

Fifth Sunday of Easter
28 April 2024

“The longest journey
is the journey inwards”



Minister: Rev Peter Burnham

Music: Dr Joel Brennan (Trumpet)
& Rhys Boak (Organ)
Cantor: Jesika Clark

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

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Chair: Peter Anderson

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Anthony Bendall

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(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

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Please send eNews notices to the office by 5 PM Wednesday

♥ Open hearts. Open minds. Open Hands! ♥
Sunday Gatherings are offered Online and In-Church
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.*

Hymn

How great the mystery of faith

How great the mystery of faith,
how deep the purposes of God,
in birth and ageing, life and death,
unveiled, yet never understood!

Attracted by life's deepest claim
we wait, assembled in this place,
with needs and hopes we cannot name,
a thirst for healing, truth and grace.

The best that we can do and say,
the utmost care of skill and art,
are sweepers of the Spirit's way
to reach the depths of every heart.

Come, walk among us, Holy Friend,
as all are gathered and prepared,
that scattered lives may meet and mend
through open Word and worship shared.

Words: Brian Wren (1936-)

Tune: Ombersley

William Henry Gladstone (1840-1901)

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!
And also with you.

For stories of the ancient journeys of our spiritual ancestors,

We give thanks.

Gospel: Mark 6:6-13

For the stories of the journeys of Jesus and his disciples,

We give thanks.

Hymn

Christ, be our light!

Cantor: *Christ, be our light!*
 Shine in our hearts,
 Shine through the darkness.
 Christ, be our light!
 Shine in your Church gathered today.

Cantor: Longing for light, we wait in darkness.
 Longing for truth, we turn to you.
 Make us your own, your holy people,
 Light for the world to see.

Congregation: *Christ, be our light!*
 Shine in our hearts,
 Shine through the darkness.
 Christ, be our light!
 Shine in your Church gathered today.

Cantor: Longing for peace, our world is troubled.
 Longing for hope, many despair.
 Your word alone has pow'r to save us.
 Make us your living voice.

Congregation: *Christ, be our light!*
 Shine in our hearts,
 Shine through the darkness.
 Christ, be our light!
 Shine in your Church gathered today.

Cantor: Longing for food, many are hungry.
 Longing for water, many still thirst.
 Make us your bread, broken for others,
 Shared until all are fed.

Congregation: *Christ, be our light!*
Shine in our hearts,
Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in your Church gathered today.

Cantor: Longing for shelter, many are homeless.
Longing for warmth, many are cold.
Make us your building, sheltering others,
Walls made of living stone.

Congregation: *Christ, be our light!*
Shine in our hearts,
Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in your Church gathered today.

Cantor: Many the gifts, many the people,
Many the hearts that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants to one another,
Making your kingdom come.

Congregation: *Christ, be our light!*
Shine in our hearts,
Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in your Church gathered today.

Words and tune: Bernadette Farrell (1957-)
Tune: Antiphon, Christ be our light

Contemporary Reading

“The Road Not Taken” by Robert Frost

For the Spirit still speaking in theology, poetry and song,

We give thanks.

Music for contemplation

Candles – Stuart Greenbaum

Dr Joel Brennan (Trumpet) & Rhys Boak (Organ)

Reflection

Rev Peter Burnham

“The longest journey is the journey inwards”

Hymn

Called as partners in Christ's service

Called as partners in Christ's service,
Called to ministries of grace,
We respond with deep commitment
Fresh new lines of faith to trace.
May we learn the art of sharing,
Side by side and friend with friend,
Equal partners in our caring
To fulfil God's chosen end.

Christ's example, Christ's inspiring,
Christ's clear call to work and worth,
Let us follow, never faltering,
Reconciling folk on earth.
Men and women, richer, poorer,
All God's people, young and old,
Blending human skills together
Gracious gifts from God unfold.

Thus new patterns for Christ's mission,
In a small or global sense,
Help us bear each other's burdens,
Breaking down each wall or fence.
Words of comfort, words of vision,
Words of challenge, said with care,
Bring new power and strength for action,
Make us colleagues, free and fair.

So God grant us for tomorrow
Ways to order human life
That surround each person's sorrow
With a calm that conquers strife.
Make us partners in our living,
Our compassion to increase,
Messengers of faith, thus giving
Hope and confidence and peace.

Words: Jane Parker Huber (1926-2008)

Tune: Blauenwern

William Penfro Rowlands (1905)

Prayers of the people

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

These are our prayers for earth and its people.

**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

Ave Maria – Ástor Piazzolla

Dr Joel Brennan (Trumpet) & Rhys Boak (Organ)

Offering Prayer

**Compassionate One, with these offerings we also bring our
anxieties and uncertainties and cynicism born of pain.**

Meet us in our vulnerability.

Ground our faith in authentic connection and solidarity.

That we may rise as a community to the calling of these days.

Amen.

Notices

Hymn

Past and present, with our dreaming

Past and present, with our dreaming,

join to make us what we are;

ancient wisdom, ancient follies

shape the way we love and care:

Give us reverence,

Give us wisdom,

From the past for life today.

From the past for life today.

Make us mindful of each moment,
ev'ry force, each strength, each flaw;
free us from those empty longings
which consume us more and more:
Give us vision,
Give us courage,
For this present age of change.
For this present age of change.

We must face the future's challenge
to create a better earth
hand in hand with all who labour
dream and suffer for its birth,
For through sharing
And through caring
We shall build community.
We shall build community.

Words: William L. (Bill) Wallace (1933-)
Tune: Cwm Rhondda
John Hughes (1873–1932)

Blessing and Sung Amen

Divine Presence, our keeper and friend,
our desire is that whatever joys or sorrows the future may hold,
that you will be the dawn for which we wait and look,
the hope by which we live, the joy for which we long,
and that we will live in the joy of your love and freedom.

Postlude

Andante from Symphony No. 94 in G - 'The Surprise' – F. J. Haydn
Rhys Boak (Organ)

Acknowledgements

Art: “Arch of Victory” by John from Wikimedia.

Contemporary Reading: “The Road Not Taken” by Robert Frost. From Mountain Interval, 1916.

Jesus’ Prayer: “A Version of the Lord's Prayer” by Jim Cotter, in *Uniting in Worship 2*.

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

Blessing adapted from a prayer by Terry C. Falla.

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Information about ways to give is available on our website.

stmichaels.org.au/giving

Music Notes

Candles – Stuart Greenbaum (b. 1966)

Stuart Greenbaum is professor of music composition at The University of Melbourne. He has authored well over 200 works, and this piece for trumpet and organ was composed in 2023.

Dr Joel Brennan (Trumpet) & Rhys Boak (Organ)

Ave Maria – Ástor Piazzolla (1921-1992) arr. Rhys Boak

Piazzolla was a noted Argentinian tango composer and virtuoso bandoneónist. His large output in the area was popular during his lifetime and has continued to grow in popularity since his death. This Ave Maria is atypical of Piazzolla's work, but is nevertheless truly beautiful.

Dr Joel Brennan (Trumpet) & Rhys Boak (Organ)

Andante from Symphony No. 94 in G - 'The Surprise'

– F. J. Haydn (1732-1809) transcribed for organ by King Hall

Haydn's 1791 Symphony 94 in G is the second of his twelve London Symphonies. The symphony was premiered in London's Hanover Square rooms, in May 1792 and led by Haydn himself who, according to the practice at the time, was seated at a fortepiano (the precursor to the modern-day piano). Haydn's music often contains musical jokes, and this movement is perhaps the most famous for humour.

Rhys Boak (Organ)

Musicians

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