

ST MICHAEL'S UNITING CHURCH



19th Sunday after Pentecost
29 September 2024

“What’s the point of praying?”



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

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Chair: Lorraine Woolley

Deputy: Val Gill

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John Coppock

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(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

The land on which St Michael's stands
is the sovereign and unceded country
of the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nation.

***We pay our respects to their Elders, past and present,
who have cared for this country since its creation.
We commit ourselves to working for a more just sharing of
resources and power between the First and Second peoples of
Australia.***

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

Immortal, Invisible



Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
belovèd, enfolding, your great name we praise.

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

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: Psalm 19: 7-14

Chris Phillips (they/them)

For our spirit-seeking ancestors in faith,
We give thanks.

Music for contemplation

‘Pie Jesu’ from Requiem in D minor – Gabriel Faure
Georgia Wilkinson (Soprano) & Rhys Boak (Organ)

Early Jesus Communities: James 5: 13-20

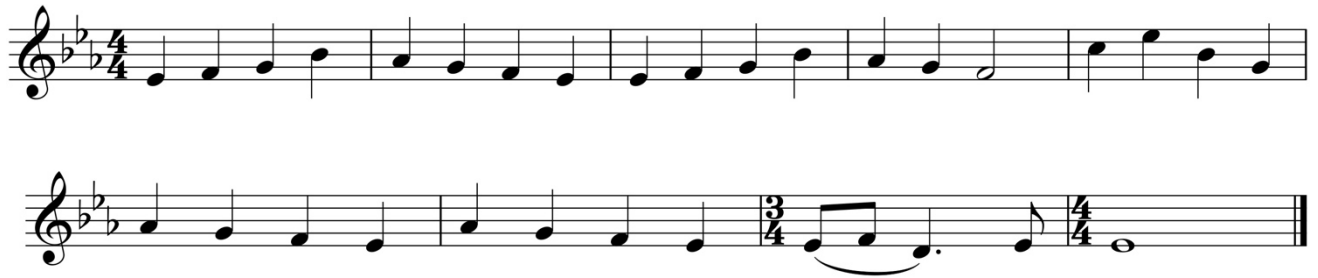
For the early Christ communities, exploring faith and finding hope,
We give thanks.

Contemporary Reading

“Get up off your knees” by L.R. Knost
For Wisdom that was in the beginning,
For Wisdom that invites and inspires,
For Wisdom embodied among us,
We give thanks.

Hymn

Will you let me be your servant?



Will you let me be your servant;
let me be as Christ to you?
Pray that I may have the grace
to let you be my servant too.

We are pilgrims on a journey,
and companions on the road.
We are here to help each other
walk the mile and bear the load.

I will hold the Christ-light for you,
In the night-time of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you,
speak the peace you long to hear.

I will weep when you are weeping;
when you laugh, I'll laugh with you.
I will share your joy and sorrow
till we've seen this journey through.

When we sing to God in heaven,
we shall find such harmony;
born of all we've known together
of Christ's love and agony.

Will you let me be your servant;
let me be as Christ to you?
Pray that I may have the grace
to let you be my servant too.

Words: Richard Gillard (1953-)
Tune: Servant Song
Richard Gillard, arr. Betty Pulkingham

Reflection

Rev Dr Margaret Mayman

“What’s the point of praying?”

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

A Blackbird singing – Michael Head
Georgia Wilkinson (Soprano) & Rhys Boak (Piano)

Offering Prayer

***Divine source of life,
We give you thanks for the ways you provide for us
in body, mind, and spirit.
May we be faithful stewards, not only of our monetary resources
but also of all the gifts and skills and possibilities we hold within.
May all be used faithfully for the flourishing of life.
Amen.***

Hymn

Called as partners in Christ's service



Called as partners in Christ's service,
Called to ministries of grace,
We respond with deep commitment
Fresh new lines of faith to trace.
May we learn the art of sharing,
Side by side and friend with friend,
Equal partners in our caring
To fulfil God's chosen end.

Christ's example, Christ's inspiring,
Christ's clear call to work and worth,
Let us follow, never faltering,
Reconciling folk on earth.
Men and women, richer, poorer,
All God's people, young and old,
Blending human skills together
Gracious gifts from God unfold.

Thus new patterns for Christ's mission,
In a small or global sense,
Help us bear each other's burdens,
Breaking down each wall or fence.
Words of comfort, words of vision,
Words of challenge, said with care,
Bring new power and strength for action,
Make us colleagues, free and fair.

So God grant us for tomorrow
Ways to order human life
That surround each person's sorrow
With a calm that conquers strife.
Make us partners in our living,
Our compassion to increase,
Messengers of faith, thus giving
Hope and confidence and peace.

Words: Jane Parker Huber (1926-2008)

Tune: Blaenwern

William Penfro Rowlands (1905)

Blessing and Sung Amen

May we know our place in the world.
May we turn outwards to serve a world
in which we are fully a part, and yet only a part.
God be with us, in the wonder of earth, and sea, and sky.
The dangerous memory of Jesus be with us,
in the open-hearted joy of compassionate living.
And the Holy Spirit be with us, in the simple reassurance:
we are all part of the web of life.

Postlude

Je veux vivre from Romeo et Julie – Charles Gounod
Georgia Wilkinson (Soprano) & Rhys Boak (Organ)

Music Notes

‘Pie Jesu’ from Requiem in D minor

– Gabriel Faure (1845-1924)

This haunting movement from Faure’s ‘Requiem’ is one of the most sublime moments in all church music. Today it is sung not in its original orchestration, but in a version for Soprano and Organ.

Georgia Wilkinson (Soprano) & Rhys Boak (Organ)

A Blackbird singing

– Michael Head (1900-1976)

Celebrating nature and the environment this song speaks of the joy of the natural world, and that comfort of hearing birds sing.

Georgia Wilkinson (Soprano) & Rhys Boak (Piano)

Je veux vivre from Romeo et Julie

– Charles Gounod (1818-1893)

A recent advertising campaign by Opera Australia declared that Opera is ‘Life amplified’. This song is certainly bursting at the seams with joy and a mood of celebration of life. A wonderful embodiment of the blessing, ‘to sing and dance and celebrate’.

Georgia Wilkinson (Soprano) & Rhys Boak (Organ)

Musicians

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

Acknowledgements

Art: “Be” by Barbara Kruger, from the portfolio ‘we will no longer be seen and not heard’.

Contemporary Reading: “Get up off your knees” by L.R. Knost. From *Jesus, the Gentle Parent: Gentle Christian Parenting*. Published by Little Hearts Books, LLC, 2014.

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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