

# ST MICHAEL'S UNITING CHURCH



## REIGN OF CHRIST SUNDAY “SHARING HOPE: THE IMPACT OF THE CHRISTMAS BOWL”

26 NOVEMBER 2023



MINISTER: REV DR MARGARET MAYMAN  
REFLECTION: STEPHANIE LENERT

MUSIC: HELEN BOWER (VIOLIN),  
& RHYS BOAK (ORGAN & PIANO)  
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

---

### ST MICHAEL'S UNITING CHURCH OFFICE

120 Collins Street Melbourne

Phone: 03 9654 5120

Email: [office@stmichaels.org.au](mailto:office@stmichaels.org.au)

Minister: [minister@stmichaels.org.au](mailto:minister@stmichaels.org.au)

Web: [www.stmichaels.org.au](http://www.stmichaels.org.au)



<https://www.facebook.com/stmichaelsmelbourne/>



<https://www.youtube.com/user/StMichaelsChurch/videos>

Weekly eNews: [media@stmichaels.org.au](mailto:media@stmichaels.org.au)

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

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

## PROCESSIONAL

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The land on which we meet is the sovereign and unceded country of the Wurundjeri People of the Kulin nation.

***We pay our respects to their elders, past and present; those who have cared for the lands and waters of this country since its creation.***

We have heard the call of the Statement from the Heart for Voice, Treaty and Truth.

***We will respond to its invitation by working for a society in which there is justice for all Indigenous people.***

### 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

### HERE IN THIS PLACE (GATHER US IN)

Here in this place, new light is streaming,  
now is the darkness vanished away.  
See, in this space, our fears and our dreamings,  
brought here to you in the light of this day.  
Gather us in, the lost and forsaken,  
gather us in, the blind and the lame.  
Call to us now, and we shall awaken,  
we shall arise at the sound of our name.

We are the young, our lives are a mystery,  
we are the old, who yearn for your face.  
We have been sung throughout all of history,  
called to be light to the whole human race.  
Gather us in, the rich and the haughty,  
gather us in, the proud and the strong.  
Give us a heart so meek and so lowly,  
give us the courage to enter the song.

Not in the dark of buildings confining,  
not in some heaven, light years away,  
but here in this space, the new light is shining;  
now is the Kingdom, now is the day.  
Gather us in, and hold us forever,  
gather us in, and make us your own.  
Gather us in, all peoples together,  
fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

*Words and Tune: Marty Haugen (1950-)  
Tune: Gather us in*

## 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 Divine Presence be with you!  
***And also with you.***

#### EPISTLE: COLOSSIANS 3: 12-17

VAL GILL

For the early followers of Jesus, gathering in love  
***We give thanks.***

#### MUSIC FOR CONTEMPLATION

#### GOSPEL: MATTHEW 25: 31-46

For the life and teaching of Jesus,  
***We give thanks.***

#### CONTEMPORARY READING

“Shine the light” by Deborah Ann Bekla.  
For Wisdom that was in the beginning,  
for Wisdom that invites and inspires,  
for Wisdom within and among us,  
***We give thanks.***

## HYMN

## O DAY OF GOD, DRAW NEAR

O day of God, draw near  
in beauty and in power,  
come with your timeless judgment now  
to match our present hour

Bring to our troubled minds,  
uncertain and afraid,  
the quiet of a steadfast faith,  
calm of call obeyed.

Bring justice to our land  
that all may dwell secure,  
and firmly build for days to come  
foundations that endure.

Bring to our world of strife  
your sovereign word of peace,  
that war may haunt the earth no more  
and desolation cease.

O day of God, draw near  
as at creation's birth;  
let there be light gain, and set  
your justice in the earth.

*Words: Robert Balgarnie Young Scott  
(1899-1987) alt.*

*Tune: Bellwood. James Hopkirk (1908-1972)*

## REFLECTION

## STEPHANIE LENERT

“Sharing hope – the impact of the Christmas Bowl”  
Senior Development Manager – Act for Peace

## HYMN

## GOD OF FREEDOM, GOD OF JUSTICE

God of freedom, God of justice,  
you whose love is strong as death,  
you who saw the dark of prison,  
you who knew the price of faith:  
touch our world of sad oppression  
with your Spirit's healing breath.

Rid the earth of torture's terror,  
you whose hands were nailed to wood;  
hear the cries of pain and protest,  
you who shed the tears and blood;  
move in us the power of pity,  
restless for the common good.

Make in us a captive conscience  
quick to hear, to act, to plead;  
make us truly sisters, brothers  
of whatever race or creed;  
teach us to be fully human,  
open to each other's need.

*Shirley Erena Murray (1931-2020)*

*Tune: Picardy*

*French traditional carol melody, 17th - 18th cent.  
from 'Chansons Populaires des Provinces de France'  
1860 as in the 'English Hymnal' 1906*

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

### *Silent reflection*

*In silence, let us pray for the earth and its people,  
for particular people, places and situations known to us,  
where comfort, justice and healing are needed.*

Holy Spirit, in us and with us,

***empower us to be a community of justice and joy,  
enable us to bring hope and life to the places we live.  
Amen.***

## MUSIC FOR CONTEMPLATION

### OFFERING

***May our gifts,  
the efforts they represent,  
and the efforts they sustain,  
bear witness to the community of Christ  
where peace, justice, and love rule, now and forever.  
Amen.***

### NOTICES

VAL GILL

### HYMN

### FOR EVERYONE BORN, A PLACE AT THE TABLE

For everyone born, a place at the table,  
for everyone born, clean water and bread,  
a shelter, a space, a safe place for growing,  
for everyone born, a star over head.

*And God will delight when we are creators  
of justice and joy, compassion and peace;  
yes, God will delight when we are creators  
of justice, justice, and joy.*

For young and for old, a place at the table,  
a voice to be heard, a part in the song,  
the hands of a child in hands that are wrinkled,  
for young and for old, the right to belong.

*Refrain.*

For gay and for straight, a place at the table,  
a covenant shared, a welcoming space,  
a rainbow of race and gender and colour,  
for gay and for straight, the chalice of grace,

*Refrain.*



For just and unjust, a place at the table;  
God gathering in, abundance to give,  
injustice and hurt, make way now for mercy,  
for just and unjust, a new way to live.

*Refrain.*

For everyone born, a place at the table,  
to live without fear, and simply to be,  
to work, to speak out, to witness and worship,  
for everyone born, the right to be free.

*Refrain.*

*Words: Shirley Erena Murray (1931-2020)*

*© 2004 Hope Publishing Company*

*Tune: For Everyone Born. Brian Mann (2006)*

## BLESSING AND SUNG AMEN

Blessed be  
the doors we open,  
the thresholds we cross,  
the roads that lie before us.  
May the Sacred Spirit go with us as we go  
and welcome us home as we return.

## POSTLUDE

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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.

Contemporary reading: "Shine the light" by Deborah Ann Bekla. From *poetrybydeborahann.wordpress.com*

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](http://www.stmichaels.org.au) or email [office@stmichaels.org.au](mailto: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

‘Beau Soir’ – Claude Debussy (1862-1918) arr. Rhys Boak

This calm and surreal music provides an excellent background for meditation. The French composer Claude Debussy is without rival in the fluidity of his piano writing in particular.

Helen Bower (Violin) & Rhys Boak (Piano)

## POSTLUDE

“À Chloris” - Reynaldo Hahn (1874-1947)

This work dates from the early 20th century and was penned by the Venezuelan born, but naturalized French composer, Reynaldo Hahn. Hahn is today best remembered for his vocal songs but wrote a great deal of instrumental music as well. Today’s version is an adaptation for violin and piano but was originally composed for the soprano voice.

Helen Bower (Violin) & Rhys Boak (Piano)

# MUSIC IN CHURCH

## MUSIC FOR CONTEMPLATION

Nocturne – Margaret Southerland (1897-1984)

Margaret Southerland was born in Adeliade and is one of a number of celebrated female composers born around the same time. Sutherland was a protégé of the great English composer Arnold Bax and wrote a great deal of music. The University of Melbourne conferred Sutherland with an honorary doctorate in 1969.

Helen Bower (Violin) & Rhys Boak (Piano)

Madrigale – Ottorino Respighi (1879-1936)

This charming Madrigale or Madrigal is part of a set of 6 pieces dating from 1906). Despite living a relatively short life, Respighi remains arguably one of the most important and influential European composers of the first half of the 20th century.

Helen Bower (Violin) & Rhys Boak (Piano)

## POSTLUDE

A Trumpet Minuet – Alfred Hollins (1865-1942)

The blind English organ virtuoso and composer Alfred Hollins earned the nickname of 'Alfred the great'. Hollins visited Melbourne in 1904 performing both at St. Michael's and the Melbourne Town Hall. The largest of the 3 trumpet stops at St. Michael's is used for this work.

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>