

ST MICHAEL'S
UNITING CHURCH



Day of Pentecost
8 June 2025

“Reinventing the Church”



Guest Minister: Rev Peter Burnham

Music: Susannah Ng (Violin)
& Rhys Boak (Organ & Piano)
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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Chair: Peter Anderson

Property

Chair: Anthony Bendall

Mission Coordinating

Chair: Ann Kinnear

Culture of Safety Contact

(Keeping Children Safe)

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Church Services

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Deputy: Val Gill

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Chair: Lyndell O'Brien

Deputy: Irene Renzenbrink

Jess Hand

Norm Chapman

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

As we gather, we acknowledge that we meet on the unceded land of the traditional owners, 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 have come from, wherever you are going to,
whatever you believe, whatever you don't believe,
you are welcome in this sacred space.*

Hymn

She sits like a bird, brooding on the waters



She sits like a bird, brooding on the waters,
hovering on the chaos of the world's first day;
she sighs and she sings, mothering creation,
waiting to give birth to all the Word will say.

She wings over earth, resting where she wishes,
lighting close at hand or soaring through the skies;
she nests in the womb, welcoming each wonder,
nourishing potential hidden to our eyes.

She dances in fire, startling her spectators,
waking tongues of ecstasy where dumbness reigned;
she weans and inspires all whose hearts are open,
nor can she be captured, silenced or restrained.

For she is the Spirit, one with God in essence,
gifted by the Saviour in eternal love;
she is the key opening the scriptures,
enemy of apathy and heavenly dove.

Words: Graham Maule (1958-)
Tune: Thainaky. John Bell (1949-)
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Prayer of Awareness

Jesus' Prayer

*Eternal Spirit,
Life-Giver, Pain-Bearer, Love-Maker.
Source of all that is and shall be.
Father and Mother of us all,
Loving God in whom is heaven:
The hallowing of your name echo
through the universe!
The way of your justice be followed
by all peoples of the world!
Your heavenly will be done
by all created beings!
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom
sustain our hope and come on earth.*

*With the bread we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
In times too great to endure, spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.
For you reign in the glory of the power that is love,
now and forever. Amen.*

Sharing a Sign of Peace

May the peace and love of Divine Presence be with you.
And also with you.

Hebrew Scripture: Genesis 11:1-9

Catherine Jones

For stories from ancient times that inform and inspire,

We give thanks.

The New Testament Scripture: Acts 2:1-21

For the story of the coming of the Spirit in Jerusalem,

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

“Whose mother tongue is love – a poem for Pentecost”
by Malcolm Guite

For Wisdom that invites and inspires,

We give thanks.

Music for contemplation

Meditation from Thais – Jules Massenet
Susannah Ng (Violin) & Rhys Boak (Piano)

Reflection

Rev Peter Burnham

“Reinventing the Church”

Hymn

Let us build a house



Let us build a house where love can dwell
and all can safely live,
a place where saints and children tell
how hearts learn to forgive;
built of hopes and dreams and visions,
rock of faith and vault of grace;
here the love of Christ shall end divisions:
*All are welcome, all are welcome,
all are welcome in this place.*

Let us build a house where prophets speak,
and words are strong and true,
where all God's children dare to seek
to dream God's reign anew.
Here the cross shall stand as witness
and as symbol of God's grace;
here as one we claim the faith of Jesus:
All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where hands will reach
beyond the wood and stone
to heal and strengthen, serve and teach,
and live the Word they've known.
Here the outcast and the stranger
bear the image of God's face;
let us bring an end to fear and danger:
All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where all are named,
their songs and visions heard
and loved and treasured, taught and claimed
as words within the Word.
Built of tears and cries and laughter,
prayers of faith and songs of grace,
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter:
All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

Words and Tune: Marty Haugen (1950 -)

Prayers of the people

In thanksgiving and solidarity

*In thanksgiving and solidarity and in silence,
we pray for the needs of the world,
for those we know and love, and for ourselves.*

After the prayers for the people and our world together we say:

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

Invitation to Offering

We share our offerings,
gifts given in many ways;
shared to sustain our common life.

Music for contemplation

Arioso – J.S. Bach arr. Rhys Boak
Susannah Ng (Violin) & Rhys Boak (Piano)

Offering Prayer

***May the gifts we bring serve as symbols of our deep desire
for Divine love to transform our time, effort, and substance
into works of creative compassion for each other,
for our wider community, and for the world beyond. Amen.***

Notices

Catherine Jones

Scattering 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

The news is that God's wind is blowing.
It may be a breeze that cools and comforts.
It may be a gust that picks you up and summons you to notice.
It may be a storm that blows you where you have never been before.
Whatever the wind is in your life pay attention to it.
And the blessing of the Divine Mystery go with you.
Amen.

Postlude

"Praise God you people all alike" – Sigfrid Karg-Elert
Rhys Boak (Organ)

Acknowledgements

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Contemporary Reading: “Whose mother tongue is love – a poem for Pentecost” by Malcolm Guite, Blog at WordPress.com

Jesus’ Prayer from “Uniting in worship, Book 2”

Prayers of the People from “Say One for Me: The Prayer Handbook for 1990 published by the United Reformed Church in the United Kingdom.

Blessing from “Prayers for Privileged People” by Walter Brueggemann, Abingdon Press, 2008

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Music Notes

Meditation from Thais – Jules Massenet (1842-1912)

A cornerstone of the violin repertoire, this work comes from Massenet's 1894 opera, Thais. This meditation is played during a scene in which the character Athanaël, a Cenobite Monk, tries to convert Thais (who is a devotee of Venus) to Christianity. Like a lot of fine music, this Meditation has taken on a life of its own and is far better known than the opera it is drawn from.

Susannah Ng (Violin) & Rhys Boak (Piano)

Arioso – J.S. Bach (1685-1750) arr. Rhys Boak

One of classical music's most beloved melodies, this Arioso from Bach is the epitome of the graceful Baroque melody. Bach liked it so much that this melody appears twice in his output, the first time as the sinfonia to the cantata Ich steh mit einem Fuß im Grabe, BWV 156 and as the middle movement of his harpsichord concerto BWV 1056. It is humbling to think that this melody dates from the early 18th century and has been a favourite of millions over the intervening century's right up until the present day.

Susannah Ng (Violin) & Rhys Boak (Piano)

“Praise God you people all alike” – Sigfrid Karg-Elert (1877-1933)

The German-born composer, Sigfrid Karg-Elert, is best known for his works for the organ and the art harmonium. His colourful and impressionistic use of harmony is as exotic as it is unique. This work is one of many hymn-based preludes that form his opus 65, each piece being based on a well-known Lutheran hymn melody or chorale.

Rhys Boak (Organ)

Musicians

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

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