

ST MICHAEL'S
UNITING CHURCH



Second Sunday in Lent
16 March 2025
“Resolving to be”



Minister: Rev David Dawes

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

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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

Holy, holy, holy



Holy, holy, holy, love now ascending,
early in the morning our song shall rise to you.
Holy, holy, holy, joy that has no ending,
giving, forgiving, breathing life anew.

Holy, holy, holy, love without a limit,
care that binds creation in sacred unity.
Holy, holy, holy, birthing every minute,
Christ, Love's revealer, sets our spirits free.

Holy, holy, holy, infinite compassion
makes a place for every soul in God's eternal reign,
Holy, holy, holy, truth beyond religion,
love that endures should nothing else remain.

Holy, holy, holy, raise your voice in singing.
Join the cosmic chorus in praise of Love divine.
Holy, holy, holy, God beyond all naming,
echoes our song in harmony sublime.

Words: adapted by Jim Burklo
Tune: Nicea
John Bacchus Dykes (1823-76)

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 fulfillment are yours,
now and forever.
Amen.*

Sharing a Sign of Peace

May the Peace of Divine Presence be with you.
And also with you.

For the wisdom of our ancestors in faith,

We give thanks.

Hymn

Who would true valour see



Who would true valour see,
let them come hither;
one here will constant be,
come wind, come weather.
There's no discouragement
shall make them once relent
his first avowed intent
to be a pilgrim.

Those who beset them round
with dismal stories
cannot the brave confound:
their strength the more is.
No lion can them fright,
they'll with a giant fight,
but each will have a right
to be a pilgrim.

Hobgoblin nor foul fiend
can daunt their spirit:
they know they at the end
shall life inherit.
Then fancies fly away;
they'll scorn what people say,
and each work night and day
to be a pilgrim.

Words: John Bunyan (1628-88)
Tune: Monk's Gate. English Traditional Melody
Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

Gospel: Luke 13:31-35

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

Contemporary Reading

“The Guest House” by Jalaluddin Rumi
For the Spirit speaking still,
We give thanks.

Music for contemplation

Walking Along the Stream – Mina Yu
Mina Yu (Piano)

Reflection

“Resolving to be”

Rev David Dawes

Hymn

How great the mystery of faith



How great the mystery of faith,
how deep the purposes of God,
in birth and ageing, life and death,
unveiled, yet never understood!

Attracted by life's deepest claim
we wait, assembled in this place,
with needs and hopes we cannot name,
a thirst for healing, truth and grace.

The best that we can do and say,
the utmost care of skill and art,
are sweepers of the Spirit's way
to reach the depths of every heart.

Come, walk among us, Holy Friend,
as all are gathered and prepared,
that scattered lives may meet and mend
through open Word and worship shared.

Words: Brian Wren (1936-)

Tune: Ombersley

William Henry Gladstone (1840-1901)

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.

***Be with us in each moment of our journey, O Holy One.
Give us strength, courage and love in all we do. Amen.***

Lent Event – Uniting World

40 days of faith-filled action for God's creation

Invitation to Offering

Music for contemplation

Alone in the Tram – Mina Yu

Mina Yu (Piano)

Offering Prayer

*Let our gratitude for life be expressed in our generosity.
Let our faith be expressed in commitment to justice.
Let our belief in the future find full expression
in simple acts of compassion lived out in our ordinary lives.
Amen.*

Notices

Anthony Bendall (he/they)

Hymn

Take my gifts



Take my gifts and let me love you,
God who first of all loved me,
gave me light and food and shelter,
gave me life and set me free.

Now because your love has touched me,
I have love to give away,
now the bread of love is rising,
loaves of love to multiply!

Take the fruit that I have gathered
from the tree your Spirit sowed,
harvest of your own compassion,
juice that makes the wine of God,
spiced with humour, laced with laughter,
flavour of the Jesus life,
tang of risk and new adventure,
taste and zest beyond belief.

Take whatever I can offer,
gifts that I have yet to find,
skills that I am slow to sharpen,
talents of the hand and mind,
things made beautiful for others
in the place where I must be:
take my gifts and let me love you,
God who first of all loved me.

Words: Shirley Erena Murray (1931-2020)
Tune: Talavera Terrace
Colin Gibson (1933-2022)

Blessing and Sung Amen

Travel gently on the journey.
Know that Holy One who holds all things will be there.
That Christ who calls us friend will walk beside us
And the Spirit who makes all things new
will lead us with light and hope

Postlude

See you – Christopher Bear and Daniel Rossen
Mina Yu (Piano)

Acknowledgements

Art: “King’s Canyon, Northern Territory” by David Dawes

Contemporary Reading: “The Guest House” by Jalaluddin Rumi from *Rumi: Selected Poems*, trans Coleman Barks with John Moynce, A. J. Arberry, Reynold Nicholson (Penguin Books, 2004).

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

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

“Holy, holy, holy”. Words: adapted by Jim Burklo. Tune: Nicea. John Bacchus Dykes.

“Who would true valour see”. Words: John Bunyan. Tune: Monk’s Gate. English Traditional Melody. Ralph Vaughan Williams.

“How great the mystery of faith”. Words: Brian Wren. Tune: Ombersley. William Henry Gladstone.

“Take my gifts”. Words: Shirley Erena Murray. Tune: Talavera Terrace. Colin Gibson.

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Music Notes

Walking Along the Stream – Mina Yu

Melbourne based composer and pianist Mina Yu for her upcoming album ‘A Day and Life’. This piece explores today’s theme of ‘Resolving to be’ and is played for us today by the composer herself.

Mina Yu (Piano)

Alone in the Tram – Mina Yu

Also from Mina’s upcoming album is this piece, ‘Alone in the Tram’. It explores the feelings of isolation in a crowded place and how to overcome them.

Mina Yu (Piano)

See you - Christopher Bear and Daniel Rossen

This piece dates from 2023 and comes from the soundtrack of a film called 'Past Lives'. The composers have sought to capture the passage of time with this work.

Mina Yu (Piano)

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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