

Transfiguration Sunday

11 February 2024

“Sacred encounters in our midst”



Minister: Rev Dr Margaret Mayman

Music: Georgia Wilkinson (Soprano)
& 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 community and working for the common good.

As a congregation of the Uniting Church in Australia, 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

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Church Office

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♥ 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.

***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

God, the All Holy

God, the All-Holy,
Maker and Mother,
gladly we gather,
bringing in prayer
old hurts for healing,
new hopes for holding,
giving, receiving,
loving and care.

Spirit, All-Seeing,
knitting and blending
joy in desiring,
friendship and ease,
make our belonging
loyal and lasting,
so that our pledging
freshens and frees.

Christ, All-Completing,
Nature enfolding,
evil exhausting
in love's embrace,
weaving and mending,
make every ending
God's new beginning
glowing with grace.

Words: Brian Wren (1936-)

Tune: Bunessan

Gaelic melody

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 also 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 and Light of Divine Presence be with you.
And also with you.

Sacrament of Baptism

Lighting The Baptism Candles

Welcome

Thanksgiving

Affirmation Of Faith

***We trust in God, the Creator Spirit
who moved upon the face of the deep
at the beginning of creation,
who created all that is,
and who spoke through the prophets of old.***

***We trust in Jesus Christ
into whom God's spirit was poured
in fullness and in power,
that the whole creation might be restored and unified;
and who promised that the Spirit would come
and fill the faithful with power to witness
to the passionate love of God.***

***We await on that Spirit today with longing hearts,
seeking to be empowered to share God's love,
with fresh words and courageous actions
of love and hope and justice.
So may it be.***

The blessing of water

The Baptism of Juliet Lily Bender

Sung Blessing

May God bless you and keep you;
May God make her face to shine upon you,
and be gracious unto you;
May God lift up his countenance upon you,
and give you peace.

Family Promises & Presentation of Gifts

The Baptism of Alice Xin Rae Ong

Sung Blessing

May God bless you and keep you;
May God make her face to shine upon you,
and be gracious unto you;
May God lift up his countenance upon you,
and give you peace.

Family Promises & Presentation of Gifts

Baptism Prayer

Hymn

The love of God comes close

The love of God comes close
where stands an open door
to let the stranger in,
to mingle rich and poor:
The love of God is here to stay
embracing those who walk God's way.

The peace of God comes close
to those caught in the storm,
forgoing lives of ease
to ease the lives forlorn:
The peace of God is here to stay
embracing those who walk this way.

The joy of God comes close
where faith encounters fears,
where heights and depths of life
are found through smiles and tears:
The joy of God is here to stay
embracing those who walk this way.

The grace of God comes close
to those whose grace is spent,
when hearts are tired or sore
and hope is bruised or bent:
The grace of God is here to stay
embracing those who walk this way.

Words: John Bell and Graham Maule

Tune: Love Unknown

John Ireland(1879-1962)

Early Church: 2 Corinthians 4:3-6

Anthony Bendall
(He/They)

For the daring faith of the early Christ communities,
We give thanks.

Gospel: Mark 9:2-9

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

Music for contemplation

The Holy City – Stephen Adams (aka Michael Maybrick)
Georgia Wilkinson (Soprano) & Rhys Boak (Piano)

Contemporary Reading

“The Opening of Eyes” by David Whyte
For the Spirit speaking still in poetry and song,
We give thanks.

Reflection

Rev Dr Margaret Mayman

“Sacred encounters in our midst”

Hymn

We wait upon the mountain

We wait upon the mountain,
our hearts and minds confused,
to penetrate the mystery
of love by light suffused.
The darkness of our living
obscures our sight till we,
with fear changed into boldness,
find life in Christ set free.

We find new inspiration
in glimpses of your grace;
we see once more before us,
your love with human face.
We see again the mystery
of Christ on earth, and find
life given for the needy,
and poor of humankind.

No selfish place of safety
will keep us in the light;
it's only in life's valleys
we truly find our sight,
O help us heed the prophets,
and clear our eyes to see:
the way you show before us,
where now our steps should be.

Words: Mary Pearson
Tune: Thornbury
Basil Harwood (1859-1949)

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.***

Invitation to offering

Music for contemplation

'Let the bright seraphim' from Samson (1741) –G. F. Handel
Georgia Wilkinson (Soprano) & Rhys Boak (Organ)

Offering Prayer

***Spirit, Power in Relation
you teach us that healing takes place through connection –
to self, to others, to the cosmos.
Bless our gathered resources for this good purpose.
Renew and heal us through connection.
Amen.***

Hymn

Immortal, invisible, God only wise

Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
most blessèd, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
belovèd, enfolding, your great name we praise.

Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,
nor wanting, nor wasting, but ruling in might;
your justice like mountains high soaring above,
your clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.

You give life to all life, to both great and small;
in all life now living, the true life of all;
we blossom and flourish as leaves on a tree,
and wither and perish: but unchanged you will be.

Creator of glory, creator of light,
your angels adore you, all veiling their sight;
of all your rich graces this grace, God, impart -
take the veil from our faces, the veil from our heart.

All praise we would render: reveal to our sight,
what hides you is only the splendour of light;
and so let your glory, O Lover, impart
through Christ in the story, your Christ to the heart.

Words: Walter C. Smith (alt)
Tune: St Denio. Welsh melody

Blessing and Sung Amen

As you go, may Love's guidance keep you strong
the light of sacred presence surround you
and the fire of justice and peace burn within you.

Postlude

Tuba Tune – Dulcie Holland
Rhys Boak (Organ)

Acknowledgements

Art: "Transfiguration" by Armando Alemdar Ara.

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>

David Whyte, "The Opening of Eyes." *Songs for Coming Home* (Many Rivers Press, 1984)

Some liturgical resources are from enfleshed.com, adapted by Margaret Mayman.

Hymn "God, the all Holy". Words: Brian Wren.
Tune: Bunessan. Gaelic melody.

"We wait upon the mountain". Words: Mary Pearson.
Tune: Thornbury. Basil Harwood.

"The love of God comes close". Words: John Bell and Graham Maule.
Tune: Love Unknown. John Ireland.

"Immortal, Invisible, God only wise". Words: Walter C. Smith (alt).
Tune: St Denio. Welsh melody.

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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

The Holy City

– Stephen Adams (aka Michael Maybrick)(1841-1913)

Michael Maybrick, who wrote this Victorian era religious ballad under the pseudonym of 'Stephen Adams', was a celebrated pianist, baritone and composer. The three verses of the song describe the Palm Sunday procession, the crucifixion of Jesus, and the hopeful vision of a New Jerusalem where "the light of God was on its streets, the gates were open wide, and all who would might enter, and no one was denied."

Georgia Wilkinson (Soprano) & Rhys Boak (Piano)

'Let the bright seraphim' from *Samson* (1741)

–G. F. Handel (1685-1749)

This famous aria is sung towards the end of Handel's oratorio Samson. It is sung after the death of Samson who has died along with his enemies. Samson's father, Manoah, then calls upon the people to curtail their grieving and lamentations. A strong sense of triumph is expressed in this aria which is full of joyousness and lofty inspiration. Since this work was sung by Dame Kiri Te Kanawa at the wedding of Prince Charles and Diana Spencer, this aria has been extremely popular.

Georgia Wilkinson (Soprano) & Rhys Boak (Organ)

Postlude

Tuba Tune – Dulcie Holland (1913-2000)

The title of this piece has nothing to do with the orchestral instrument called the tuba, rather, it is a piece written for the organ's Tuba or Trumpet stop. Dulcie Holland is a name familiar to most students of music in Australia, being the author of the ubiquitous 'Master Your Theory' textbooks. Dulcie was also a prolific composer and wrote this work in 1978.

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>

YouTube Notes

Title: "Sacred encounters in our midst"

Description: Sunday Gathering – 11 February 2024

Transfiguration Sunday

St Michael's Uniting Church, Melbourne

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Thank you!

Tags: Transfiguration B

Alternate Online Music