

ST MICHAEL'S
UNITING CHURCH



First Sunday in Advent
1 December 2024

“A New Story Begins:
Advent Action and Reflection”



Minister: Rev Dr Margaret Mayman

Music: Galliano Sommovilla (Piano)
& Rhys Boak (Organ)

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

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

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

Praise with joy the world's Creator



Praise with joy the world's Creator,
God of justice, love and peace,
Source and end of human knowledge,
Force of greatness without cease.
Celebrate the Maker's glory -
Power to rescue and release.

Praise the Son who feeds the hungry,
Frees the captive, finds the lost,
Heals the sick, upsets religion,
Fearless both of fate and cost.
Celebrate Christ's constant presence -
Friend and Stranger, Guest and Host.

Praise the Spirit sent among us,
Liberating truth from pride,
Forging bonds where race or gender,
Age or nation dare divide.
Celebrate the Spirit's treasure,
Foolishness none dare deride.

Praise the Maker, son and Spirit,
One God in community,
Calling us to leave behind faith's
Ghettoes and obscurity.
Thus the world shall yet believe
When shown Christ's vibrant unity.

Words: John L. Bell (1949-)
and Graham Maule (1958-2020)

Tune: Praise, my soul. John Goss (1800-1880)

Advent Candles: Hope

The first Advent candle is lit for Hope.

In the darkness of despair and injustice, it shines.

We dare to hope that wherever people of Spirit gather to light a candle,
the light of hope will burn more brightly,
encircling the earth with warmth, brightness
and a future in which we see the fulfilment
of all that is promised.

We light this candle for Hope.

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.

Music for contemplation

Solace 1 – Galliano Somnavilla
Galliano Somnavilla (Piano)

Hebrew Bible: Jeremiah 33:14-16

Val Gill (she/her)

For visions of liberation and justice,
We give thanks.

Gospel: Luke 21:25-36

For the life and teaching of Jesus, the Promised One,
We give thanks.

Hymn

Come, now, long-expected Jesus



Come, now, long-expected Jesus,
born to set creation free;
from our deepest fears release us,
into love and liberty.

You our rest and consolation,
hope and light for all, you bring;
peace between us and our nations,
joy for every heart to sing.

Born so unexpected, Jesus,
not a king we'd recognise:
yours a realm of peace and justice,
welcome for the smallest lives.

With Creator, and with Spirit,
unify our diverse hearts;
grace and love we do inherit,
one within your Holy Heart.

New words: Sarah Agnew
Tune: Stuttgart
Christian Friedrich Witt (1660-1717)

Contemporary Reading

"The Coming of God" by Ann Weems

For Wisdom that was in the beginning,
For Wisdom that invites and inspires,
For Wisdom made known among us.

We give thanks.

Reflection

Rev Dr Margaret Mayman

"A New Story Begins: Advent Action and Reflection"

Hymn

You shall draw with gladness



You shall draw with gladness
from the wells of grace.
Though your years have long been dry,
you shall see God's face.
Child of God, be joyful;
no more shall you mourn.
God will not desert you,
child whom she has borne.

Love divine surpasses
loves we hold most dear.
God is greater than our guilt,
stronger than our fear.
Child of God, be joyful;
wait and watch and pray.
Streams shall wash the desert
as God clears the way.

Bearing light of summer,
Jesus comes to save,
pouring out the Spirit's pow'r,
opening the grave.
Child of God, be joyful!
God is drawing near.
Grace springs forth among us,
flowing fresh and clear.

Words: Ruth Duck (1947-) alt.
Tune: Cranham
Gustav Holst (1874-1934)

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.*

Bright star-maker God,
travel with us through Advent,
***shine into our dark corners,
lead us into ways of justice,
warm us with joy and wonder,
bring us to new birth. Amen.***

Ruth Burgess

Invitation to Offering

Music for contemplation

Solace 2 – Galliano Sommovilla
Galliano Sommovilla (Piano)

Offering Prayer

***Spirit of life, we believe in what these gifts can do,
the good that can come of them,
and the light that can dawn through them.
Bless these gifts as they make their way in the world. Amen.***

Holy Communion

Communion prayer

In the presence of the living God

We lift our hearts in joy.

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

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

You meet us in our hungering with manna not of our making,
and in our thirsting you surprise us with unexpected wine.
You are the source of our desiring and the end of all our longing.

***O giver of the feast
and ever-present guest,
blessed be.***

We give thanks for Jesus, our brother,
who gave hope to ordinary people like us,
and broke through the barriers which separate us from life.

***He proclaimed good news to the poor.
He healed those who were sick,
and set free those who were captive
to illness of the mind.
He sends us out to continue his work
and nurture life in his name.***

We rejoice in the presence of the Holy Spirit,
strengthening and empowering us
to share the Good News of God's love with others.

***The Spirit desires that all creation know God's love
and experience the gift of new life.***

With those who have gone before us,
and those who will come after us,
we join the whole creation in singing praise:

Sung response



Holy, holy, holy God,
wisdom, strength and hope,
heaven and earth
are full of your glory;
Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the One
who comes in the
name of our God.
Hosanna in the highest.

Words: Colin D Smith (1974) alt
Tune: Holy, holy

The Story

Sharing bread and wine

The bread of life. ***Amen.***

The cup of blessing. ***Amen.***

Prayer after communion

Blessed be God,

who has given us the bread of life,

Blessed be God,

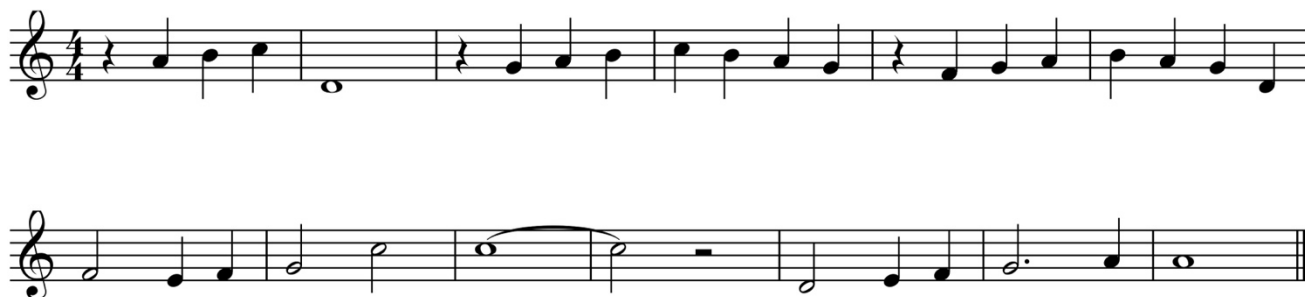
who has refreshed us with the wine of love. Amen.

Notices

Val Gill

Hymn

Where is the room?



Where is the room,
where is the house of Christmas?
Where shall we welcome Jesus,
where are the signs of home?
where are the signs of home?

Let Christ have space,
place at the heart of living,
centre for birth's new breathing,
cradle for hope and peace,
cradle for hope and peace.

Let there be room,
room for the friend and stranger,
room without hurt or anger,
room for whoever come,
room for whoever come.

Let love be here,
love from the Christmas stable,
love at our open table,
love to be shared all year,
love to be shared all year.

Words: Shirley Murray (1931-2020)

Tune: Michaela
David Dell (b.1959)

Blessing and Sung Amen

Follow where the Spirit of Hope leads us
listen, as the Child of Peace cries for us
rejoice, as the Love of God embraces us
Let us go with Hope, Peace, Joy and Love in our hearts
and the blessing of God – Lover, Beloved and Spirit of Love.

Postlude

Toccata in D major – Albert Renaud
Rhys Boak (Organ)

Acknowledgements

Art: “Hope” by Lois Anderson.

Contemporary Reading: Ann Weems, ‘The Coming of God’ in *Kneeling in Bethlehem: Poetry for Advent and Christmas*. Westminster John Knox Press, 1987.

Jesus’ Prayer by David B. Royer and Jonathan C. Nelson in Ruth C. Duck, ed. *Flames of the Spirit*.

Prayers of the People by Ruth Burgess.

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

Music Notes

Solace 1 – Galliano Som mavilla

Described as "music for the soul as well as the senses" by the composer, this work is partly improvised and will draw inspiration from the experience of being present at St Michael's this morning.

Galliano Som mavilla (Piano)

Solace 2 – Galliano Som mavilla

As with Solace 1, this work will be partly improvised and demonstrates the spontaneous creativity that exists in the human spirit.

Galliano Som mavilla (Piano)

Toccata in D major – Albert Renaud (1855-1924)

This joyful toccata concludes today's service. It was composed by the celebrated French organist Albert Renaud. Renaud studies with luminaries such as Cesar Franck, Camille Saint-Saens, Charles Gounod and Jules Massenet. Renaud held many important positions in and around Paris during his lifetime and his music is resurging in popularity amongst organists in the 21st century.

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

Notices

St Michael's Notices are included in the weekly eNews.

Subscribe to the eNews on the home page of the website www.stmichaels.org.au or email office@stmichaels.org.au
eNews online stmichaels.org.au/news/

St Michael's Social Media

 facebook.com/stmichaelsmelbourne

 youtube.com/@stmichaelsunitingchurch