

ST MICHAEL'S
UNITING CHURCH



Sixth Sunday of Easter
5 May 2024

“Bridges or piers”



Minister: Rev Peter Burnham

Music: Michael Petrucelli (Tenor),
Dr Elyane Laussade (Piano)
& Rhys Boak (Organ)
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 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

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(Keeping Children Safe)

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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

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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

All people that on earth do dwell

All people that on earth do dwell,
sing to the lord with cheerful voice:
Him serve with mirth, his praise forth tell;
come ye before him and rejoice!

Know that the lord is God indeed;
without our aid he did us make:
we are his flock, he doth us feed,
and for his sheep he doth us take.

O enter then his gates with praise,
approach with joy his courts unto;
praise, laud, and bless his name always,
for it is seemly so to do.

Because the lord our God is good;
His mercy is forever sure;
His truth at all times firmly stood,
and shall from age to age endure.

Wiliam Kethe d. 1594 alt.
Tune: Old 100th.
Melody from the 'Genevan Psalter', 1551.

Prayer of Awareness

Jesus' Prayer

Ground of all being,
Mother of Life, Father of the universe,
Your name is sacred, beyond speaking.
May we know your presence,
may your longings be our longings
in heart and in action.
May there be food
for the human family today
and for the whole earth community.
Forgive us the falseness
of what we have done
as we forgive those who are untrue to us.
Do not forsake us
in our time of conflict
but lead us into new beginnings.
For the light of life,
the vitality of life,
and the glory of life
are yours now and for ever. Amen.

Sharing a Sign of Peace

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

Early Jesus Communities: Acts 10:44-48

Anthony Bendall

For stories from the early Jesus Movement,

We give thanks.

Gospel: John 15:9-17

For the wisdom of the early Evangelist teaching us to live in love,

We give thanks.

Hymn

Tell out, my soul

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!
Unnumbered blessings, give my spirit voice;
tender to me the promise of his word;
in God my Saviour shall my heart rejoice.

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his name!
Make known his might, the deeds his arm has done;
his mercy sure, from age to age the same,
his holy name – the Lord, the Mighty One.

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his might!
Powers and dominions lay their glory by.
Proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight,
the hungry fed, the humble lifted high.

Tell out, my soul, the glories of his word!
Firm is his promise, and his mercy sure.
Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord
to children's children and for evermore!

Words: Timothy Dudley-Smith (1926-)

Tune: Woodlands. Walter Greatorex (1877-1949)

Contemporary Reading

Excerpt from "The Art of Loving" by Erich Fromm.

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

We give thanks.

Music for contemplation

Après un rêve – Gabriel Fauré

Michael Petrucelli (Tenor) & Dr Elyane Laussade (Piano)

Reflection

Rev Peter Burnham

“Bridges or piers”

Hymn

Love divine, all loves excelling

Love divine, all loves excelling,
joy of heaven, to earth come down,
fix in us thy humble dwelling,
all thy faithful mercies crown!
Jesus, thou art all compassion,
pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation;
enter every trembling heart.

Come, almighty to deliver,
let us all thy life receive;
suddenly return, and never,
nevermore thy temples leave:
thee we would be always blessing,
serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray, and praise thee, without ceasing,
glory in thy perfect love.

Finish then thy new creation,
pure and spotless let us be,
let us see thy great salvation,
perfectly restored in thee:
changed from glory into glory,
till in heaven we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee,
lost in wonder, love, and praise.

Charles Wesley (1707-88 alt.)

Tune: Hyfrydol.

Melody by Rowland Huw Prichard.

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.*

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

Du bist die Ruh – Franz Schubert

Michael Petrucelli (Tenor) & Dr Elyane Laussade (Piano)

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.

Holy Communion

Invitation to Communion

Welcome to the Table

Gather around this resurrection table

where all are welcome, and the good earth is affirmed.

From earth's generosity, we bring these gifts of bread and wine.

Witnesses to hope,

we participate in Christ's liberation.

Communion Prayer

Be still and know that I am God.

In the presence of the Divine, we are still.

In Christ, we are accompanied by the Sacred,
embodied among us, sharing our birthing
our living, our dying.

Sharing our dreams of hope and liberation.

**Offering us new life and the shattering
of the tomb.**

In Christ, the Holy One appears as the host
at the ebbing and the flowing of our lives

**Beckoning us to share holy hospitality,
and the challenge of love.**

In Christ, the Holy One sits as the guest
at the table of the stranger

**Blessing us with Divine presence,
in the reawakening of love.**

In Christ, God is present among us
as host and guest at the heart of this community

**Sharing vulnerability with us,
revealing love.**

As hosts with Christ,
we bless this bread.

As guests with Christ,
we pour this wine.

As welcomed strangers,
united in Christ's life, death,
and embodied liberation,
we hear the words of promise:

This is my body given for you;
take and eat to re-member me.

This cup poured out:
this is the new covenant in my blood;
take and drink to re-member me.

In this action of justice-making,
we recall: broken minds and bodies
blood shed through lust for power
and nature damaged by human hand.

**Restore and heal all that is wounded.
Be present in the stillness of the waiting.
Roll back the stone of prejudice and fear.
Release the signs of new life. Amen.**

Breaking bread

We gently break this bread of fragile life

**Our breaking down
becomes our breaking through.**

As we eat this living bread
and drink the new wine of resurrection,
let us celebrate the cosmic Christ,
Christa/community present among us now
liberating and sustaining

**With divine tenderness, you remake us.
By transforming pain, you heal us.
Your passionate energy, empowers us.**

Sharing Communion

The bread of life.

Amen.

The cup of blessing.

Amen.

Prayer After Communion

God of heaven and earth,
you make us one in Christ.

**Inspire us with the wisdom of ancient dreams
and the power of new visions.
Give us eyes to see you in the stranger
that we may live out your radical hospitality.
Amen.**

Notices

Hymn

Be thou my vision

Be thou my vision, the joy of my heart;
nought be all else to me save that thou art.
Thou my best thought, by day or by night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, the lamp to my feet;
thy word, like honey, to my lips is sweet;
thou my delight, my joy, thy command;
my dwelling ever, be the palm of thy hand.

Riches I heed not, nor seek human praise;
thou mine inheritance, now and always;
thou and thou only, first in my heart,
high God of heaven, my treasure thou art.

High God of heaven, my victory won,
may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O ruler of all.

Gaelic 8th Century Adapted
Tune: Slane
Irish Traditional Melody
harm. David Evans (1874-1948)

Blessing and Sung Amen

Go now
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

Ideale – Paolo Tosti
Michael Petrucelli (Tenor) & Dr Elyane Laussade (Piano)

Acknowledgements

Art: “Harbour Bridge” by Rijan Hamidovic. From Pexels.

Contemporary Reading: “The Art of Loving” by Erich Fromm. (Excerpt from p. 44.) Pub. Harper & Brothers, 1956.

Jesus’ Prayer by J Philip Newell, in *Ground of All Being: The Prayer of Jesus in Color*, published by New Beginnings, an imprint of Material Media, 2008.

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Information about ways to give is available on our website.

stmichaels.org.au/giving

Music Notes

Après un rêve – Gabriel Fauré (1845-1924)

Gabriel Fauré's *Après un rêve* Op. 7/1, a setting of an anonymous poem translated by Romain Bussine, is one of the composer's best-known works for voice.

Michael Petrucelli (Tenor) & Dr Elyane Laussade (Piano)

Du bist die Ruh - op. 59 No. 3 - Franz Schubert (1797-1828)

Dating from 1823, this much loved song is a setting of a text by Friedrich Rückert (1788-1866): 'You are peace, The mild peace, You are longing and what stills it.'

Michael Petrucelli (Tenor) & Dr Elyane Laussade (Piano)

Ideale – Paolo Tosti (1846-1916)

The music of Paolo Tosti was widely performed around the world during his lifetime. Today we hear little of his music, which is a great shame. This song is one of a set of ten published in the 1870s in London and celebrates life and love.

Michael Petrucelli (Tenor) & Dr Elyane Laussade (Piano)

Musicians

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