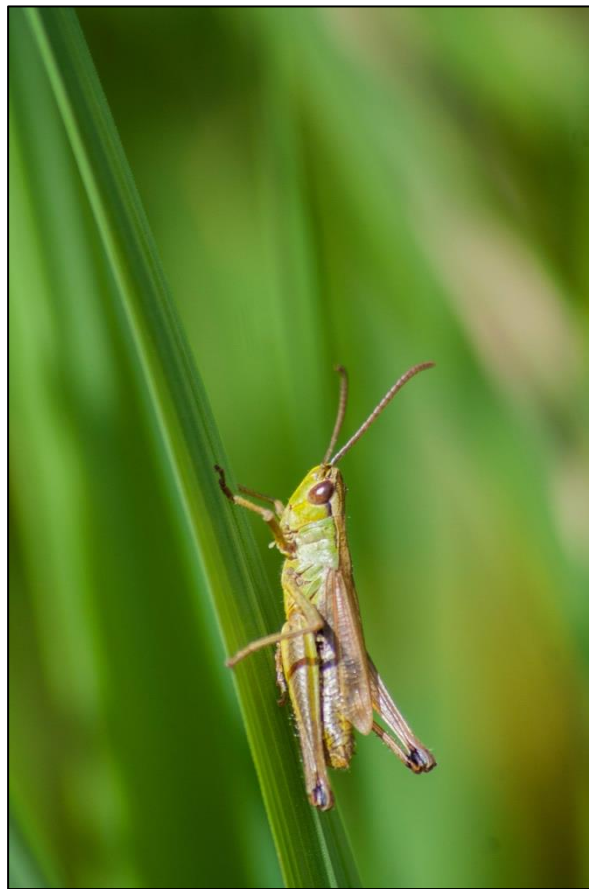


ST MICHAEL'S
UNITING CHURCH



Fifth Sunday after Epiphany
4 February 2024

“On being good ancestors”



Minister: Rev Dr Margaret Mayman

Music: Edwina Cordingley (Cello)
& 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: Brian Smith

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

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♥ 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.

Here we will take the wine and the water,
here we will take the bread of new birth.
Here you shall call your sons and your daughters,
call us anew to be salt of the earth.
Give us to drink the wine of compassion,
give us to eat the bread that is you.
Nourish us well, and teach us to fashion
lives that are holy and hearts that are true.

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

*Dear One,
closer to us than our own hearts,
farther from us than the most distant star,
you are beyond naming.
May your powerful presence become obvious
not only in the undeniable glory of the sky,
but in the common processes of the earth.
Give us what we need, day by day,
to keep body and soul together,
because clever as you have made us,
we still owe our existence to you.
We recognize that to be reconciled with you,
we must live peaceably and justly
with other human beings,
putting hate and bitterness behind us.
We are torn between our faith in your goodness
and our awareness of the evil in your creation,
so deliver us from the temptation to despair.
Yours alone is the universe
and all its majesty and beauty.
So it is.
Amen*

Sharing a Sign of Peace

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

Hebrew Bible: Isaiah 40:21-31

Lorraine Woolley

For wisdom that opens us to the song of creation,
We give thanks.

Music for contemplation

Gigue – Johannes Schenck (1670-1750)
Edwina Cordingley (Cello) & Rhys Boak (Piano)

Gospel: Mark 1:29-39

For Jesus who healed and restored community

We give thanks.

Contemporary Reading

“This is what was bequeathed us” by Gregory Orr.

For the Spirit speaking still, in poetry and song,

We give thanks.

Hymn

Touch the earth lightly

Touch the earth lightly,
use the earth gently,
nourish the life of the world in our care:
gift of great wonder,
ours to surrender,
trust for the children tomorrow will bear.

We who endanger,
who create hunger,
agents of death for all creatures that live,
we who would foster
clouds of disaster,
God of our planet, forestall and forgive!

Let there be greening,
birth from the burning,
water that blesses and air that is sweet,
health in God's garden,
hope in God's children,
regeneration that peace will complete.

God of all living,
God of all loving,
God of the seedling, the snow and the sun,
teach us, deflect us,
Christ reconnect us,
using us gently and making us one.

*Words: Shirley Erena Murray (1931-2020)
Tune: Tenderness. Colin Gibson (1933-2022)
Words and Music © Hope Publishing Company*

Reflection

Rev Dr Margaret Mayman

“On being good ancestors”

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 our prayers for people and for our planet:

***We move on in faith,
into the unknown,
in the company of the God made known in Jesus,
who illumines the Way.
Amen.***

Announcement of offering

Music for Contemplation (Offering)

Gogue from the 3rd Cello Suite – J S Bach (1685-1750)
Edwina Cordingley (Cello)

Offering Prayer

Holy Life-giver, we give thanks for examples of care and courage—the water protectors, the healthcare workers of Gaza, the forest defenders, the artists and musicians who awaken our imagination. We give thanks for our flora & fauna kin who teach us about adaptation, interdependence, and presence. Bless our offerings to beauty, bless our offerings to wonder. Amen.

Holy Communion

Communion Hymn

We are not our own

We are not our own, Earth forms us,
human leaves on nature's growing vine,
fruit of many generations,
seeds of life divine.

We are not alone, Earth names us:
past and present, peoples near and far,
family and friends and strangers
show us who we are.

Through a human life God finds us;
dying, living, love is fully known,
and in bread and wine reminds us:
we are not our own.

Therefore let us make thanksgiving,
and with justice, willing and aware,
give to earth, and all things living,
liturgies of care.

And if love's encounters lead us
on a way uncertain and unknown,
all the saints with prayer surround us:
we are not alone.

Let us be a house of welcome,
living stone upholding living stone,
gladly showing all our neighbours
we are not our own.

Words: Brian Wren (1936-)

Tune: Yarnton

Composer: Brian A. Wren

Arr. Fred Graham

Welcome to the Table

Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Divine Presence is here.

We lift our hearts in joy.

We give thanks to you, O God, for you love the world.

You look upon creation and name it good.

***You conceive in us new possibilities,
and carry us on into the timeless struggle
of bringing to birth your reign of love.***

We praise you, God of the loving heart,
for creating all things seen and unseen,
for making us in your image,
and for seeking us when we turn away.

We thank you for being known to us in Jesus the Human One,
who was faithful even to death on a cross,
who lives among us still as Christa/Community.

Through the power of your Spirit,
open our eyes to the Risen One present among us
in the breaking of the bread,
Draw us into communion with you and one another
that we may be signs of your love in this broken world,
as we anticipate the coming of your reign of justice and peace.

***To you, Eternal Source,
with Embodied Wisdom
and the Spirit of Love
be glory and honour now and forever.
Amen.***

The Story

Sharing Communion

The bread of life.

Amen.

The cup of blessing.

Amen.

Prayer after communion

Blessed be God,

who has given us the bread of life,

Blessed be God,

who has refreshed us with the wine of love.

Amen.

Notices

Lorraine Woolley

Hymn

Let All Creation Dance

Let all creation dance
in energies sublime,
as order turns with chance,
unfolding space and time
for nature's art
in glory grows,
and newly shows
God's mind and heart.

God's breath each force unfurls,
igniting from a spark
expanding starry swirls,
with whirlpools dense and dark.
Though moon and sun
seem mindless things,
each orbit sings:
"Your will be done."

Our own amazing earth,
with sunlight, cloud and storms
and life's abundant growth
in lovely shapes and forms,
is made for praise,
a fragile whole,
and from its soul
heav'n's music plays.

Lift heart and soul and voice:
in Christ all praises meet
and nature shall rejoice
as all is made complete.
In hope be strong.
All life befriend
and kindly tend
creation's song.

Words: Brian Wren (1936-)
Tune: Darwall
John Darwall (1731-1789)

Blessing and Sung Amen

And may the blessing of God,
Lover, beloved and Spirit of Love,
be with us and all creation,
now and always.

Postlude

Allegro from the Concerto in A minor – after Antonio Vivaldi (1678-1741) – transcribed for organ by J S Bach (1685-1750)

Rhys Boak (Organ)

Acknowledgements

Art: Grasshopper photo. Photo by Julius Jansson on Unsplash

Jesus' Prayer. Jesus' Prayer. Lord's Prayer: An interpretation by Jim Burklo. <https://tcpc.blogs.com/musings/2012/12/jim-burklos-book-of-common-prayer.html>

“This is what was bequeathed us” from *How Beautiful the Beloved* by Gregory Orr. Copper Canyon Press, 2009.

“Gather us in”. Words: Brian Wren. Tune: Yarnton.
Composer: Brian A. Wren. Arr. Fred Graham

“Touch the earth lightly”. Words: Shirley Erena Murray.
Tune: Tenderness. Colin Gibson. Words and Music © Hope Publishing Company

“We are not our own”. Words: Brian Wren. Tune: Yarnton.
Composer: Brian A. Wren. Arr. Fred Graham.

“Let all creation dance”. Words: Brian Wren. Tune: Darwall.
John Darwall.

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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

Gigue –

– Johannes Schenck (1670-1750)

Little is known about the Dutch composer Johannes Schenck, other than that he was baptised Catholic in a hidden church in Protestant Amsterdam. He was known primarily as a viola da gamba player (a precursor to the modern cello).

Edwina Cordingley (Cello) & Rhys Boak (Piano)

Gogue from the 3rd Cello Suite –

– J S Bach (1685-1750)

Written between 1717 and 1721, Bach's 6 suites for solo cello are some the most beautiful music composed for the instrument. We hear today, three short movements from the first suite.

Edwina Cordingley (Cello)

Postlude

Allegro from the Concerto in A minor
– after Antonio Vivaldi (1678-1741) – transcribed for organ by J S
Bach (1685-1750)

In the days before the internet, the airplane, the radio or even railway, it is extraordinary that the great German composer J S Bach even knew the name of his contemporary Italian composer, Antonio Vivaldi. Bach was a great fan of Vivaldi, and arranged several of his violin concertos for himself to perform on the organ. In a strange twist of fate, Bach's arrangements for organ became widely known, however, many assumed that Bach had also composed the works, and it wasn't until the 20th century that many of Vivaldi's manuscripts came to light, proving what many had suspected, that they were the work of Vivaldi.

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>