

ST MICHAEL'S
UNITING CHURCH



Second Sunday in the Season of Creation
Restore Sacred Balance
8 September 2024

“What don’t we hear and
what don’t we speak of?”



Minister: Rev David Dawes

Music: Susie Ng (Violin)
& Rhys Boak (Organ & Piano)
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

Chairperson: Laura Beckett

Treasurer: Ian Cox

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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

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Processional

Acknowledgement of Country

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

We acknowledge Wurundjeri elders – past, present, and emerging.

***With respect and gratitude for the original custodians,
we affirm our hope that Australia will become a sacred space of
welcome where people live in just relationship
with one another and with the earth.***

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 music of creation



For the music of creation,
for the song your Spirit sings,
for your sound's divine expression,
burst of joy in living things:

God, our God, the world's composer,
hear us, echoes of your voice,
music is your art, your glory,
let the human heart rejoice!

Psalms and symphonies exalt you,
drum and trumpet, string and reed,
simple melodies acclaim you,
tunes that rise from deepest need,
 hymns of longing and belonging,
 carols from a cheerful throat,
 lilt of lullaby and love song
 catching heaven in a note.

All the voices of the ages
in transcendent chorus meet,
worship lifting up the senses,
hands that praise, and dancing feet;
 over discord and division
 music speaks your joy and peace,
 harmony of earth and heaven,
 song of God that cannot cease.

Words: Shirley Erena Murray (1931-2020)
Words © 1992 Hope Publishing Company
Tune: Rustington
Charles Hubert Hastings Parry (1848-1918)

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.*

Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,
nor wanting, nor wasting, but ruling in might;
your justice like mountains high soaring above,
your clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.

You give life to all life, to both great and small;
in all life now living, the true life of all;
we blossom and flourish as leaves on a tree,
and wither and perish: but unchanged you will be.

Creator of glory, creator of light,
your angels adore you, all veiling their sight;
of all your rich graces this grace, God, impart -
take the veil from our faces, the veil from our heart.

All praise we would render: reveal to our sight,
what hides you is only the splendour of light;
and so let your glory, O Lover, impart
through Christ in the story, your Christ to the heart.

Words: Walter C. Smith (alt)
Tune: St Denio
Welsh melody

Reflection

Rev David Dawes

“What don’t we hear and what don’t we speak of?”

Litany: “Web of Life” by Sarah Lammert

We create a web of life.

This is finally the time to let go of that unsustainable notion
that we can live separate and aloof from one another.

We create a web of life.

This is the time at last

that we can come home to each other,

to our mutual belonging.

We create a web of life.

And we create a web of life

out of which every single one of us

can use everything our stories have given us.

***We create a web of life.
Every part of our lives... even the cruelty,
even the abuse, even the addictions,
even the loneliness, even the failures...***

We create a web of life.
A web of life is created within
which we can rest in that knowing.
Because out of that we can act.
Out of that, the power to change is ours.
Out of that, we travel light.
Out of that, we can step forward.

***We create a web of life.
Let every encounter be a homecoming
as we step forward now for the healing of our world.
The world is not going to be saved
by good people or noble people.
The world is going to be healed by ordinary people like us,
who are not afraid of pain
and who are not afraid to love.***

Hymn

We are many, we are one



We are many, we are one,
and the work of Christ is done
when we learn to live in true community,
as the stars that fill the night,

as a flock of birds in flight,
as the cluster of the grapes upon the vine;
as the branches of a tree,
as the waves upon the sea,
as the cluster of the grapes upon the vine.

All division is made whole
when we honour every soul,
find the life of God in every you and me
as the fingers of a hand,
as the grains that form the sand,
as the cluster of the grapes upon the vine
as the threads upon the loom,
as a field of flowers in bloom,
as the cluster of the grapes upon the vine.

We will join creation's song
make a world where all belong,
build as one in peace and loving harmony,
as the voices of a choir,
as the flames within a fire,
as the cluster of the grapes upon the vine;
as the snowflakes in the snow,
as the colours of a bow,
as the cluster of the grapes upon the vine.

Words and tune: Colin Gibson (1933-2022)
Tune: Hamilton

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

Sarabanda and Giga – Arcangelo Corelli

Susie Ng (Violin) & Rhys Boak (Piano)

Offering Prayer

*Spirit of life, as we offer these gifts and ourselves
make us to be one with all who cry out for justice
for human and planetary life; that we may share
in the renewal of creation. Amen.*

Notices

Val Gill (she/her)

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)

Blessing and Sung Amen

May we sense the firmness of earth beneath us.
May the river's flow of water refresh us.
May the freedom of air uplift us.
May the fierceness of the wild move us to action.
May all the blessings of this life,
be with shared with the whole creation
now and always.

Postlude

Adagio Cantabile from the piano sonata No. 8 "Pathetique"
– Ludwig van Beethoven arr. Norman Fraser
Rhys Boak (Organ)

Acknowledgements

Photograph by David Dawes.

Contemporary Reading: “Speak to Me, Hidden One” by Jeremy Palmer.
Iona Abbey, 24 September 2019.

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.

“Web of life” litany by Sarah Lammert Unitarian Universalists of America. <https://www.uua.org/worship/words/reading/5903.shtml>

Offering prayer adapted from a prayer by Janet Morley.

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Music Notes

Liebeslied – Fritz Kreisler (1875-1962)

Fritz Kreisler was arguably the most celebrated violinist of his era. Kreisler also had a great gift for melody and an uncanny gift for imitating the styles of other composers. This Liebeslied is a celebration of life and love.

Susie Ng (Violin) & Rhys Boak (Piano)

Sarabanda and Giga – Arcangelo Corelli (1653-1713)

The string music of the Italian born violinist, Arcangelo Corelli has remained popular for centuries. Several of Corelli's works have been used in many well-known films and other productions. The devout Corelli, born in the papal states, may approve of his music being used in the 21st century for a church service.

Susie Ng (Violin) & Rhys Boak (Piano)

Adagio Cantabile from the piano sonata No. 8 "Pathetique"

– Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827) arr. Norman Fraser

Beethoven wrote his famous piano sonata No. 8, known as the "Pathetique" sonata when he was 27 years old. Although it is an extremely well-known piece for piano, the piece takes on another dimension when played on the organ. Beethoven, known today as a composer of symphonies and piano music, made his living as a church organist in his native Bonn in Germany

Rhys Boak (Organ)

Musicians

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