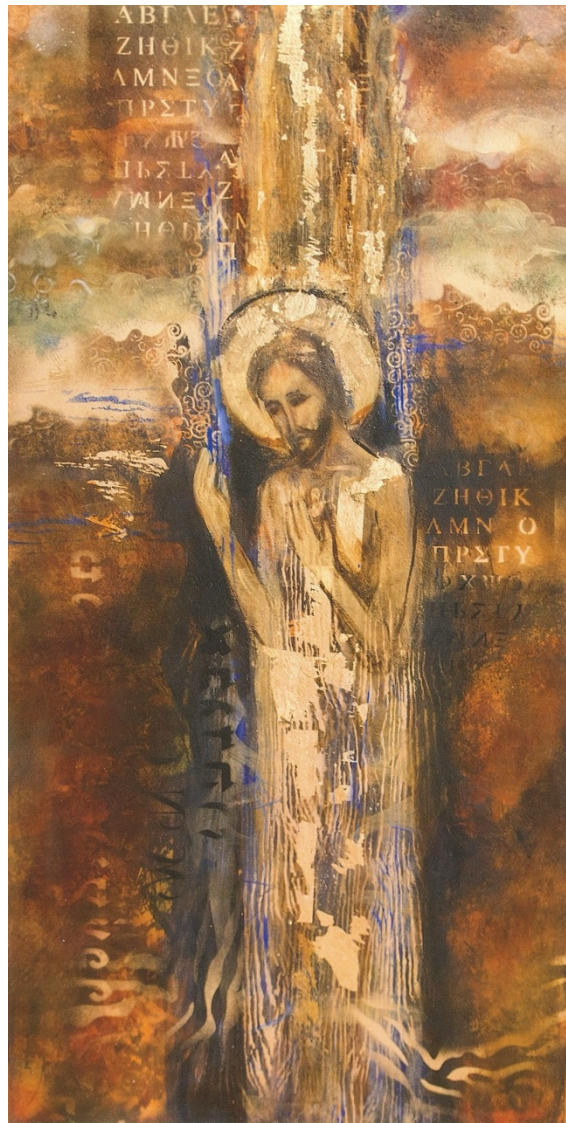


ST MICHAEL'S
UNITING CHURCH



First Sunday after Epiphany
12 January 2025

“Season of light and love”



Minister: Rev Dr Margaret Mayman

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

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

Immortal, invisible



Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
most blessèd, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
belovèd, enfolding, your great name we praise.

Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,
nor wanting, nor wasting, but ruling in might;
your justice like mountains high soaring above,
your clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.

You give life to all life, to both great and small;
in all life now living, the true life of all;
we blossom and flourish as leaves on a tree,
and wither and perish: but unchanged you will be.

Creator of glory, creator of light,
your angels adore you, all veiling their sight;
of all your rich graces this grace, God, impart -
take the veil from our faces, the veil from our heart.

All praise we would render: reveal to our sight,
what hides you is only the splendour of light;
and so let your glory, O Lover, impart
through Christ in the story, your Christ to the heart.

Words: Walter C. Smith (alt)
Tune: St Denio. Welsh melody

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.

Hebrew Bible: Isaiah 43:1-7

Irene Renzenbrink (she/her)

For the assurance of Divine presence in troubled times,

We give thanks.

Hymn

Be not afraid

You shall cross the barren desert
but you shall not die of thirst.
You shall wander far in safety
though you do not know the way.
You shall speak your words in foreign lands
and all will understand.
You will see the face of God and live.
Be not afraid.
I go before you always.
Come, follow me,
and I will give you rest.

If you pass through raging waters
in the sea, you shall not drown.
If you walk amid the burning flames,
you shall not be harmed.
If you stand before the power of hell
and death is at your side,
know that I am with you through it all.
Refrain.

Blessed are your poor,
for the kingdom shall be theirs.
Blest are you that weep and mourn,
for one day you shall laugh.
And if wicked tongues insult and hate you
all because of me,
blessed, blessed are you.
Refrain.

Words and tune: Robert J Dufford, SJ

Gospel: Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

For the beloved community of Jesus and his friends,

We give thanks.

Contemporary Reading

“Epiphany” by Angela Jackson

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

We give thanks.

Music for contemplation

Sarabande – G.F. Handel
Rhys Boak (Organ)

Reflection

Rev Dr Margaret Mayman (she/her)

“Season of light and love”

Hymn

Loving Spirit



Loving Spirit, loving Spirit,
you have chosen me to be -
you have drawn me to your wonder,
you have set your sign on me.

Like a mother, you enfold me,
hold my life within your own
feed me with your very body,
form me of your flesh and bone.

Like a father, you protect me,
teach me the discerning eye,
hoist me up upon your shoulder,
let me see the world from high.

Friend and lover, in your closeness
I am known and held and blessed:
In your promise is my comfort,
in your presence I may rest.

Loving Spirit, loving Spirit,
you have chosen me to be -
you have drawn me to your wonder,
you have set your sign on me.

Words: Colin Gibson (1933-2022)

Tune: Omni Die

Melody from David Gregor Corner's 'Gesangbuch'
Nuremberg, 1631 arr. W. S. Rockstro (1823-1895)

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

Rejoice, O my soul – Sigfrid Karg-Elert
Rhys Boak (Organ)

Offering Prayer

***Holy One,
you have called us to join you on a wild endeavour.
The way is not easy
but your promises endure.***

*In gratitude for your companionship with us,
your presence that manifests justice,
leads us in the direction of life,
and comforts us when the losses are many,
we bring our offerings.*

Bless them to the work of Kindom.

Amen.

Notices

Chris Phillips (they/them)

Hymn

She flies on

The musical score is written in 4/4 time on a single treble clef. It begins with a repeat sign. The melody is composed of eighth and quarter notes, with some phrases spanning across bar lines. The third staff features a 'Fine' marking above the staff. The sixth staff includes a first ending bracket labeled '1, 3' and the instruction 'D.S.' at the end.

*She comes sailing on the wind,
her wings flashing in the sun,
on a journey just begun, she flies on.
And, in the passage of her flight,
her song rings out through the night,
full of laughter, full of light, she flies on.*

Silent waters rocking on the morning of our birth,
like an empty cradle waiting to be filled,
And from the heart of God,
the Spirit moved upon the earth,
Like a mother breathing life into her child.

Many were the dreamers whose eyes were given sight,
when the Spirit filled their dreams with life and form;
Deserts turned to gardens,
broken hearts found new delight,
And then down the ages, still, she flew on.

*She comes sailing on the wind,
her wings flashing in the sun,
on a journey just begun, she flies on.
And, in the passage of her flight,
her song rings out through the night,
full of laughter, full of light, she flies on.*

To a gentle girl from Galilee, a gentle breeze she came,
a whisper softly calling in the dark,
The promise of a child of Peace,
whose reign would never end,
Mary sang the Spirit song within her heart.

Flying to the river, she waited circling high,
above the child now grown full of grace.
As he rose up from the water,
she swept down from the sky,
and she carried him away in her embrace.

Refrain

Long after the deep darkness that fell upon the world,
after dawn returned in flame of rising sun,
The Spirit touched the earth again,
again her wings unfurled,
bringing life in wind and fire as she flew on.

Refrain

Words and tune: Gordon Light
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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

Tuba Tune – Craig Sellar Lang
Rhys Boak (Organ)

Acknowledgements

Art: “Baptism of Jesus” by Elaine Roemen.

Contemporary Reading: “Epiphany” by Angela Jackson. From *Poetry* (February 2023). <https://www.poetryoutloud.org/poem/epiphany/>

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,
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Music Notes

Sarabande – G.F. Handel (1685-1759)

Truly well-travelled, G.F. Handel was born in Germany and after time in various places, including Italy, he settled in the UK. This well-known Sarabande has been a source of inspiration for many other works over the centuries that have followed since its composition. Originally intended for the harpsichord, today we hear an organ version.

Rhys Boak (Organ)

Rejoice, O my soul – Sigfrid Karg-Elert (1877-1933)

The unique and beautiful tone world of Karg-Elert is deeply spiritual. This short work is one of a set of 65 pieces for organ, each based on a Lutheran hymn melody and intended for a particular day in the liturgical calendar.

Rhys Boak (Organ)

Tuba Tune – Craig Sellar Lang (1891-1971)

This joyful work, despite its name, was not written for the Tuba. It was written to showcase the organ's Tuba or Trumpet stop. Craig Lang was born in New Zealand, although he spent most of his life in England. This piece is perhaps the only work of his to receive regular performances, and is a perennial favourite of church goers.

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.

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