

ST MICHAEL'S
UNITING CHURCH



Third Sunday after Epiphany
26 January 2025

“The politics of Jesus”



Minister: Rev Peter Burnham

Music: Dr Joel Brennan (Trumpet)

Rhys Boak (Organ)

Cantor: Jesika Clark

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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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 this great sunburnt land

The image shows three staves of musical notation for the hymn 'For this great sunburnt land'. The first staff starts at measure 1, the second at measure 8, and the third at measure 12. The music is written in a treble clef with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat) and a 4/4 time signature. The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes, with some notes beamed together. There are accents over several notes. The piece concludes with a double bar line at the end of the third staff.

For this great sunburnt land
we join in celebration,
with all its native life,
the joy of God's creation:
fresh lakes and tall blue gums
who raise their voice on high,
black swans that sweep with grace
across the morning sky.

Now thank we, God, this day
for all who lived this vision
who found this heritage
a gift of Spirit's passion
O God of this wide land,
grant us the faith to see,
you filled its soul with song,
a sacred mystery.

With this great sunburnt land
we join in celebration,
with roos and cockatoos
and mobs from ev'ry nation;
custodians God chose
for bush and billabong,
we join with grateful voice
to sing this country strong.

Norman Habel (1932-)

Tune: Nun Danket. Johann Crüger (1598-1662)

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

Candles – Stuart Greenbaum

Dr Joel Brennan (Trumpet) & Rhys Boak (Organ)

Hebrew Bible: Psalm 19

Anthony Bendall (he/they)

For the wisdom of our ancestors in faith,

We give thanks.

Gospel: Luke 4: 14-21

For the life and teachings of Jesus,

We give thanks.

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)

Contemporary Reading

“The Australian” by Roderic Quinn

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

We give thanks.

Reflection

“The power of a word”

Rev Peter Burnham

Hymn

Christ, be our light!



Cantor: *Christ, be our light!*
 Shine in our hearts,
 Shine through the darkness.
 Christ, be our light!
 Shine in your Church gathered today.

Cantor: Longing for light, we wait in darkness.
 Longing for truth, we turn to you.
 Make us your own, your holy people,
 Light for the world to see.

Congregation: *Christ, be our light!*
 Shine in our hearts,
 Shine through the darkness.
 Christ, be our light!
 Shine in your Church gathered today.

Cantor: Longing for peace, our world is troubled.
 Longing for hope, many despair.
 Your word alone has pow'r to save us.
 Make us your living voice.

Congregation: *Refrain.*

Cantor: Longing for food, many are hungry.
 Longing for water, many still thirst.
 Make us your bread, broken for others,
 Shared until all are fed.

Congregation: *Refrain.*

Cantor: Longing for shelter, many are homeless.
 Longing for warmth, many are cold.
 Make us your building, sheltering others,
 Walls made of living stone.

Congregation: *Refrain.*

Cantor: Many the gifts, many the people,
Many the hearts that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants to one another,
Making your kingdom come.

Congregation: *Refrain.*

Words and tune: Bernadette Farrell (1957-)
Tune: Antiphon, Christ be our light

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

Ave Maria – Ástor Piazzolla arr. Rhys Boak
Dr Joel Brennan (Trumpet) & 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

Anthony Bendall (he/they)

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)

Blessing and Sung Amen

Postlude

Nimrod from The Enigma Variations – Edward Elgar
Rhys Boak (Organ)

Acknowledgements

Photograph by Josh Withers via Pexels.

Contemporary Reading: “The Australian” by Roderic Quinn (1867-1949). *Page 192, Victorian Readers Fifth Book Second Edition, 1940.*

Jesus’ Prayer. “Lord’s Prayer: An interpretation” by Jim Burklo.
<https://tcpc.blogs.com/musings/2012/12/jim-burklos-book-of-common-prayer.html>

Prayers of the People adapted from “Jesus Our Future” by Bruce D. Prewer, Open Books, 1998.

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

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Music Notes

Candles – Stuart Greenbaum (b. 1966)

Stuart Greenbaum is professor of music composition at The University of Melbourne. He has authored well over 200 works, and this piece for trumpet and organ was composed in 2023.

Dr Joel Brennan (Trumpet) & Rhys Boak (Organ)

Ave Maria – Ástor Piazzolla (1921-1992) arr. Rhys Boak

Piazzolla was a noted Argentinian tango composer and virtuoso bandoneónist. His large output in the area was popular during his lifetime and has continued to grow in popularity since his death. This Ave Maria is atypical of Piazzolla's work, but is nevertheless beautiful.

Dr Joel Brennan (Trumpet) & Rhys Boak (Organ)

Nimrod from The Enigma Variations – Edward Elgar (1857-1934)

Elgar's Enigma variations are amongst his earliest orchestral works. Nimrod is number 9 of the 14 variations. Elgar dedicated the piece to "my friends pictured within" and in the score each variation is prefaced with either a nickname or initials, a clue to the identity of the friend depicted. Nimrod is dedicated to Augustus J. Jaeger, Elgar's best friend. The name of the variation cleverly refers to Nimrod, the Old Testament patriarch who was described as a mighty hunter. The name Jaeger being the German word for hunter. This individual variation has become famous in its own right, and has become a firm part of the organist's repertoire even though it was originally written for orchestra.
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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Information about ways to give is available on our website.

stmichaels.org.au/giving