

ST MICHAEL'S UNITING CHURCH



24th Sunday after Pentecost
3 November 2024

“Thank you for being a friend”



Minister: Rev Dr Margaret Mayman

Reflection: Prof Kathryn von Treuer

Music: Judith Dodsworth (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

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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 for millennia.***

***We commit ourselves again to the work of reconciliation
in these lands now called 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

Here in this place (Gather us in)



Here in this place, new light is streaming,
now is the darkness vanished away.
See, in this space, our fears and our dreamings,
brought here to you in the light of this day.
Gather us in, the lost and forsaken,
gather us in, the blind and the lame.
Call to us now, and we shall awaken,
we shall arise at the sound of our name.

We are the young, our lives are a mystery,
we are the old, who yearn for your face.
We have been sung throughout all of history,
called to be light to the whole human race.

Gather us in, the rich and the haughty,
gather us in, the proud and the strong.
Give us a heart so meek and so lowly,
give us the courage to enter the song.

Here we will take the wine and the water,
here we will take the bread of new birth.
Here you shall call your sons and your daughters,
call us anew to be salt of the earth.
Give us to drink the wine of compassion,
give us to eat the bread that is you.
Nourish us well, and teach us to fashion
lives that are holy and hearts that are true.

Not in the dark of buildings confining,
not in some heaven, light years away,
but here in this space, the new light is shining;
now is the Kingdom, now is the day.
Gather us in, and hold us forever,
gather us in, and make us your own.
Gather us in, all peoples together,
fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

Words and Tune: Marty Haugen (1950-)
Tune: Gather us in

Prayer of Awareness

Jesus' Prayer

***God, you are life for us, holy be your name.
Your new day come, your will be done on earth as in your vision.
Give us this day our bread for the morrow;
and forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.
Strengthen us in the time of test, and deliver us from evil.
For the power and the splendour and the fulfilment are yours,
now and forever. Amen.***

Sharing a Sign of Peace

May the Peace of Divine Presence be with you.
And also with you.

Hebrew Bible: Ruth 1: 1-18

Anthony Bendall (he/they)

For friendship and loyalty in ancient times and ours,

We give thanks.

Gospel: Mark 12: 28-34

For the life and teaching of Jesus,

We give thanks.

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)

Contemporary Reading

“Alone” by Maya Angelou

For the Spirit speaking still,

We give thanks.

Music for contemplation

'All Souls Day' – Richard Strauss

Judith Dodsworth (Soprano) & Rhys Boak (Piano)

Reflection

“Thank you for being a friend”

Prof Kathryn von Treuer

Executive Director, Cairnmillar Institute

Hymn

God of all time



God of all time, all seasons of our living,
source of our spark, protector of our flame,
blazing before our birth, beyond our dying—
God of all time, we come to sing your name.

Here in this place, where others have been building,
we come to claim the legacy of faith;
take, in our turn, the telling of your story;
and, though we tremble, speak your hope, your truth.

Spirit, who draws our fragile selves together;
Spirit, who turns a stranger to a friend:
be at the table where we greet each other;
be in the peace we pass from hand to hand.

Let us not die from poverty of caring;
let us not starve, where love is to be shared.
Come, break us open to receive your healing;
your broken body be our wine and bread.

Words: Shirley Erena Murray (1931-2020)

Tune: Highwood

Richard Runciman Terry (1865-1938)

Affirmation

*I believe in love as the measure of all things.
In life and in death Jesus showed the power
of love to raise and restore.*

*I believe in love over hatred, good over evil, peace over war,
truth over falsehood, faith over fear, generosity over selfishness,
mercy over judgment, humility over arrogance,
reconciliation over division, an open mind and an open heart.*

***I believe in risking, daring and never yielding
in the struggle for peace and justice, until love becomes all in all.***

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.*

These are the prayers of our hearts,

***May our prayers move to live with passion and compassion.
Amen.***

Invitation to Offering

Music for contemplation

I know that my redeemer liveth – G.F. Handel
Judith Dodsworth (Soprano) & Rhys Boak (Organ)

Offering Prayer

***Generous Spirit,
strengthen our love to help us meet the needs of others.
Receive and use these gifts
so that abundance and need may be balanced in the world.
Remembering Jesus the compassionate healer, we pray. Amen.***

Holy Communion

St Michael's Uniting Church is an open community,
and all are invited to the table.

Whatever you believe, or do not believe, about communion,
at St Michael's you are welcome to participate in this sacred meal
which is for all people.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Divine Presence is here.

We lift our hearts in joy.

We give thanks to you, O God, for you love the world.
You look upon creation and name it good.

***You conceive in us new possibilities,
and carry us on into the timeless struggle
of bringing to birth your reign of love.***

We praise you, God of the loving heart,
for creating all things seen and unseen,
for making us in your image, and for seeking us when we turn away.

We thank you for being known to us in Jesus, the Human One,
who was faithful even to death on a cross,
who lives among us still as Christa/Community.

Through the power of your Spirit, open our eyes to the Risen One
present among us in the breaking of the bread,
Draw us into communion with you and one another
that we may be signs of your love in this broken world,
as we anticipate the coming of your reign of justice and peace.

***To you, Eternal Source,
with Embodied Wisdom and the Spirit of Love
be glory and honour now and forever. Amen.***

The Story

Sharing bread and wine

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 new vision
and the wisdom of ancient dreams.
Give us eyes to see you in friend and stranger
that we may live out your radical hospitality. Amen.***

Notices

Anthony Bendall (he/they)

Hymn

Take my gifts



Take my gifts and let me love you,
God who first of all loved me,
gave me light and food and shelter,
gave me life and set me free.

Now because your love has touched me,
I have love to give away,
now the bread of love is rising,
loaves of love to multiply!

Take the fruit that I have gathered
from the tree your Spirit sowed,
harvest of your own compassion,
juice that makes the wine of God,
spiced with humour, laced with laughter,
flavour of the Jesus life,
tang of risk and new adventure,
taste and zest beyond belief.

Take whatever I can offer,
gifts that I have yet to find,
skills that I am slow to sharpen,
talents of the hand and mind,
things made beautiful for others
in the place where I must be:
take my gifts and let me love you,
God who first of all loved me.

Words: Shirley Erena Murray (1931-2020)
Tune: Talavera Terrace
Colin Gibson (1933-2022)

Blessing and Sung Amen

May Divine Presence bless us with strength to seek justice.
May Divine Presence bless us with wisdom to care for the earth.
May Divine Presence bless us with love to bring forth new life.
Let us go in peace and be witnesses to hope.

Postlude

Nimrod from The Enigma Variations – Edward Elgar
Rhys Boak (Organ)

Acknowledgements

Art: “Ruth and Naomi” by Chana Helen Rosenberg.
Contemporary Reading: “Alone” by Maya Angelou. From *Oh Pray My Wings Are Gonna Fit Me Well*. Random House, Inc.
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stmichaels.org.au/giving

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Music Notes

'All Souls Day' – Richard Strauss (1864-1949)

Composed in 1885, the song 'All souls day' is a setting of a poem by Hermann von Gilm. This song is part of Strauss' collection of 8 songs known as 'Last Pages'. All Souls Day is the day which traditionally people remember all their loved ones who are no longer with us.

Judith Dodsworth (Soprano) & Rhys Boak (Piano)

I know that my redeemer liveth – G.F. Handel (1685-1759)

Handel's famous oratorio 'Messiah' needs little introduction. Dozens of performances of the work are performed in Melbourne alone each year by choirs. This aria is one of the most cherished, and is one of both great hope and also consolation.

Judith Dodsworth (Soprano) & Rhys Boak (Organ)

Nimrod from The Enigma Variations – Edward Elgar (1857-1934)

The Enigma Variations are amongst Elgar's earliest orchestral works. Nimrod is the 9th of 14 variations. Elgar dedicated the piece to "my friends pictured within," and in the score each variation is prefaced with either a nickname or initials, a clue to the identity of the friend depicted. Nimrod is dedicated to Augustus J. Jaeger, Elgar's best friend. The name of the variation cleverly refers to Nimrod, the Old Testament patriarch who was described as a mighty Jaeger, the German word for hunter. This variation is famous in its own right and is a firm part of the organist's repertoire.

Rhys Boak (Organ)

Musicians

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

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