

ST MICHAEL'S
UNITING CHURCH



Third Sunday in the Season of Creation
Restore Sacred Balance
15 September 2024
“Soul work”



Minister: Rev David Dawes
Music: Judith Dodsworth (Soprano)
& 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 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

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♥ 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;
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

Where mountains rise to open skies



Where mountains rise to open skies,
your name, O God, is echoed far.
From coastal beach to blue gum's reach,
in water's light, in lake and star.

Your people's heart, your people's part
be in our caring for this land.
For faith to bloom, in sun and moon,
all welcome here, a place to stand.

From broken word, from conflict stirred,
from lack of vision, set us free.
To see the line of your design,
to feel creation's energy.

Your love be known, compassion shown,
that every child have equal scope:
in justice done, in trust begun,
shall be our heritage and hope.

Where mountains rise to open skies,
your way of peace distil the air.
Your spirit bind all humankind,
one covenant of life to share!

Words: Shirley Murray alt. (1931-2020)
Tune: Dunedin
Vernon Griffiths (1894-1985)

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.

Hebrew Bible: Proverbs 1: 20-33 Anthony Bendall (he/they)

For the sacred stories of our ancestors in faith,

We give thanks.

Gospel: Mark 8: 27-38

For the life and teaching of Jesus,

We give thanks.

Music for contemplation

O Virtus sapientiae – Hildegard of Bingen
Judith Dodsworth (Soprano)

Contemporary Reading

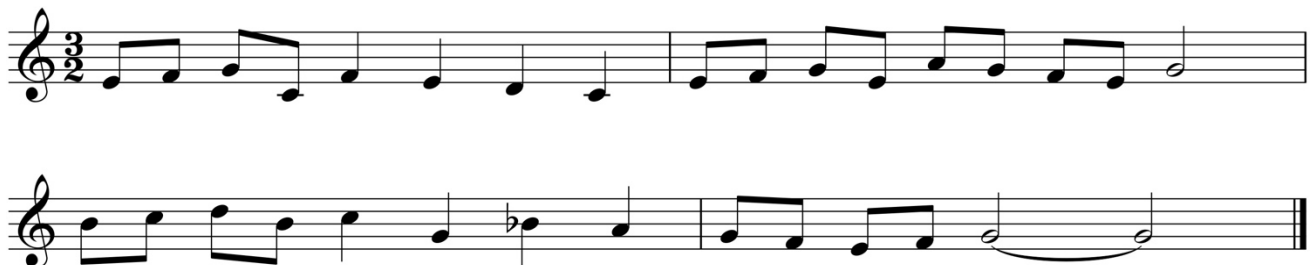
“The Fields” by Jeremy Palmer

For the Spirit speaking still in the glory of creation,

We give thanks.

Hymn

We are not our own



We are not our own, Earth forms us,
human leaves on nature’s growing vine,
fruit of many generations,
seeds of life divine.

We are not alone, Earth names us:
past and present, peoples near and far,
family and friends and strangers
show us who we are.

Through a human life God finds us;
dying, living, love is fully known,
and in bread and wine reminds us:
we are not our own.

Therefore let us make thanksgiving,
and with justice, willing and aware,
give to earth, and all things living,
liturgies of care.

And if love's encounters lead us
on a way uncertain and unknown,
all the saints with prayer surround us:
we are not alone.

Let us be a house of welcome,
living stone upholding living stone,
gladly showing all our neighbours
we are not our own.

Words: Brian Wren (1936-)
Tune: Yarnton
Composer: Brian A. Wren
Arr. Fred Graham

Reflection

“Soul work”

Rev David Dawes

Hymn

Be still my soul



Be still, my soul: the Lord is on your side;
bear patiently the cross of grief and pain;
leave to your God to order and provide;
in every change he faithful will remain.
Be still, my soul; your best, your heavenly friend
through thorny ways leads to a joyful end.

Be still, my soul; your God will undertake
to guide the future as he has the past.
Your hope, your confidence let nothing shake,
all now mysterious shall be clear at last.
Be still, my soul; the tempests still obey
his voice, who ruled them once on Galilee.

Be still, my soul; when dearest friends depart
and all is darkened in the vale of tears.
then you shall better know his love, his heart,
who comes to soothe your sorrow, calm your fears.
Be still, my soul; for Jesus can repay
from his own fullness all he takes away.

Be still, my soul; the hour is hastening on
when we shall be for ever with the Lord,
when disappointment, grief and fear are gone,
sorrow forgotten, love's pure joy restored.
Be still, my soul; when change and tears are past,
all safe and blessed we shall meet at last.

Words: Katharina von Schlegel (1697-)
Translator: Jane Laurie Borthwick (1813-1897)
Tune: Finlandia, Jean Sebelius (1865-1957)

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

O viridissima virga – Hildegard of Bingen
Judith Dodsworth (Soprano)

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

Anthony Bendall

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)
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Blessing and Sung Amen

Postlude

O rubor sanguinis – Hildegard of Bingen
Judith Dodsworth (Soprano)

Acknowledgements

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Offering prayer adapted from a prayer by Janet Morley.

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Music Notes

St Hildegard of Bingen (1098-1179)

St Hildegard, also known as ‘Sibyl of the Rhine’ was a Benedictine Abbess. Hildegard was active in many fields, including as a writer, a mystic and as a composer.

For this Sunday in the season of creation, our music selection celebrates the life and the work of Hildegard of Bingen and acknowledging the inspiration her work brings us.

O Virtus sapientiae – Hildegard of Bingen
Judith Dodsworth (Soprano)

O viridissima virga – Hildegard of Bingen
Judith Dodsworth (Soprano)

O rubor sanguinis – Hildegard of Bingen
Judith Dodsworth (Soprano)

Musicians

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