

ST MICHAEL'S
UNITING CHURCH



Second Sunday after Christmas
5 January 2025
“A new beginning”



Minister: Rev Peter Burnham

Music: 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

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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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♥ 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 join with Aboriginal people in yearning for justice;
for Indigenous people and for the land.***

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

For the beauty of the earth



For the beauty of the earth,
for the beauty of the skies,
for the love which from our birth
over and around us lies.

*Holy One, our song we raise,
this our testament of praise.*

For the beauty of each hour
of the day and of the night,
hill and vale, and tree and flower,
sun and moon and stars of light,
*Holy One, our song we raise,
this our testament of praise.*

For the joy of ear and eye,
for the heart and mind's delight,
for the mystic harmony
linking sense to sound and sight.
Refrain.

For the joy of human love,
brother, sister, parent, child,
friends on earth and friends above,
for all gentle thoughts and mild,
Refrain.

For each perfect gift of thine
to our world so freely given,
graces human and divine,
flowers of earth and buds of heaven,
Holy One, our song we raise,
Refrain.

Words: Folliot Sandford Pierpoint (1835-1917) alt.
Tune: Lucerna Laudoniae
David Evans (1874-1948)

Prayer of Awareness

Jesus' Prayer

*Dear One,
closer to us than our own hearts,
farther from us than the most distant star,
you are beyond naming.*

*May your powerful presence become obvious
not only in the undeniable glory of the sky,
but also in the common processes of the earth.*

*Give us what we need,
day by day, to keep body and soul together,
because clever as you have made us,
we still owe our existence to you.*

*We recognize that to be reconciled with you,
we must live peaceably
and justly with other human beings,
putting hate and bitterness behind us.*

*We are torn between our faith in your goodness
and our awareness of the evil in your creation,
so deliver us from the temptation to despair.*

*Yours alone is the universe
and all its majesty and beauty.
So it is,
Amen.*

Sharing a Sign of Peace

May the Light and Peace of Divine Presence be with you.

And also with you.

Music for contemplation

Consolation – Franz Liszt arr. W. Faulkes
Rhys Boak (Organ)

Hebrew Bible: Jeremiah 31: 7-14

Catherine Jones

For the wisdom of our ancestors in faith,

We give thanks.

Gospel: John 1: 1-18

For the life and teaching of Jesus,

We give thanks.

Hymn

O God of earth and space



O God of earth and space,
Of sea and fire and air,
Your providence surrounds us here,
And everywhere.
In fruit and grain and tree,
In shelter from the cold,
In cooling breezes, flowing wells,
Now as of old.

Where faithfulness is shown,
Where love and truth abound,
Where beauty graces human life,
There You are found.
Inspirer of all thought!
Creative force of art!
The melody on every tongue,
In every heart!

Wherever freedom reigns,
Where sin is overthrown,
Where justice fused with mercy rules,
There You are known.
Give us the courage clear,
To make the earth a home
For all to live in harmony
In Christ's shalom.

Your word commands response
And summons us to life.
We follow, strengthened by Your grace,
In calm or strife.
Our ever present help,
Our challenge and our prod,
We praise You now and to life's end,
Eternal God.

Words: Jane Parker Huber (1926-2008)
Tune: Leoni
Hebrew Melody, arr. Meyer Lyon (1751-1797)

Contemporary Reading

“Stars” by Margaret J. Wheatley

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

Reflection

Rev Peter Burnham

“A new beginning”

Hymn

We are your people



We are your people; Spirit of grace,
you dare to make us, to all our neighbours,
Christ's living voice, hands and face.

Joined in community, treasured and fed,
may we discover, gifts in each other,
willing to lead and be led.

Rich in diversity, help us to live
closer than neighbours, open to strangers,
able to clash and forgive.

Glad of tradition, help us to see
in all life's changing, where you are leading,
where our best efforts should be.

Give, as we venture justice and care
(peaceful, resisting, waiting, or risking)
wisdom to know when and where

Spirit, unite us; make us, by grace,
willing and ready,
Christ's living body,
loving the whole human race.

Words: Brian Wren (1936-)
Tune: Whitfield
John Wilson (1905-92)

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 our prayers for people and for our planet:

***We move on in faith,
into the unknown,
in the company of the God made known in Jesus,
who illumines the Way.
Amen.***

Invitation to Offering

Music for contemplation

"I call to thee, Lord Jesus Christ" BWV 639 – J.S. Bach
Rhys Boak (Organ)

Offering Prayer

*In gratitude for the blessings in our lives,
we bring what we have to offer.*

*May our gifts bring hope to others, in this act and
in our commitment to cherish and honour all of life.*

Amen.

Notices

Catherine Jones

Hymn

God Creator of the Universe



God, Creator of the universe,
spoke the word and gave it birth,
called for life in plants and creatures,
said 'twas good and blessed the earth.
God Creator we would join you,
care for earth and live shalom.
Adoration, Jubilation,
make the earth a joyful home.

God Redeemer of the captive,
led the slaves by fire and cloud,
Granted haven to the fugitive,
Scattered those enthroned and proud.
God Redeemer, we would join you,
fight for justice and release.
Liberation, God's salvation,
make the earth a home for peace.

God Incarnate, God in person,
walked the paths of daily life,
Taught and healed and brought salvation
Shared with us our times of strife.
God Incarnate, we would join you,
fill the world as living yeast,
Incarnation, proclamation,
welcome all the open feast!

God of history and the future,
keep us moving with you now.
Grant us strength for this adventure
and the courage of our vow.
God of action, we would join you,
keep us faithful and renewed.
Reformation, transformation,
these shall sign our gratitude.

Tune: Austria
Adapted from Franz Joseph Haydn (1732-1809)

Blessing and Sung Amen

May the boldness of the Spirit transform us
May the compassion of Jesus inspire us
May the gifts of Sacred creativity sustain us
so that we may join in transforming the world
for love and justice.
May the blessing of God be with us
and with all creation, now and forever.

Postlude

Minuet Symphonique – Théodore-César Salomé
Rhys Boak (Organ)

Acknowledgements

Art: “Earthrise” by William Anders.

Contemporary Reading: “Stars” by Margaret J. Wheatley. From *Turning to One Another: Simple Conversations to Restore Hope to the Future*.

Jesus’ Prayer. “Lord’s Prayer: An interpretation” by Jim Burklo.

<https://tcpc.blogs.com/musings/2012/12/jim-burklos-book-of-common-prayer.html>

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

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Music Notes

Consolation – Franz Liszt (1811-1886) arr. W. Faulkes (1863-1933)

Liszt’s Consolation was originally composed for the piano. It is a piece written, as the title suggests, to console one in a time of trouble or great sadness. The organ transcription of this work was done by the English organist William Faulkes.

Rhys Boak (Organ)

“I call to thee, Lord Jesus Christ” BWV 639 – J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

This truly beautiful work comes from Bach’s collection of pieces based on hymn tunes for use during the liturgical year, known as ‘The little organ book’ or ‘Das Orgelbuchlein’.

Rhys Boak (Organ)

Minuet Symphonique – Théodore-César Salomé (1834-1896)

This joyful work bears a melodic similarity to the African American Amen we sing in church most weeks. Théodore-César Salomé was the celebrated organist of La Trinite church in Paris, and the author of a great many works across a number of genres.

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

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