILGRIMS ALONG THE RIVER OF LIFE  
LET JUSTICE AND PEACE FLOW DOWN”

24 SEPTEMBER 2023



MINISTER: REV DR MARGARET MAYMAN

MUSIC: THE ST. MICHAEL'S SINGERS &  
STRING ENSEMBLE & RHYS BOAK (ORGAN,  
PIANO & HARPSICHORD)

## 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.

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### OFFICE BEARERS

**Chairperson:** Laura Beckett

**Treasurer:** Ian Cox

**Secretary:** Maree McDonald

#### **Property**

Chair: Peter Anderson

Deputy Chair: Brian Smith

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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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### ST MICHAEL'S UNITING CHURCH OFFICE

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Please send notices to [office@stmichaels.org.au](mailto: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

In the season of Creation,  
as we celebrate life in the community of St Michael's,  
we honour all life as sacred and interconnected.

We reflect on generous wisdom, love and humanity  
held in the faith traditions of Earth,  
and we pay tribute to all the First Peoples of Australia  
and their long history of care for the land.

***The Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nation are the original  
custodians of the unceded land on which we meet.***

With the First Peoples we yearn for justice –

***And pray that our nation may accept the generous invitation of  
the Statement from the Heart.***

### 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.*

## GIVING THANKS ON ST MICHAEL'S DAY

We give thanks for the life that pulsates within us  
*breath and heartbeat, joy and sorrow,  
dance and stillness.*

We give thanks for the life that ebbs and flows between us  
*loving, understanding, creating,  
embracing and letting go.*

We give thanks for the web of life that surrounds and sustains us  
*feeding, protecting, teaching, inspiring mutual care.*

We give thanks for the source of all life,  
*this living universe,  
of which our lives are an expression.*

## HYMN

Morning has broken  
like the first morning;  
blackbird has spoken  
like the first bird.  
Praise for the singing,  
praise for the morning,  
praise for them, springing  
fresh from the word.

Sweet the rain's new fall  
sunlit from heaven,  
like the first dewfall  
on the first grass.  
Praise for the sweetness  
of the wet garden,  
sprung from completeness  
where his feet pass.

## MORNING HAS BROKEN

Mine is the sunlight;  
mine is the morning  
born of the one light  
Eden saw play.  
Praise with elation,  
praise every morning,  
God's recreation  
of the new day.

*Words: Eleanor Farjeon (1881–1965)*  
*Tune: Bunessan. Gaelic melody*  
*arr. Lawrence Francis Bartlett, 1933*

## PRAYER OF AWARENESS – THE MINGARY PRAYER

*Silent reflection*

### 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 sun and moon,  
of earth and air and water, be with you.

***And also with you.***

## CONTEMPORARY READING 1

VAL GILL

“In Praise of Water” by John O’Donohue

For the Spirit speaking still in the mystery of creation,

***We give thanks.***

## MUSIC FOR CONTEMPLATION 1

HEBREW BIBLE: AMOS 6:18-24

LAURA BECKETT

For the voices of prophets, in ancient times and in ours,

***We give thanks.***

HYMN

LET JUSTICE ROLL DOWN LIKE A RIVER

*Let justice roll down like a river,  
let justice flow down to the sea;  
let justice roll down like a river  
let justice begin through me.*

Justice for all who go hungry,  
crying to God to be fed,  
left in a world of abundance  
to beg for a morsel of bread.

*Refrain.*

Justice for those who are homeless,  
victims of war or of need,  
trapped on the borders of nowhere,  
lost in the canyons of greed.

*Refrain.*

Justice for all who are powerless,  
yearning for freedom in vain,  
plundered and robbed of their birth-right,  
silently bearing their pain.

*Refrain.*

*Words and tune: Colin Gibson (1933-2022)*

*Tune: Waitaki*

*Words © 1994 Hope Publishing Company*

GOSPEL: JOHN 14:1-4

For the stories of Jesus and the beloved community,

***We give thanks.***

CONTEMPORARY READING 2

PAMELA BLOOD

“Peace Like a River” by Sarah Klatt Dickerson

For Wisdom that was in the beginning,  
for Wisdom that invites and inspires,  
for Wisdom made known in scripture and poetry,

***We give thanks.***

HYMN

WHERE WIDE SKY ROLLS DOWN

Where wide sky rolls down and touches red sand,  
where the sun turns to gold the grass of the land,  
let spinifex, mulga and waterhole tell  
their joy in the One who made everything well.

Where rain-forest calm meets reef, tide and storm,  
where green things grow lush and oceans are warm,  
let every sea-creature and tropical bird  
exult in the light of the life-giving Word.

Where red gum and creek cross hillside and plain,  
where cool tree-ferns rise to welcome the rain,  
let bushland, farm, mountain-top, all of their days  
delight in the Spirit who formed them for praise.



Now, people of faith, come gather around  
with songs to be shared, for blessings abound!  
Australians, whatever your culture or race,  
come, lift up your hearts to the Giver of grace.

*Words: Elizabeth J Smith.  
Tune: Hanover.  
William Croft (1678-1727)*

REFLECTION

REV DR MARGARET MAYMAN

“Pilgrims along the river of life – let justice and peace flow”

PILGRIM PEOPLE: CONTEMPLATIVE WALK

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 2

YARRA RIVERKEEPERS

LORRAINE WOOLLEY



## OFFERING

*Gracious God, you have given us the gift of your Spirit,  
shared down through the ages with your people.  
You come to us still in the splendour of creation,  
in struggles for peace and justice,  
and in joyful celebration of this community.  
And so we bring these our gifts  
and we offer ourselves and our lives  
to live in harmony with your Spirit. Amen.*

## MUSIC FOR CONTEMPLATION 3

## NOTICES

LAURA BECKETT

## HYMN

## FOR THE BEAUTY OF THE EARTH

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,  
*Refrain.*

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

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

*Refrain.*

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

*Refrain.*

*Words: Folliott Sandford Pierpoint (1835-1917) alt.  
Tune: Lucerna Laudoniae. David Evans (1874-1948)*

## SENDING OUT

We are called  
to be disciples,  
to serve each other with love and compassion  
and to be caring stewards of our fragile earth.

***We commit to the healing of the earth,  
the rejuvenation of the rivers  
and life-giving springs of pure water.  
We celebrate life!***

## BLESSING AND SUNG AMEN

## POSTLUDE

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Photographs: “Yarra River at Pound Bend” by Nick Carson, October 2008.

“Upper Yarra Falls” by S.L. & D.M. Jones, *The Ultralight Hiker*, 2011.

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.

“Peace Like a River” by Sarah Klatt Dickerson. <https://www.nature-poems.com/peace-like-a-river-peace.html>

“In Praise of Water” by John O’Donohue. From *To Bless the Space Between Us*. New York: Doubleday, 2008.

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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

Concerto Grosso in G minor, Op 6 no. 8 - Grave & Vivace  
– Arcangelo Corelli (1653-1713)

The Concerto Grossi of the Italian born violinist, Arcangelo Corelli have remained popular for centuries. Several of these concerti have been used in the soundtracks of many well-known films and other productions. The devout Corelli, born in the papal states, would perhaps approve of his music being used in the 21st century for an online church service.

The Nuovo Quartet led by Susannah Ng

## POSTLUDE

Allegro from the concerto for trumpet  
– A. Vivaldi (1678-1741) arr. J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

The wonderful combination of trumpet and organ has been part of church music for many centuries. J.S. Bach adapted this concerto from Antonio Vivaldi, a contemporary composer of his who Bach admired greatly.

Dr. Joel Brennan (Trumpet) & Rhys Boak (Organ)

# MUSIC IN CHURCH

## MUSIC FOR CONTEMPLATION

'By faith we live' – Elizabeth Sheppard

Elizabeth Sheppard has Noongar Yamatji (Western Australian) and Gandangarra (Blue Mountains NSW) indigenous heritage. Elizabeth grew up playing the organ and piano in churches, as well as studying Theology, Musicology, Church Music, Ethnomusicology, and Australian Aboriginal culture and music. She has written a great deal of meaningful liturgical music.

Kate Macfarlane (Soloist), The St. Michael's Singers & String Ensemble, Rhys Boak (Piano)

'What is water' – Judith Herrington arr. Rhys Boak

This choral work by the contemporary American composer Judith Herrington explores both the literal and metaphorical nature of water and its importance to all life.

The St. Michael's Singers & String Ensemble, Rhys Boak (Piano)

A Gaelic Blessing – John Rutter (b. 1945)

The words of this blessing have been adapted from an ancient Gaelic rune. The renowned English choral composer, John Rutter was commissioned to write this work by the Chancel choir of the First United Methodist Church in Omaha, USA. Since publication in 1978, this work has become known throughout the world, and is cherished by many.

The St. Michael's Singers, The St. Michael's String Ensemble and Rhys Boak (Piano).

## POSTLUDE

Aria from 'The Water Music' - G.F. Handel (1685-1759) arr R. Boak

Handel's 3 orchestral suites known as 'The Water Music' dates from July 17th, 1717 and is a celebration of the river Thames. King George the 1st requested Handel to write this music for a special concert held on the river itself.

The St. Michael's String Ensemble and Rhys Boak (Harpsichord)

## MUSICIANS

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