

ST MICHAEL'S
UNITING CHURCH



CHRISTMAS REIMAGINED
CAROLS AND READINGS

THURSDAY 21 DECEMBER 2023



The Gift by Robyn Davis
(used with permission)

MINISTER: REV DR MARGARET MAYMAN

MUSIC: THE ST MICHAEL'S SINGERS,
ST MICHAEL'S SINGERS BRASS ENSEMBLE
& RHYS BOAK (ORGAN)

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

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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! ♥
<https://www.stmichaels.org.au/>

PROCESSIONAL

ONCE IN ROYAL DAVID'S CITY

Solo

*Once in royal David's city
stood a lowly cattle shed
where a mother laid her baby
in a manger for his bed:
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ her little child.*

Choir only

*He came down to earth from heaven
who is God and Lord of all,
and his shelter was a stable,
and his cradle was a stall;
with the poor, despised and lowly
lived on earth our Saviour holy.*

Choir and congregation

And through all his wondrous childhood,
day by day like us he grew;
he was little, weak, and helpless,
tears and smiles like us he knew;
and he feels for all our sadness,
and he shares in all our gladness.

Not in that poor lowly stable,
with the oxen standing by,
we shall see him: but in heaven,
set at God's right hand on high,
when his children gather round
bright like stars, with glory crowned.

Cecil Frances Alexander(1818-1895) alt

Tune: Irby

H.J. Gauntlett (1805-1876) and A.H. Mann (1850-1929)

Descant: Rhys Boak

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The land on which St Michael's stands is the sovereign and unceded country of the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nation.

***We pay our respects to their Elders, past and present,
who have cared for this country since its creation.***

***We join with Aboriginal people in their yearning for justice;
for people and for the earth.***

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.*

THE ST MICHAEL'S SINGERS

CAROL OUR CHRISTMAS

Carol our Christmas, an upside down Christmas;
snow is not falling and trees are not bare.
Carol the summer, and welcome the Christ Child,
warm in our sunshine and of sweetness and air.

Sing of the gold and the green and the sparkle,
water and river and lure of the beach
Sing in the happiness of open spaces,
sing a nativity summer can reach!

Shepherds and musterers move over hillsides,
finding, not angels, but sheep to be shorn;
Wise ones make journeys whatever the season,
searching for signs of the truth to be born.

Right side up Christmas belongs to the universe,
made in the moment a woman gives birth;
Hope is the Jesus gift, love is the offering,
everywhere, anywhere, here on the earth.

Words: Shirley Murray (1931-2020)

Tune: Reversi

Colin Gibson (1933-2022)

HEBREW BIBLE: GENESIS 1: 1-5 & JOHN 1: 1-5

GRETA BRADMAN

Jewish and Christian Perspectives on creation

CONTEMPORARY READING REV DR MARGARET MAYMAN

“I know not always how God comes” by Bonnie Belasic

CAROL

SILENT NIGHT

Silent night, holy night:
all is calm, all is bright.
Round the virgin mother and child,
holy infant so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace,
sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night:
shepherds quake at the sight;
glories stream from heaven afar,
heavenly hosts sing, ‘Alleluia!
Christ the Saviour is born,
Christ the Saviour is born.’

Silent night, holy night:
wondrous star, lend your light;
with the angels let us sing
Alleluia, praises ring!
Christ our Saviour is born,
Christ our Saviour is born.

*Words: Joseph Mohr (1792-1848)
Trans. John Freeman Young (1820-1885)
Tune: Silent Night. Franz Xaver Gruber. (1787-1863)*

HEBREW BIBLE: ISAIAH 9: 2, 6-7

The people of Israel looked for One who would lead them to know the light of God.

THE ST MICHAEL'S SINGERS

CHILD IN A MANGER
Celtic traditional arr. John Rutter

CONTEMPORARY READING

REV CLARE BROCKETT

"Before Jesus" by Alla Renée Bozarth

GOSPEL: LUKE 1: 26-35, 38

Mary chooses, daring to believe, that new possibilities can be conceived.

THE ST MICHAEL'S SINGERS

NO WIND AT THE WINDOW

No wind at the window, no knock on the door,
no light from the lamp stand, no foot on the floor;
no dream born of tiredness, no ghost raised by fear:
just an angel and a woman and a voice in her ear.

Oh, Mary, Oh, Mary don't hide from my face.
Be glad that you're favoured and filled with God's grace.
The time for redeeming the world has begun;
and you are requested to mother God's son.

This child must be born that the Kin-dom might come:
Salvation for many, destruction for some;
both end and beginning, both message and sign;
both victor and victim, both yours and divine.

No payment was promised, no promises made;
no wedding was dated, no blue-print displayed.
Yet Mary, consenting to what none could guess,
replied with conviction, "tell God I say yes."

No wind at the window, no knock on the door;
no light from the lamp-stand, no foot on the floor;
no dream born of tiredness, no ghost raised by fear:
Just an angel and a woman and a voice in her ear.

*Words: John L. Bell (1949 -)
Iona Community
Tune: Columcille
traditional Gaelic melody arr. K. Breedlove.*

CONTEMPORARY READING

CHRIS PHILLIPS

“Touched by an Angel” by Maya Angelou

THE ST MICHAEL’S SINGERS

NATIVITY CAROL

John Rutter

GOSPEL: LUKE 1: 46-55

Mary’s Song: Mary celebrates the power of God to change the world.

CAROL

ANGELS FROM THE REALMS OF GLORY

Angels from the realms of glory,
wing your flight o'er all the earth;
ye who sang creation's story,
now proclaim Messiah's birth:
*come and worship Christ, the new-born king,
come and worship, worship Christ, the new-born king.*

Shepherds, in the fields abiding,
watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing,
yonder shines the infant Light:
*come and worship Christ, the new-born king,
come and worship, worship Christ, the new-born king.*

Sages, leave your contemplations,
brighter visions beam afar;
seek the great desire of nations,
you have seen the natal star:
*come and worship Christ, the new-born king,
come and worship, worship Christ, the new-born king.*

Words: James Montgomery (1771-1854)

Tune: Iris

French traditional melody arr. Martin Shaw (1875-1958)

GOSPEL: LUKE 2: 8-16

The Shepherds go to the manger – God overcomes our fears and the Holy child is born among us.

SOLO

GEORGIA WILKINSON

O HOLY NIGHT

CONTEMPORARY READING

“Nativity” by Peter Cape

ANTHONY BENDALL

CAROL

AWAY IN A MANGER

Away in a manger, no pillow or bed,
the baby boy Jesus is born in a shed;
the stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
the baby boy Jesus asleep on the hay.

While cattle are standing, the baby’s asleep
sought after by shepherds who leave all their sheep;
and wise men bring treasures; they’ve come from afar
to give gifts to Jesus; they followed a star.

Yes, Jesus is near me, I know he will stay
close by me for ever and love me each day;
he blesses all children; we know we will share
a wonderful friendship in his tender care.

New words: George Stuart

Tune: Cradle Song

William James Kirkpatrick (1838-1921)

Harmony and descant: Rhys Boak

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

CONTEMPORARY READING

“Christmas Comes” by Ann Weems

VAL GILL

CAROL

JOY TO THE WORLD

Joy to the world! The promised one
has come shalom to bring;
let ev'ry heart prepare a room,
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n and heav'n and nature sing.

Joy to the world! The Saviour reigns;
let all their songs employ;
while fields and floods, rocks hills and plains
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat, the sounding joy.

Graceful and true, the Saviour rules,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of the ways of peace,
and wonders of God's love,
and wonders of God's love,
and wonders, wonders of God's love.

Words: Isaac Watts (1674-1748)

Tune: Antioch

BLESSING

“Christmas Blessing” by Glynn Cardy

THE ST MICHAEL'S SINGERS

WE WISH YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS

Trad. Arr. Arthur Warrell

RECESSIONAL

Christmas Fanfare – Pierre Max Dubois

Rhys Boak (Organ) & The St Michael's Brass Ensemble

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Art: "The Gift" by Robyn Davis. Used with permission.

"I know not always how God comes" by Bonnie Belasic. From *In Other Words: Worship Resources for Women*, eds. Dorothy Brooker et al. 1993.

"Before Jesus" by Alla René Bozarth. From *This Is My Body: Praying for Earth, Prayers From the Heart*. iUniverse, 2004

"Touched by an Angel" by Maya Angelou.

"Nativity" by Peter Cape. From *An Ordinary Joker*, Steel Roberts, 2001.

"Christmas Comes" by Ann Weems in *Reaching for Rainbows*. Westminster Press, 1980.

"Once in Royal David's City" Cecil Frances Alexander alt,
Tune: Irby, H.J. Gauntlett and A.H. Mann, Descant: Rhys Boak

"Carol our Christmas" Words: Shirley Murray, Tune: Reversi,
Colin Gibson

"Silent night" Words: Joseph Mohr, Trans. John Freeman Young,
Tune: Silent Night. Franz Xaver Gruber

"Child in a manger" Celtic traditional arr. John Rutter

"No wind at the window" Words: John L. Bell, Iona Community,
Tune: Columcille, traditional Gaelic melody arr. K. Breedlove

"Angels from the realms of glory" Words: James Montgomery,
Tune: Iris, French traditional melody arr. Martin Shaw

"Away in a manger" New words: George Stuart, Tune: Cradle Song,
William James Kirkpatrick, Harmony and descant: Rhys Boak

"Joy to the world" Words: Isaac Watts, Tune: Antioch

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 <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

MUSIC FOR CONTEMPLATION

“O Holy Night”

– Adolphe Adam

Georgia Wilkinson (Soprano)

“We wish you a Merry Christmas”

– Traditional. Arranged by Arthur Warrell

The St Michael’s Singers

POSTLUDE

Christmas Fanfare

– Pierre Max Dubois

Rhys Boak (Organ) & The St Michael’s Brass Ensemble

MUSICIANS

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