

**ST MICHAEL'S
UNITING CHURCH**



Second Sunday in Advent
8 December 2024

“Preparing the way of peace”



Minister: Rev David Dawes

Music: Jesika Clark (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

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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

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

On Jordan's bank, the Baptist's cry



On Jordan's bank, the Baptist's cry
announces that the Lamb is nigh;
awake and hearken, for he brings
glad tidings from the King of Kings.

Then cleansed be every life from sin;
make clear the way for God within;
and let each heart prepare a home
where such a mighty guest may come.

In you we find abundant life,
our refuge in the midst of strife;
without your grace we waste away
like flowers that wither and decay.

Stretch forth your hand, our health restore;
and make us rise to fall no more,
O let your face upon us shine,
and fill the world with love divine.

All praise to you, Eternal One
whose advent has our freedom won;
and praise to God whom we adore,
with Holy Spirit evermore.

Words: Charles Coffin (1676-1749)
tr. John Chandler (1806-76) alt.

Tune: Winchester New. Musikalisches Handbuch

Advent Candles: Peace

The second Advent candle is lit for Peace.

***As the flame burns before us,
may we be bearers of peace wherever we go.***

“Where there is hatred, let us sow love,
where there is injury, pardon,
where there is doubt, faith,
where there is despair, hope,
where there is sadness, joy”

(Prayer of St Francis)

We light this candle for Peace.

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.

Sacrament of Baptism

Affirmation of Faith

*We trust in God, the Creator Spirit
who moved upon the face of the deep
at the beginning of creation, who created all that is,
and who spoke through the prophets of old.*

*We trust in Jesus Christ
into whom God's spirit was poured in fullness and in power,
that the whole creation might be restored and unified;
and who promised that the Spirit would come
and fill the faithful with power to witness
to the passionate love of God.*

*We await on that Spirit today with longing hearts,
seeking to be empowered to share God's love,
with fresh words and courageous actions
of love and hope and justice.
So may it be.*

Sung Blessing

May God bless you and keep you;
May God make her face to shine upon you,
and be gracious unto you;
May God lift up his countenance upon you,
and give you peace.

Family Promises & Presentation of Gifts

Baptism Prayer

Music for contemplation

'Vaga luna che inargenti' – Vincenzo Bellini
Jesika Clark (Soprano) & Rhys Boak (Piano)

Hebrew Bible: Malachi 3: 1-4

For the wisdom of our ancestors in faith,
We give thanks.

Gospel: Luke 1: 68-79

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

Hymn

You are born in us again



You are born in us again.
Like the warmth of the summer wind you come,
to melt away the icicles of vanity and pride;
you come to blow the very doors of loving open wide.
Like the warmth of the summer wind you come,
like the warmth of the summer wind you come.

You are born in us again.
Like the scent of the summer rain you come.
You come to quench the thirsty and to freshen up the land;
you come to clean away dust that's settled in our hand.
Like the scent of summer rain you come,
like the scent of the summer rain you come.

You are born in us again.

Like the light of the summer sun you come,
to give light to the places that have never seen the sun:
you come now to embrace us, you're the holy, holy one.

Like the light of the summer sun you come,
like the light of the summer sun you come.

Words: Shona Murray
Tune: Dunstan. Mark Wilson
arr. Shona Murray

Contemporary Reading

“Every prayer” by Jeremy Palmer

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

We give thanks.

Reflection

Rev David Dawes

“Preparing the way of peace”

Hymn

Word made flesh, we see Christ Jesus



Word made Flesh! We see Christ Jesus
sharing our humanity,
loving, graceful, always truthful,
close to others bodily,
full of passion, full of healing,
touch of God to set them free.

Wonderful are these our bodies,
flesh and blood to touch and see,
place of pain and contradiction,
yet of joy and ecstasy,
place of passion, place of healing,
touched by God who sets us free.

O how glorious and resplendent,
fragile body you shall be,
when endued with so much beauty,
full of life and strong and free,
full of vigour, full of pleasure,
that shall last eternally.

Glory give to God the Lover,
grateful hearts to the Beloved,
blessed be the Love between them,
overflowing to our good;
praise and worship, praise and worship,
to the God whose Name is Love.

Words: Jim Cotter (1942-2014)
Tune: Regent Square
Henry Thomas Smart (1813-1879)

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

'Tous Deux' – Reynaldo Hahn
Jesika Clark (Soprano) & Rhys Boak (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.*

Notices

Hymn

In a byre near Bethlehem (The Word of Life)



In a byre near Bethlehem,
passed by many a wand'ring stranger,
the most cherished Word of Life
was heard breathing in a manger,
for the good of us all.

*And Christ's here now to call us,
to life, faith and justice,
Emmanuel – God with us
in the cradle and cross.*

By the Galilean lake,
where the people flocked for teaching,
the most vital Word of Life,
came in parable and preaching,
for the faith of us all.

Refrain.

Quiet was Gethsemane,
camouflaging priest and soldier;
the most secret Word of Life
took the world's weight on his shoulder,
for the love of us all.

Refrain.

On the hill of Calvary,
place to end all hope of living,
now the cross-bound Word of Life
breathed his last and died forgiving,
for the pain of us all.

Refrain.

In a garden, at the dawn,
near the grave of human violence,
the eternal Word of Life
spoke once more and broke the silence,
for the hope of us all.

Refrain.

Words: John L. Bell
Tune: Wild Mountain Thyme. Irish Traditional

Blessing and Sung Amen

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

Postlude

Now thank we all our God – Sigfrid Karg-Elert
Rhys Boak (Organ)

Acknowledgements

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Some elements of the liturgy are from enfleshed.com, adapted by Rev Dr Margaret Mayman.

Final stanza of the prayers of the people: “Star-maker, God” by Ruth Burgess.

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Music Notes

'Vaga luna che inargenti' – Vincenzo Bellini (1801-1835)

Published in 1838, the same year that the congregation that would eventually become St Michael’s was founded, this aria is a celebration of nature, the environment and love.

Jesika Clark (Soprano) & Rhys Boak (Piano)

'Tous Deux' – Reynaldo Hahn (1874-1947)

Also celebrating the environment and love, this song is one of a set of 7 by the Venezuelan born and Paris based composer, Reynaldo Hahn.

Jesika Clark (Soprano) & Rhys Boak (Piano)

Now thank we all our God – Sigfrid Karg-Elert (1877-1933)

This triumphant work is based on the hymn tune ‘Nun danket alle Gott’ (Now thank we all our God). It is the best-known work of the German impressionist composer and organ virtuoso, Sigfrid Karg-Elert.

Rhys Boak (Organ)

Musicians

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

Giving

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