

ST MICHAEL'S UNITING CHURCH



Easter Sunday

31 March 2024

“Life after life”



Minister: Rev Dr Margaret Mayman

Music: Judith Dodsworth (Soprano)

The Academy of St Michael
& Rhys Boak (Organ & Harpsichord)

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

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Rhys Boak

Church Office

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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 Spirit of God has long dwelled with the First Peoples of this ancient land. We gather today on the unceded land of the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nation.

**We pay our respects to Wurundjeri elders
past and present, who have cared for country and carried the
traditions from generation to generation.**

**We stand in solidarity with them in their struggle for justice for
the people and for the land.**

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.*

Traditional Hymn

Yours be the glory

Yours be the glory, risen, conquering Son,
endless is the victory, over death you've won;
angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away,
kept the folded grave-clothes, where your body lay.

*Yours be the glory, risen, conquering Son,
endless is the victory over death you've won.*

See, Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb;
lovingly he greets us, scatters fear and gloom;
let the church with gladness hymns of triumph sing,
for the Lord is living, death has lost its sting.

*Yours be the glory, risen, conquering Son,
endless is the victory over death you've won.*

No more we doubt you, glorious Prince of life;
life is naught without you: aid us in our strife;
make us more than conquerors through your deathless love;
bring us safe through Jordan to your home above.

*Yours be the glory, risen, conquering Son,
endless is the victory over death you've won.*

Words: Edmond Louis Budry (1854-1932)

Tr. Richard Birch Hoyle (1875-1939 alt).

Tune: Maccabeus

Adapted from G.F. Handel (1685-1759)

Lighting the Christ Candle

Aware that the power of resurrection
has forever changed who we are,
and given us the courage
to boldly proclaim a living faith.
Today we celebrate:
new life, new joy,
new possibilities.

**We give thanks for the Spirit of Life visible in Jesus,
visible in us, visible in people in all walks of life.**

The candle is lit

On this glad morning we celebrate that the powers of despair and
destruction
do not have the final word. That new life breaks out. That love is
stronger than death.

That nothing can stop the life, hope, vision, and love of Easter people.

**The radiance of the Easter flowers remind us that new life,
new beginnings, are possible, come summer sun or winter chill.**

The Easter candle reminds us that the violence has not overwhelmed us, that the flame of the Risen Christ can still rekindle the embers in us all.

**Sacred Energy, in whom we live and move and have our being,
today we proclaim that death will not have the final word.**

**Love breaks out: healing, creating, embracing;
inviting us to build a community of equals where all are valued,
honoured and cherished.**

“Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him.”

Mark 16:6

The Divine Spirit of freedom is overcoming captivity.

The Christ is hope overcoming despair.

The Sacred is love overcoming hate.

**We raise our eyes to see the sacred source of life and love
as the new day dawns.**

Amen.

Prayer of Awareness

Jesus' Prayer

**Eternal Spirit,
Life-Giver, Pain-Bearer, Love-Maker,
Source of all that is and shall be,
Father and Mother of us all,
Loving God, in whom is heaven:
The Hallowing of your name
echo through the universe!
The way of your Justice be followed
by the peoples of the world!
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!
Your Commonwealth of Peace and Freedom
sustain our hope and come on earth!
With the bread that we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.**

From trials too great to endure, spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.
For you reign in the glory of the power that is love,
now and for ever.
Amen.

Sharing a Sign of Peace

May the Peace of Divine Presence be with you this Easter Day!
And also with you.

Gospel: Mark 16:1-8

Lorraine Woolley

For faith seeking understanding,
We give thanks.

Easter Litany

“Roll Back The Stone”

Based on Mark 16 : 1 – 8

When we are all despairing;
when the world is full of grief;
when we see no way ahead,
and hope has gone away:

Roll back the stone.

Although we fear change;
although we are not ready;
although we'd rather weep
and run away:

Roll back the stone.

Because we're coming with the women;
because we hope where hope is vain;
because you call us from the grave
and show the way:

Roll back the stone.

Hymn

Now the green blade rises

Now the green blade rises from the buried grain,
Wheat that in the dark earth, many days has lain;
Love lives again; that with the dead has been:
Love is come again, like wheat that springs up green.

In the grave they laid him, Love whom Power had slain,
Thinking that never, he would wake again,
Laid in the earth, like grain that sleeps unseen:
Love is come again, like wheat that springs up green.

Forth Life came at Easter, like the risen grain,
Christ who for three days, in the grave had lain;
Now from the dead, the Risen One is seen:
Love is come again, like wheat that springs up green.

When our hearts are saddened, grieving or in pain,
By your touch you call us, back to life again;
Fields of our hearts, that dead and bare have been:
Love is come again, like wheat that springs up green.

Words: John Macleod Campbell Crum (1872-1958) alt.

Tune: Noël Nouvelet

French traditional carol melody
harm. the Iona Community

Contemporary Reading: “Life before death” by Dorothee Soelle

For the Spirit still speaking in theology, poetry and song,
We give thanks.

Music for contemplation

“Alleluia” from Exsultate Jubilate – W.A. Mozart

Judith Dodsworth (Soprano), The Academy of St Michael
& Rhys Boak (Harpsichord)

Reflection

Rev Dr Margaret Mayman

“Life after life”

Hymn

Resurrection all around us

Resurrection all around us,
hearts arise and leap for joy
Hope eternal grows within us,
voices silenced now employ
Live in joy of new beginnings,
live in harmony and love
Finding strength to meet each trial,
conquering sorrow, being love.

Being human, honouring Jesus,
in a covenant of grace
Living the divine commandment,
one with all the human race
Leading strong for peace and justice,
doing away with hate and fear
Finding ways to work together,
keeping voice and vision clear.

Celebrate the light within us,
love divine and human spark
Reaching out to be inclusive,
everyone a work of art
Light the flame of love around us,
echoing through the stars above
Holding hands, in peace surround us,
being human, being love.

Words: Gloria Klinger

Tune: Hymn to Joy

Adapted from Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827)

Prayers of the people

In thanksgiving and solidarity

*In silence we pray for the needs of the world,
for those we know and love,
and for ourselves.*

**May our prayers stay with us in the season of resurrection
and stir us to make real the Sacred dream
for a world reborn.
Amen.**

Invitation to Offering

Music for contemplation

**‘Rejoice Greatly’ from ‘Messiah’ – G.F. Handel
Judith Dodsworth (Soprano), The Academy of St Michael
& Rhys Boak (Harpsichord)**

Offering Prayer

**Spirit of Christ, Community of Christa,
source of all that restores and revives,
in celebration of your abiding presence we bring our offerings.
Bless them to the work of your hope,
for the care of your people in body and spirit,
that all the earth may thrive in the glory of resurrection.
Amen.**

Notices

Lorraine Woolley

Hymn

Jesus Christ is risen today

**Jesus Christ is risen today: Alleluia!
Let the joyful people say: Alleluia!
Christ has shared our earthly life: Alleluia!
Conquered death to end our strife: Alleluia!
Pow'rs of death have had their day: Alleluia!
Earthly rulers have no sway: Alleluia!
Nothing more to fear have we: Alleluia!
Those who trust in Christ are free: Alleluia!**

Sharing in Christ's death, we rise: Alleluia!
Soar like eagles to the skies: Alleluia!
Finding mercy, we forgive; Alleluia!
Off'ring up our lives, we live: Alleluia!
Glory be to God on high: Alleluia!
Let the whole creation cry: Alleluia!
Let the name of Christ be sung: Alleluia!
Ev'ry-where, by ev'ry tongue: Alleluia!

Words: Ruth C. Duck (1947-)
Tune: Easter Hymn and Alleluias
Later form of melody from 'Lyra Davidica', 1708

Blessing and Sung Amen

Go...
to live well
to forgive generously
to create peace and justice.

Go...
with the love of God enfolding you,
the peace of the Risen One within you,
and the breath of the Holy Spirit inspiring your life.

Postlude

‘Nulla in mundo, pax sincera’ – Antonio Vivaldi
Judith Dodsworth (Soprano), The Academy of St Michael
& Rhys Boak (Harpsichord)

Acknowledgements

Art: “Easter Morning” by James Janknegt.
Jesus’ Prayer: “A Version of the Lord's Prayer” by Jim Cotter, in *Uniting in Worship 2*.
Easter Litany “Roll back the stone” by Janet Morley in *Celebrating Women*. 1995
Contemporary reading: “Life before death” by Dorothee Soelle is an excerpt from her book *Theology for Sceptics* (London: Mowbray, 1995)

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

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Music Notes

“Alleluia” from Exsultate Jubilate – W.A. Mozart (1756-1791) K. 165

Completed in 1773 during one of the composer's trips to Italy, this exuberant work was the creation of the 17-year-old Mozart; not for a female singer, but for the famous Roman castrato singer, composer, and keyboardist, Venanzio Rauzzini.

The final movement of this motet, a brilliant Alleluia has become a favourite of sopranos, concertgoers, and worshipers the world over.

Judith Dodsworth (Soprano), The Academy of St Michael
& Rhys Boak (Harpsichord)

‘Rejoice Greatly’ from ‘Messiah’ – G.F. Handel (1685-1759)

Handel’s famous oratorio Messiah needs little introduction. Dozens of performances of the work are performed by Melbourne choirs alone. Rejoice Greatly is one of the most celebrated and performed arias from this work.

Judith Dodsworth (Soprano), The Academy of St Michael
& Rhys Boak (Harpsichord)

‘Nulla in mundo, pax sincera’ – Antonio Vivaldi (1678-1741)

Antonio Vivaldi ranks as one of the greatest composers of classical music, though he was also a Catholic priest. He wrote this sacred motet in 1735 containing the text ‘In this world there is no peace without bitterness’.

Judith Dodsworth (Soprano), The Academy of St Michael
& Rhys Boak (Harpsichord)

Musicians

You can find biographical profiles of St Michael's Guest Musicians on our website. stmichaels.org.au/musicians-bios

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Offerings and donations enable us to continue the mission and ministry of St Michael's. Your generosity is appreciated.

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