

ST MICHAEL'S UNITING CHURCH



Third Sunday in Lent
3 March 2024

“Not nice, but tender”



Minister: Rev Dr Margaret Mayman
Reflection: Chris Phillips

Music: Peter Sheridan (Flute)
& 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.

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

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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

120 Collins Street Melbourne | Phone: 03 9654 5120

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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/>

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

Let us build a house

Let us build a house where love can dwell
and all can safely live,
a place where saints and children tell
how hearts learn to forgive;
built of hopes and dreams and visions,
rock of faith and vault of grace;
here the love of Christ shall end divisions:
All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where prophets speak,
and words are strong and true,
where all God's children dare to seek
to dream God's reign anew.

Here the cross shall stand as witness
and as symbol of God's grace;
here as one we claim the faith of Jesus:

All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where love is found
in water, wine and wheat:
a banquet hall on holy ground,
where peace and justice meet.
Here the love of God, through Jesus,
is revealed in time and space,
as we share in Christ the feast that frees us:

All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where hands will reach
beyond the wood and stone
to heal and strengthen, serve and teach,
and live the Word they've known.
Here the outcast and the stranger
bear the image of God's face;
let us bring an end to fear and danger:

All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where all are named,
their songs and visions heard
and loved and treasured, taught and claimed
as words within the Word.

Built of tears and cries and laughter,
prayers of faith and songs of grace,
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter:

*All are welcome, all are welcome,
all are welcome in this place.*

Words and Tune: Marty Haugen (1950 -)

Prayer of Awareness

Jesus' Prayer

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.

Early Church: Ephesians 4:25-32

For the wisdom of the early Christ communities,
We give thanks.

Dr Liz Boase

(she/her)

Gospel: John 2:13-22

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

Hymn

Inspired by love and anger

Inspired by love and anger, disturbed by need and pain,
Informed of God's own bias, we ask them once again:
“How long must some folk suffer? How long can few folk mind?
How long dare vain self-interest turn prayer and pity blind?

From those forever victims of heartless human greed,
Their cruel plight composes a litany of need:
“Where are the fruits of justice? Where are the signs of peace?
When is the day when prisoners and dreams find their release?”

From those forever shackled to what their wealth can buy,
The fear of lost advantage provokes the bitter cry,
“Don’t query our position! Don't criticise our wealth!
Don't mention those exploited by politics and stealth!”

To God, who through the prophets proclaimed a different age,
We offer earth’s indifference, its agony and rage:
“When will the wronged be righted? When will be kingdom come?
When will the world be generous to all instead of some?”

God asks, “Who will go for me? Who will extend my reach?
And who, when few will listen, will prophecy and preach?
And who, when few bid welcome, will offer all they know?
And who, when few dare follow, will walk the road I show?”

Amused in someone’s kitchen, asleep in someone’s boat,
Attuned to what the ancients exposed, proclaimed and wrote,
A saviour without safety, a tradesman without tools
Has come to tip the balance with fishermen and fools.

Words: John L Bell (1949-) and Graham Maule (2019)

Tune: Salley Gardens. Irish traditional
arr. Lawrence Francis Bartlett (1933-2002)

Contemporary Reading

“Not nice” by M. Jade Kaiser

For the Spirit speaking still in poetry and song,

We give thanks.

Music for contemplation

Ballet des champs Elysees – Christoph von Gluck (1714-1787)
Peter Sheridan (Flute) & Rhys Boak (Piano)

Reflection

“Not nice, but tender”

Chris Phillips

(they/them)

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

Time of silence.

These are the prayers of our hearts,

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

Invitation to Offering

Music for contemplation

Elegy – Bruce Lawrence

Peter Sheridan (Flute) & Rhys Boak (Organ)

Offering Prayer

**Disruptive Christ, Enlivening Christa,
we share our resources,
contributing to a community and a world
marked by generosity and compassion.
We bring our offerings with hope
that we may be strengthened in solidarity
with the vulnerable and the excluded.
In your many names we pray,
Amen.**

Holy Communion

Welcome to the Table

St Michael's Uniting Church is an open community,
and all are invited to the table.

Whatever you believe, or do not believe, about communion,
you are welcome to participate in this sacred meal
which is for all people.

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.**

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

Jess Hand
(they/them)

Hymn

We are your people

We are your people; Spirit of grace,
you dare to make us, to all our neighbours,
Christ's living voice, hands and face.

Joined in community, treasured and fed,
may we discover, gifts in each other,
willing to lead and be led.

Rich in diversity, help us to live
closer than neighbours, open to strangers,
able to clash and forgive.

Glad of tradition, help us to see
in all life's changing, where you are leading,
where our best efforts should be.

Give, as we venture justice and care
(peaceful, resisting, waiting, or risking)
wisdom to know when and where

Spirit, unite us; make us, by grace,
willing and ready,
Christ's living body,
loving the whole human race.

Words: Brian Wren (1936-)
Tune: Whitfield
John Wilson (1905-92)

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

Variations of a theme by Rossini – Frédéric Chopin
Peter Sheridan (Flute) & Rhys Boak (Piano)

Acknowledgements

Art: Civil rights march on Washington, D.C. by Warren K. Leffler.
Provided by Library of Congress.

Jesus' Prayer by David B. Royer and Jonathan C. Nelson,
from Ruth C. Duck, ed. *Flames of the Spirit*.

Contemporary reading: "Not nice" by M Jade Kaiser. From
enfleshed.com/poems-blessings-spells-etc

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

Ballet des champs Elysees – Christoph von Gluck (1714-1787)

Gluck's Ballet des champs elysees or Dance of the blessed spirits comes from his 1774 opera, Orfeo and Euridice.

Peter Sheridan (Flute) & Rhys Boak (Piano)

Elegy – Bruce Lawrence (1932-2010)

This haunting work is by the Australian composer Bruce Lawrence who was based in NSW.

Peter Sheridan (Flute) & Rhys Boak (Organ)

Postlude

Variations of a theme by Rossini - Frédéric Chopin (1810-1849)

This infectiously joyful set of variations is based on a theme from Rossini's 1817 opera, La Cenerentola.

Peter Sheridan (Flute) & Rhys Boak (Piano)

Musicians

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