

ST MICHAEL'S
UNITING CHURCH



Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost
4 August 2024

“No peace without justice”



Minister: Rev Dr Margaret Mayman

Music: Georgia Wilkinson (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

Church Office

120 Collins Street Melbourne | Phone: 03 9654 5120

Email: office@stmichaels.org.au | Web: www.stmichaels.org.au

♥ Open hearts. Open minds. Open hands! ♥
Sunday Gatherings are offered Online and In-Church
stmichaels.org.au

Processional

Acknowledgement of Country

We meet on the land of the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nation;
land that was taken from them without consent, treaty, or
compensation.

***We acknowledge Wurundjeri elders, past and present,
and Wurundjeri young people who hold the hope 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.*

Let us build a house

Timothy Reynolds



Let us build a house where love can dwell
and all can safely live,
a place where saints and children tell
how hearts learn to forgive;

built of hopes and dreams and visions,
rock of faith and vault of grace;
here the love of Christ shall end divisions:

All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where prophets speak,
and words are strong and true,
where all God's children dare to seek
to dream God's reign anew.

Here the cross shall stand as witness
and as symbol of God's grace;
here as one we claim the faith of Jesus:

Refrain.

Let us build a house where love is found
in water, wine and wheat:
a banquet hall on holy ground,
where peace and justice meet.
Here the love of God, through Jesus,
is revealed in time and space,
as we share in Christ the feast that frees us:

Refrain.

Let us build a house where hands will reach
beyond the wood and stone
to heal and strengthen, serve and teach,
and live the Word they've known.
Here the outcast and the stranger
bear the image of God's face;
let us bring an end to fear and danger:

Refrain.

Let us build a house where all are named,
their songs and visions heard
and loved and treasured, taught and claimed
as words within the Word.

Built of tears and cries and laughter,
prayers of faith and songs of grace,
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter:

Refrain.

Words and Tune: Marty Haugen (1950 -)

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 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 ever 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 the Peace of Divine Presence be with you.

And also with you.

Hebrew Bible: Exodus 16: 2-4, 9-15

For all that nourishes us in body, mind and spirit,

We give thanks.

Anthony Bendall

(he/they)

Music for contemplation

“Blute Nur” from The St Matthew Passion BWV244 – J.S. Bach
Georgia Wilkinson (Soprano) & Rhys Boak (Organ)

Gospel: John 6: 24-35

For the bread of life,

We give thanks.

Contemporary Reading

“Blessing for Winter Meal” by Bronwyn White

For Wisdom that was in the beginning,
For Wisdom that invites and inspires,
For Wisdom embodied among us,

We give thanks.

Hymn

O God of earth and space



O God of earth and space,
Of sea and fire and air,
Your providence surrounds us here,
And everywhere.
In fruit and grain and tree,
In shelter from the cold,
In cooling breezes, flowing wells,
Now as of old.

Where faithfulness is shown,
Where love and truth abound,
Where beauty graces human life,
There You are found.
Inspirer of all thought!
Creative force of art!
The melody on every tongue,
In every heart!

Wherever freedom reigns,
Where sin is overthrown,
Where justice fused with mercy rules,
There You are known.

Give us the courage clear,
To make the earth a home
For all to live in harmony
In Christ's shalom.

Your word commands response
And summons us to life.
We follow, strengthened by Your grace,
In calm or strife.
Our ever present help,
Our challenge and our prod,
We praise You now and to life's end,
Eternal God.

Words: Jane Parker Huber (1926-2008)

Tune: Leoni

Hebrew Melody, arr. Meyer Lyon (1751-1797)

Reflection

Rev Dr Margaret Mayman

“No peace without justice”

Hymn

Walls mark our boundaries



Walls mark our bound'ries and keep us apart;
walls keep the world from our eyes and our heart.

Tables are round, making room for one more,
welcoming friends we had not known before.

So build us a table and tear down the wall!

Christ is our host. There is room for us all!

Walls make us sure who is in and who's out;
walls keep us safe from all question and doubt,
but at a table in open exchange
new ties are formed as our lives rearrange.

Refrain.

Once we were strangers, divided, alone.
Hate and distrust built a wall stone by stone.
Now at a table the bread that we share
joins us to Christ in a circle of care.

Refrain.

Words: Ruth Duck. (1947-)

Music: Penrose, Jim Strathdee (1941-)

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.*

Open our eyes, our ears and our hearts, O Holy One.

***That we may embrace the hope to which we are called.
Amen.***

Invitation to Offering

Music for contemplation

'Be Kind and Courteous' – Benjamin Britten
Georgia Wilkinson (Soprano) & Rhys Boak (Piano)

Offering Prayer

***Beloved One,
we do not desire to call you King,
but to follow your way of radical and ordinary welcome.
Where we have drawn borders,
teach us of our interconnectedness
that we might live in relationships of care.
We dedicate our offerings to the Beloved Community,
among and beyond us. Amen.***

Holy Communion

Welcome to the Table

St Michael's Uniting Church is an open community, and all are invited 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 beginnings.***

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... *(prayer continues)*

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 wine of new life,
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

Anthony Bendall

Hymn

This is my song, O God of all the nations



This is my song, O God of all the nations,
A song of peace for lands afar and mine.
This is my home, the country where my heart is;
Here are my hopes, my dreams, my holy shrine;
But other hearts in other lands are beating
With hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.

My country's skies are bluer than the ocean,
and sunlight beams on cloverleaf and pine;
but other lands have sunlight too, and clover,
and skies are everywhere as blue as mine:
O hear my song, thou God of all the nations,
a song of peace for their land and for mine.

May truth and freedom come to every nation;
may peace abound where strife has raged so long;
that each may seek to love and build together,
a world united, righting every wrong;
a world united in its love for freedom,
proclaiming peace together in one song.

Words: Lloyd Stone (v1-2) and Georgia Harkness (v3)

Tune: Finlandia. Jean Sebelius (1865-1957)

Blessing and Sung Amen

May the blessing of the Holy One; Creator, Liberator, and Sustainer,
be with us and with all creation this day and evermore. Amen.

Postlude

Minuet Symphonique – Théodore-César Salomé
Rhys Boak (Organ)

Acknowledgements

“Peace Earth” <https://www.dreamstime.com/stock-photography-peace-earth-image662842>.
Royalty free image.

“Blessing for Winter Meal” by Bronwyn White. From *you who delight me*.

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

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

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

Hymns are printed and streamed with permission.

Church Copyright License (CCL): 261070. Church Streaming License (CSL): 569311.

St Michael’s Social Media

 facebook.com/stmichaelsmelbourne  youtube.com/@stmichaelsunitingchurch

Music Notes

“Blute Nur” from The St Matthew Passion BWV244 – J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

A man of great theological insight, Johann Sebastian Bach wrote his celebrated St Matthew Passion, an oratorio about the life of Jesus Christ in 1727.

This piece depicts the shedding of tears, and the comfort and consolation found in the life of Christ.

Georgia Wilkinson (Soprano) & Rhys Boak (Organ)

‘Be Kind and Courteous’ – Benjamin Britten (1913-1976)

This song comes from Benjamin Britten’s opera ‘A Midsummer Night’s Dream’ which is a setting of the play by the same name written by Shakespeare.

The opera was first performed in 1960.

Georgia Wilkinson (Soprano) & Rhys Boak (Piano)

Minuet Symphonique – Théodore-César Salomé (1834-1896)

This joyful work bears a melodic similarity to the African-American Amen we sing in church most weeks. Théodore-César Salomé was the celebrated organist of La Trinite church in Paris, and the author of a great many works across a number of genres.

Rhys Boak (Organ)

Musicians

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

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