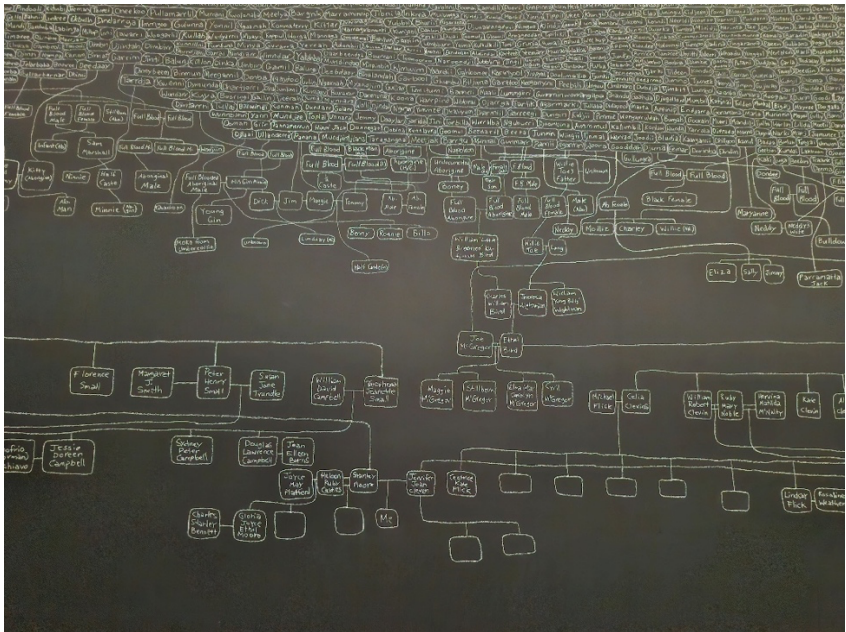




Third Sunday in Advent  
14 December 2025  
“Not who we expect?”



Supply Minister: Rev David Fotheringham

Music: Dr Joel Brennan (Trumpet) &  
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.

**Lead Supply Minister:** Rev David Fotheringham

**Pastoral Supply Minister:** Rev Peter Burnham

### **Church Council**

**Chairperson:** Laura Beckett

**Treasurer:** Ian Cox

**Secretary:** Val Gill

**Culture of Safety Contact**

(Keeping Children Safe)  
Val Gill

**Project Control Group**

Chair: Peter Anderson

**Church Services**

Chair: Lorraine Woolley  
Deputy: Val Gill

**Property**

Chair: Ian Cox

**Connection & Care**

Chair: Lyndell O'Brien  
Deputy: Irene Renzenbrink

**Mission Coordinating**

Chair: Ann Kinnear

Jess Hand

Norm Chapman

**Organist & Manager of Music**

Rhys Boak

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### **Church Office**

120 Collins Street Melbourne | Phone: 03 9654 5120  
Email: [office@stmichaels.org.au](mailto:office@stmichaels.org.au) | Web: [www.stmichaels.org.au](http://www.stmichaels.org.au)

## Processional

### Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge that the land on which St Michael's stands is the sovereign and unceded country of the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nation, who have cared for this Country for millennia.

**We pay our respects to their Elders, past and present,  
and commit to working for reconciliation and justice.**

### Welcome & Gathering

#### Gathering Hymn

#### Praise with joy the world's Creator



Praise with joy the world's Creator,  
God of justice, love and peace,  
Source and end of human knowledge,  
Force of greatness without cease.  
Celebrate the Maker's glory -  
Power to rescue and release.

Praise the Son who feeds the hungry,  
Frees the captive, finds the lost,  
Heals the sick, upsets religion,  
Fearless both of fate and cost.  
Celebrate Christ's constant presence -  
Friend and Stranger, Guest and Host.

Praise the Spirit sent among us,  
Liberating truth from pride,  
Forging bonds where race or gender,  
Age or nation dare divide.  
Celebrate the Spirit's treasure,  
Foolishness none dare deride.

Praise the Maker, son and Spirit,  
One God in community,  
Calling us to leave behind faith's  
Ghettoes and obscurity.  
Thus the world shall yet believe  
When shown Christ's vibrant unity.

Words: John L. Bell (1949-)  
and Graham Maule (1958-2020)

Tune: Praise, my soul. John Goss (1800-1880)

## 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.

May the peace of God be with you today.

Gospel: Luke 1:46b-55

Gospel: Matthew 11: 2-6

For the life and teaching of Jesus,

## Hymn

Though your tears be rivers running,  
though your tears be an ocean full,  
though you cry with the hurt of living:  
comfort, comfort.

Every valley shall be lifted,  
every mountain shall be low,  
every rough place will be smoother:  
**comfort, comfort.**

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***Refrain.***

## Contemporary Reading

For Wisdom that invites and inspires,

## We give thanks.

## Music for contemplation

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

## Reflection

Rev David Fotheringham

“Not who we expect?”

## Hymn

Not the powerful, not the privileged



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Not a well-established family,  
with an heirloom christening shawl,  
but a homeless, wandering couple  
parented the Lord of all.

Not, at first, to little children,  
nor to those whose faith burned bright,  
but to adults, stalled in darkness,  
angels brought God's love and light.

God, determined to be different  
from the standards we think best,  
in God's choice of friends and family,  
lets forgotten folk be blessed.

Not obsessed by our achievements,  
worldly wealth or family tree,  
may we, in and with God's chosen,  
find our fondest pedigree.

Words: John L. Bell (1949 -)

Tune: Pedigree

John L. Bell

## Prayers of the people

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

After the prayers we say together:

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

## Music for contemplation

Ballet des Champs-Élysées – Christoph von Gluck  
Dr Joel Brennan (Trumpet) & Rhys Boak (Organ)

## Offering Prayer

God of all,  
may our lives and our offerings  
contribute to the beauty of this world  
and the sharing of your love,  
in the name of Christ, Amen.

## Notices

### Scattering Hymn

Joyful, joyful, we adore you



Joyful, joyful, we adore you,  
God of glory, God of love;  
hearts unfold like flowers before you,  
opening to the sun above.  
Melt the clouds of loss and sadness;  
drive the dark of doubt away;  
giver of immortal gladness,  
fill us with the light of day!

All your works with joy surround you,  
earth and heaven reflect your rays,  
Stars and angels sing around you,  
centre of unbroken praise.  
Field and forest, vale and mountain,  
flowery meadow, flashing sea,  
Singing bird and flowing fountain  
call to praise you joyfully.

**You are giving and forgiving,  
ever blessing, ever blessed,  
wellspring of the joy of living,  
ocean depth of happy rest!  
God our Mother, Christ our brother,  
all are yours who live in love;  
teach us how to love each other,  
lift us to your joy above.**

Words: Henry Van Dyke, alt.

Tune: Hymn to Joy

Adapted from Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827)

## **Blessing and Sung Amen**

As you go to from here  
may your life reflect hope and love:  
may the blessing of God be with you  
to give you strength in the hard times,  
courage in the fearful times,  
hope in the dark times,  
and thankfulness and joy at all times  
in the knowledge of the love of God,  
Divine Mystery, Divine Wisdom, Divine Presence.

## **Postlude**

Prelude to a Te Deum – M.A. Charpentier arr. Rhys Boak  
Dr Joel Brennan (Trumpet) & Rhys Boak (Organ)

## Acknowledgements

Art: Detail from kith and kin by, Archie Moore, Kamilaroi/Bigambul peoples, Australia, 2024. Exhibited in the Queensland Art Gallery | Gallery of Modern Art. Photograph by David Fotheringham. The installation was the winner of the Golden Lion for Best National Participation at La Biennale de Venezia 2024.

Contemporary Reading: “(Are You) The One I’ve Been Waiting For?” by Nick Cave, 1997.

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

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## Music Notes

Air – Patricia Van Ness (b. 1951)

This beautiful work for trumpet and organ was commissioned in 2013 by the congregation of the first church, Cambridge. Van Ness is a composer based in Maine, as well as a noted poet and violinist.

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

Ballet des Champs-Élysées – Christoph von Gluck (1714-1787)

Gluck's Ballet des Champs-Élysées or Dance of the blessed spirits comes from his 1774 opera, Orfeo and Euridice.

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

Prelude to a Te Deum – M.A. Charpentier (1643-1704) arr. Rhys Boak

This joyful and somewhat catchy tune is perhaps the best-known work of the French Baroque composer Marc-Antoine Charpentier. The work has been used for many radio and TV productions and is also popular for weddings.

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

## Musicians

You can find biographical profiles of St Michael's Guest Musicians on our website. [stmichaels.org.au/musicians-bios](http://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](http://stmichaels.org.au/giving)

## Notices


St Michael's Notices are included in the weekly eNews.

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