

ST MICHAEL'S  
UNITING CHURCH



Third Sunday after Pentecost  
9 June 2024

World Environment Day “For God so loved the earth...”



Minister: Rev Dr Margaret Mayman  
In collaboration with the Environmental Action Group  
Music: Jesika Clark (Soprano)  
& Rhys Boak (Organ & Piano)

## 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

**Chairperson:** Laura Beckett

**Treasurer:** Ian Cox

**Secretary:** Brian Smith

#### Property

Chair: Peter Anderson

Deputy: Brian Smith

#### Church Services

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 & Manager of Music

Rhys Boak

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### Church Office

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♥ Open hearts. Open minds. Open hands! ♥  
Sunday Gatherings are offered Online and In-Church  
[stmichaels.org.au](http://stmichaels.org.au)

## Processional

### Acknowledgement of Country

The Spirit of God has long dwelled with the First Peoples of this ancient land, who have cared for this country for tens of thousands of years.

***At St Michael's, we gather on the land of the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nation; land that was taken from them without their consent, treaty, or compensation.***

***We pay our respects to Wurundjeri elders, past and present, and commit ourselves to work 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

### For the beauty of earth

For the beauty of the earth,  
for the beauty of the skies,  
for the love which from our birth  
over and around us lies.

*Holy One, our song we raise,  
this our testament of praise.*

For the beauty of each hour  
of the day and of the night,  
hill and vale, and tree and flower,  
sun and moon and stars of light,

*Refrain.*

For the joy of ear and eye,  
for the heart and mind's delight,  
for the mystic harmony  
linking sense to sound and sight.

*Refrain.*

For each perfect gift of thine  
to our world so freely given,  
graces human and divine,  
flowers of earth and buds of heaven,

*Refrain.*

Words: Folliott Sandford Pierpoint (1835-1917) alt.

Tune: Lucerna Laudoniae

David Evans (1874-1948)

## Prayer of Awareness

### Jesus' Prayer

*Gracious Spirit,  
who loves us unconditionally,  
whose realm is even now emerging among us and within us.*

*We pray that your compassion guide us in every action.  
May we receive what we need for each day,  
and help us to be satisfied with the miracle of that alone.*

*Forgiver, whose gracious embrace brings us to wholeness,  
may we reconcile ourselves to one another with grace.*

*And may we cancel the crushing debts  
that imprison our neighbours  
so that communities of justice and joy may flourish.*

*May we neither profit from nor ignore evil  
but always work to thwart it with non-violence  
as we co-create the realm of peace in this world.*

*Now and each day.*

*Amen.*

## Sharing a Sign of Peace

May Grace and Peace be with you.

*And also with you.*

## Opening Reflection

“Eco-theology, eco-action”

Rev Dr Margaret Mayman

## Hymn

Let all creation dance

Let all creation dance  
in energies sublime,  
as order turns with chance,  
unfolding space and time,  
for nature's art  
in glory grows,  
and newly shows  
God's mind and heart.

God's breath each force unfurls,  
igniting from a spark  
expanding starry swirls,  
with whirlpools dense and dark.  
Though moon and sun  
seem mindless things,  
each orbit sings:  
'Your will be done.'

Our own amazing earth,  
with sunlight, cloud and storms,  
and life's abundant growth  
in lovely shapes and forms,  
is made for praise,  
a fragile whole,  
and from its soul  
heaven's music plays.

Lift heart and soul and voice:  
in Christ all praises meet  
and nature shall rejoice  
as all is made complete.  
In hope be strong,  
all life befriend  
and kindly tend  
creation's song.

Words: Brian Wren (1936-)  
Tune: Darwall  
John Darwall (1731-1789)

## Hebrew Bible: Psalm 104:1-12

Sally Clarke

For the creator's loving purpose for Earth,  
***We give thanks.***

## Music for contemplation

Beau Soir – Claude Debussy  
Jesika Clark (Soprano) & Rhys Boak (Piano)

## Hebrew Bible: Psalm 104: 22-31

For Divine Presence made known in Creation,  
***We give thanks.***

## Sung Response

Halle, halle, halle

Halle, halle, halle-lu-jah!  
Halle, halle, halle-lu-jah!  
Halle, halle, halle-lu-jah!  
hallelujah! Halle-lu-jah!  
*repeat*

## Contemporary Reading

A poem-prayer by Stephanie Dowrick, from her book *Heaven on Earth*.  
For Wisdom that was in the beginning,  
for Wisdom that invites and inspires,  
For Wisdom embodied in all creation,  
***We give thanks.***

## Reflection

Jess Hand & Norm Chapman

Environmental Action Group – Moving Forward

## Hymn

Touch the earth lightly

Touch the earth lightly,  
use the earth gently,  
nourish the life of the world in our care:  
gift of great wonder,  
ours to surrender,  
trust for the children tomorrow will bear.

We who endanger,  
who create hunger,  
agents of death for all creatures that live,  
we who would foster  
clouds of disaster,  
God of our planet, forestall and forgive!

Let there be greening,  
birth from the burning,  
water that blesses and air that is sweet,  
health in God's garden,  
hope in God's children,  
regeneration that peace will complete.

God of all living,  
God of all loving,  
God of the seedling, the snow and the sun,  
teach us, deflect us,  
Christ reconnect us,  
using us gently and making us one.

Words: Shirley Erena Murray (1931-2020)  
Tune: Tenderness. Colin Gibson (1933-2022)  
Words and Music © Hope Publishing Company

## 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.*

Holy Spirit, in us and with us:

***Enable us to be a Pentecost people.  
Empower us to be a community  
where people find hope and new life.  
Amen.***

## Invitation to Offering

### Music for contemplation

Le Colibri – Ernest Chausson

Jesika Clark (Soprano) & Rhys Boak (Piano)

### Offering Prayer

***Wellspring of Life:  
Bless these gifts and our lives  
as we sustain the life of our community and Earth,  
our common home.  
Amen.***

## Notices

Lorraine Woolley

## Hymn

**All creatures, let your praises ring**

All creatures, let your praises ring,  
lift up your voice and with us sing:  
Sing praises, alleluia!  
O burning sun with golden beam,  
and silver moon with softer gleam,  
*Sing praises, sing praises,  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*



Swift rushing winds that are so strong,  
and clouds that sail in skies along,  
Sing praises, alleluia!  
Fresh-rising morn, in praise rejoice,  
and lights of evening, find a voice;

*Refrain*

Dear Mother Earth, who day by day  
unfolds rich blessings on our way,  
Sing praises, alleluia!  
All flowers and fruits that in you grow,  
let them God's glory also show,

*Refrain*

Words: St Francis of Assisi  
English translation: William Henry Draper, alt.  
Tune: Lasst Uns Erfreuen  
Geistliche Kirchengesang, Cologne 1623

## **Blessing and Sung Amen**

May the blessing of God,  
Earth-Giver, Pain-Bearer, Love-Maker,  
be with us and all creation  
this day and evermore.

## **Postlude**

In der Fremde – Robert Schumann  
Jesika Clark (Soprano) & Rhys Boak (Piano)

## Acknowledgements

Art: A Living Situation with all Creation, by Suzie Speirs.

Contemporary Reading: A prayer by Stephanie Dowrick.

From *Heaven on Earth: Timeless prayers of wisdom and love*, 2013.

Jesus' Prayer. Bret Hesla, in *Worship in the spirit of Jesus*.

J Nelson-Pallmeyer, ed. Adapted by Margaret Mayman.

“Halle, halle, halle” Tune: Halle, halle. Caribbean traditional.

Arr. Terry MacArthur.

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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.

[stmichaels.org.au/giving](http://stmichaels.org.au/giving)

## Notices

St Michael's Notices are included in the weekly eNews.

Subscribe to the eNews on the home page of the website [www.stmichaels.org.au](http://www.stmichaels.org.au) or email [office@stmichaels.org.au](mailto:office@stmichaels.org.au)

eNews online [stmichaels.org.au/news/](http://stmichaels.org.au/news/)

## St Michael's Social Media

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 [youtube.com/@stmichaelsunitingchurch](https://youtube.com/@stmichaelsunitingchurch)

## Music Notes

Beau Soir– Claude Debussy (1862-1918)

Claude Debussy was greatly influenced by the beauty of the natural world and the environment. This sublime song is titled ‘Beautiful Evening’ and reflects the beauty of a still, moonlit night.

Jesika Clark (Soprano) & Rhys Boak (Piano)

Le Colibri – Ernest Chausson (1855-1899)

Le Colibri (The Hummingbird) is from the pen of the French composer, Ernest Chausson. It is also inspired by the environment and wonder of the natural world. Although originally studying law, Chausson lost interest and pursued a career in music. Showing great potential, his life was cut short after a tragic bicycle accident at age 44.

Jesika Clark (Soprano) & Rhys Boak (Piano)

In der Fremde – Robert Schumann (1810-1856)

Coming from a set of songs published in 1840 known as the Liederkreis, this song is a celebration of the familiarity of the natural world and spiritual connection to one’s homeland.

Jesika Clark (Soprano) & Rhys Boak (Piano)

## Musicians

You can find biographical profiles of St Michael’s Guest Musicians on our website. [stmichaels.org.au/musicians-bios](http://stmichaels.org.au/musicians-bios)