

ST MICHAEL'S
UNITING CHURCH



Second Sunday in Lent
25 February 2024

“Soulful living in Lent”



Minister: Rev Dr Margaret Mayman

Joe Chindamo (Piano)
& Rhys Boak (Organ)
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.

As a congregation of the Uniting Church in Australia, we are committed we are committed to the Covenant with First Peoples and to social and ecological justice. We hold foundational Christian values of the worth of every human being, the need for integrity in public life, and concern for the welfare of the planet and its peoples, irrespective of race, creed, gender, sexuality, status, or age.

Minister

Rev Dr Margaret Mayman

Church Council

Chairperson: Laura Beckett

Treasurer: Ian Cox

Secretary: Brian Smith

Property

Chair: Peter Anderson

Deputy: Brian Smith

Church Services

Chair: Lorraine Woolley

Deputy: Val Gill

Anthony Bendall

John Coppock

Culture of Safety Contact

(Keeping Children Safe)

Val Gill

Contact & Care

Chair: Lyndell O'Brien

Deputy: Catherine Jones

Mission Coordinating

Chair: Ann Kinnear

Jess Hand

Chris Phillips

Organist and Manager of Music

Rhys Boak

Church Office

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

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Please send eNews notices to the office by 5pm 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 Treaty, Voice and Truth.

**Still we pray for justice, for Makarrata;
a coming together after struggle, walking together as
First and Second Peoples.**

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

Praise with joy the world's creator

Praise with joy the world's Creator,
God of justice, love and peace,
Source and end of human knowledge,
Force of greatness without cease.
Celebrate the Maker's glory -
Power to rescue and release.

Praise the Son who feeds the hungry,
Frees the captive, finds the lost,
Heals the sick, upsets religion,
Fearless both of fate and cost.
Celebrate Christ's constant presence -
Friend and Stranger, Guest and Host.

Praise the Spirit sent among us,
Liberating truth from pride,
Forging bonds where race or gender,
Age or nation dare divide.
Celebrate the Spirit's treasure,
Foolishness none dare deride.

Praise the Maker, son and Spirit,
One God in community,
Calling us to leave behind faith's
Ghettos and obscurity.
Thus the world shall yet believe
When shown Christ's vibrant unity.

Words: John L. Bell (1949-)
and Graham Maule (1958-2020)
Tune: Praise, my soul. John Goss (1800-1880)

Prayer of Awareness

Jesus' Prayer

Remembering Jesus, we pray together...

Abba God in heaven, glory to you!
Your rule of love renews the earth.
In your name, we take part in that renewal
helping, and not harming,
caring, and not coercing.
We pray that we might receive with thanks
the bread we need,
the money we need,
the warmth we need.

We pray that forgiveness and freedom
flow through our lives.
Teach us that in sharing life we live life to the full.
Remind us that evil is real.
Still, we are not afraid of it,
but confident
that love is stronger than hate,
justice other than revenge,
true peace the work of your Spirit.
Amen.

Sharing a Sign of Peace

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

Hebrew Bible: Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

Laura Beckett

For the traditions of faith passed on through generations,
We give thanks.

Gospel: Mark 8:31-38

For the stories of Jesus and the beloved community,
We give thanks.

Hymn

Deep in the shadows of the past

Deep in the shadows of the past,
far out from settled lands,
some nomads travelled with their God
across the desert sands.
The dawn of hope for humankind
was glimpsed by them alone;
a promise calling them ahead,
a future yet unknown.

While others bowed to changeless gods
they met a mystery:
God with an uncompleted name,
"I am what I will be";
and by their tents, around their fires,
in story, song and law,
they praised, remembered, handed on
A past that promised more.

From Abraham to Nazareth
the promise changed and grew,
while some, remembering the past,
recorded what they knew,
And some, in letters or laments,
in prophecy and praise,
recovered, held and re-expressed
new hope for changing days.

For all the writings that survived,
for leaders long ago,
who sifted, chose and then preserved
the Bible that we know;
give thanks, and find its promise yet
our comfort, strength and call -
the working model for our faith
alive with hope for all.

Words: Brian Wren (1936-)

Tune: Kingsfold

From an English and Irish traditional melody coll.

Lucy Broadwood (1858-1929)

harm. and arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

Contemporary Reading

“The beginning of wisdom” by Denise Levertov

For Wisdom that was in the beginning,
for Wisdom that invites and inspires,
for Wisdom within and among us,

We give thanks.

Music for contemplation

Moon River – H. Mancini
Joe Chindamo (Piano)

Reflection

Rev Dr Margaret Mayman

“Soulful living in Lent”

Hymn

For you, deep stillness

For you, deep stillness of the silent inland
For you, deep blue of the desert skies
For you, flame red of the rocks and stones
For you, sweet water from hidden springs.

From the edges seek the heartlands
and when you're burnt by the journey
may the cool winds of the hovering
Spirit soothe and replenish you.
In the name of Love, in the name of Love.

For you, deep stillness of the silent inland
For you, deep blue of the desert skies
For you, flame red of the rocks and stones
For you, sweet water from hidden springs.

From the edges seek the heartlands
and when you're burnt by the journey
may the cool winds of the hovering
Spirit soothe and replenish you.
In the name of Love, in the name of Love.
In the name of Love, in the name of Love.

Words: Julie Perrin (alt)
Tune: Robin Mann

Prayers of the people

*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.*

These are the prayers of our hearts,

**May our prayers move to live with passion and compassion.
Amen.**

Invitation to Offering

Music for contemplation

‘One fine day’ from Madam Butterfly – G. Puccini
Joe Chindamo (Piano)

Offering Prayer

**Holy One,
Disturber of comfort, Comforter in sorrow, Guide we follow –
Bless our resources towards peace and justice.
Bless our offering towards courage and compassion.
Amen.**

Notices

Laura Beckett

Hymn

God of our every day

God of our every day,
friend who will walk our way,
light who can change the focus of our seeing,
capture our heart and mind,
be in the work we find,
till all we do becomes your mode of being.

Speak to our spirit's void,
hands that are unemployed,
lives that are lived without a true direction:
gifts that are hid, unearthen,
lift us to know our worth
that in ourselves we see your own reflection.

Shine through our winter's grey,
break through depression's day,
live through the little deaths we die in growing;
meaning for whom we grope,
home of our strongest hope,
power and peace, through all creation flowing.

Words: Shirley Erena Murray (1931-2020)

Tune: Down Ampney

Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

Blessing and Sung Amen

May the blessing of God,
lover, beloved and Spirit of Love,
be with us and all creation,
now and forever.

Postlude

Adagio from the Toccata, Adagio and Fugue in C BWV 564 – J.S. Bach
Rhys Boak (Organ)

Acknowledgements

Photo by Brian Gomes on Unsplash.

Jesus' Prayer by David B. Royer and Jonathan C. Nelson,
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Contemporary reading: "The beginning of wisdom" by Denise Levertov.
From *Collected Poems*, edited and annotated by Paul A. Lacey and
Anne Dewey. (New York: New Directions, 2013).

Some elements of the liturgy are from enfleshed.com, adapted by
Margaret Mayman.

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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 Notes

Music for contemplation

Moon River

– H. Mancini (1924-1994) adapted Joe Chindamo (b. 1961)

This work in its original form comes from the film ‘Breakfast at Tiffany’s’. Despite its secular origins and heard here in a newly reimagined form, this work is one of such beauty it causes us to reflect, to meditate and be soulful.

Joe Chindamo (Piano)

‘One fine day’ from Madam Butterfly

– G. Puccini (1858-1924) adapted Joe Chindamo (b. 1961)

This aria also has secular beginnings as part of Puccini’s 1904 opera, Madam Butterfly. As with Moon River, we do not hear it in its original form, but reimagined as the basis of a new work by Joe Chindamo. It is a work of such beauty it causes us to reflect and to experience the spontaneous re-invention of the work in a new form.

Joe Chindamo (Piano)

Postlude

Adagio from the Toccata, Adagio and Fugue in C BWV 564

– J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

This soulful adagio is both sombre and searching. It is part of a larger organ work, though this movement is often played by itself. It has been transcribed for other ensembles and instruments and is one of Bach’s greatest melodies.

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>