

ST MICHAEL'S  
UNITING CHURCH



Reign (Community) of Christ  
24 November 2024

“Acting for peace in the world”



Minister: Rev Peter Burnham

Presentation: Stephanie Lenert (Act for Peace)

Music: Mina Yu (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

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### Church Office

120 Collins Street Melbourne | Phone: 03 9654 5120

Email: [office@stmichaels.org.au](mailto:office@stmichaels.org.au) | Web: [www.stmichaels.org.au](http://www.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

### Let us build a house

The image shows the musical notation for the hymn 'Let us build a house'. It consists of four staves of music in 4/4 time, written in a single melodic line. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a final cadence on the fourth staff.

Let us build a house where love can dwell  
and all can safely live,  
a place where saints and children tell  
how hearts learn to forgive;  
built of hopes and dreams and visions,  
rock of faith and vault of grace;  
here the love of Christ shall end divisions:

*All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.*

Let us build a house where prophets speak,  
and words are strong and true,  
where all God's children dare to seek  
to dream God's reign anew.

Here the cross shall stand as witness  
and as symbol of God's grace;  
here as one we claim the faith of Jesus:

*All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.*

Let us build a house where hands will reach  
beyond the wood and stone  
to heal and strengthen, serve and teach,  
and live the Word they've known.

Here the outcast and the stranger  
bear the image of God's face;  
let us bring an end to fear and danger:

*All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.*

Let us build a house where all are named,  
their songs and visions heard  
and loved and treasured, taught and claimed  
as words within the Word.

Built of tears and cries and laughter,  
prayers of faith and songs of grace,  
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter:

*All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.*

Words and Tune: Marty Haugen (1950 - )

## 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.***

## Gospel: John 18: 33-37

Lorraine Woolley

For the life and teaching of Jesus,

***We give thanks.***

## Contemporary Reading

“The Truth In You” by Sylvia Chidi

For the Spirit speaking still,

***We give thanks.***

## Music for contemplation

Pavane pour une infante défunte – Maurice Ravel

Mina Yu (Piano)

## Biblical Reflection

Rev Peter Burnham

“What is truth?”

## Hymn

Word of God in human language



Word of God in human language  
For this time and in our tongue,  
Tell anew the ageless story  
Ever ancient, every young.  
May our heart receive the message  
of God's faithful, loving care.  
May our lives respond in action,  
living deed and living prayer.

All around the world is hungry  
for the liberating Word,  
food for spirit as for body,  
to be tasted, felt and heard.  
It is thus the Word encounters  
at God's own appointed hour,  
bringing knowledge and perception  
of true justice, peace, and power.

So God's voice continues speaking  
in the words we can't deny,  
sounding out across the ages!  
Will we answer or defy?  
As the call becomes still clearer,  
witness that the Word shall last.  
May we follow with commitment  
in the present as the past.

Words: Jane Parker Huber (1926-2008)

Tune: Austria

Adapted from Franz Joseph Haydn (1732-1809)

## Act for Peace Reflection

“Acting for peace in the world”

Stephanie Lenert (she/her)

*Senior Development Manager*

*Act for Peace*

## Hymn

## Let justice roll down like a river



*Let justice roll down like a river,  
let justice flow down to the sea;  
let justice roll down like a river  
let justice begin through me.*

Justice for all who go hungry,  
crying to God to be fed,  
left in a world of abundance  
to beg for a morsel of bread.

*Let justice roll down like a river,  
let justice flow down to the sea;  
let justice roll down like a river  
let justice begin through me.*

Justice for those who are homeless,  
victims of war or of need,  
trapped on the borders of nowhere,  
lost in the canyons of greed.

*Refrain.*

Justice for all who are powerless,  
yearning for freedom in vain,  
plundered and robbed of their birth-right,  
silently bearing their pain.

*Refrain.*

Words and tune: Colin Gibson (1933-2022)

Tune: Waitaki

Words © 1994 Hope Publishing Company

## 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

'How Great Thou Art' – Stuart K. Hine arr. Mina Yu  
Mina Yu (Piano)

## 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.*

Notices

Lorraine Woolley

Hymn

Great God, your Spirit like the wind



Great God, your Spirit, like the wind –  
unseen but shaking things we see  
will never leave us undisturbed  
fulfil our dreams, or set us free,  
until we turn from faithless fear  
and prove the promise of your grace  
in justice, peace and daily bread  
with joy for all the human race.

God shake us with the force of love,  
to rouse us from our dreadful sleep;  
remove our hearts of stone, and give  
new hearts of flesh, to break and weep



for all your children in distress  
and dying for the wealth we keep.  
Help us prevent while we have time,  
the blighted harvest greed must reap.

And then, in your compassion, give  
your Spirit like the gentle rain,  
creating fertile ground from which  
your peace and justice spring like grain;  
until your love is satisfied,  
with all creation freed from pain,  
and all your children live to praise  
your will fulfilled, your presence plain.

Words: Alan Gaunt (1935-)  
Tune: Jerusalem  
C.H.H. Parry (1848-1918)

## Blessing and Sung Amen

### Postlude

The First Noel – Traditional arr. Mina Yu  
Mina Yu (Piano)

### Acknowledgements

Contemporary Reading: “The Truth In You” by Sylvia Chidi.

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

Prayer of Awareness adapted from a prayer by Pope John Paul 11.

Prayers of the People adapted from a prayer by Pamela Wilding, Kenya.

Blessing: A prayer by the National Council of Churches in the Philippines.

Some elements of the liturgy are from [enfleshed.com](http://enfleshed.com), adapted by Rev Dr Margaret Mayman.

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## Music Notes

Pavane pour une infante défunte – Maurice Ravel (1875-1937)

This pavane is a work of sorrow, performed today to remember those children who have lost their lives due to war, poverty and neglect.

Mina Yu (Piano)

'How Great Thou Art' – Stuart K. Hine (1899-1989) arr. Mina Yu

As a reminder of hope, Mina has arranged this well-known hymn tune in her own brilliant way.

Mina Yu (Piano)

The First Noel – Traditional arr. Mina Yu

Whilst this Sunday celebrates the Reign of Christ, from now on we move into the season of Advent and Christmas. Once again, we hear Mina's arrangement and reimagination of a well-known tune.

Mina Yu (Piano)

## Musicians

You can find biographical profiles of St Michael's Guest Musicians on our website. [stmichaels.org.au/musicians-bios](http://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](http://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](http://www.stmichaels.org.au) or email [office@stmichaels.org.au](mailto:office@stmichaels.org.au)

eNews online [stmichaels.org.au/news/](http://stmichaels.org.au/news/)

## St Michael's Social Media

 [facebook.com/stmichaelsmelbourne](https://facebook.com/stmichaelsmelbourne)

 [youtube.com/@stmichaelsunitingchurch](https://youtube.com/@stmichaelsunitingchurch)

Join us for Christmas at St Michael's

# CHRISTMAS REIMAGINED

CAROLS & READINGS SERVICE

Led by: Rev Dr Margaret Mayman

Guest Reader: Ro Allen

With the St Michael's Singers &  
Brass Ensemble conducted by Rhys Boak

THURSDAY 19 DECEMBER, 7:30 PM

St Michael's Uniting Church

CHRISTMAS DAY

Wednesday 25 December, 9 AM

ST MICHAEL'S  
UNITING CHURCH



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