



Transfiguration Sunday

15 February 2026

“Who lives, who dies,
who tells your story?”



Lead Supply Minister:
Rev David Fotheringham

Music: Dr Elyane Laussade (Piano)

Dr Robert J. Stove (Piano – Hymns)

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

Culture of Safety Contact

(Keeping Children Safe)

Val Gill

Treasurer: Ian Cox

Church Services

Chair: Lorraine Woolley

Secretary: Val Gill

Property

Chair: Robert Cleghorn

Project Control Group

Mission Coordinating

Chair: Peter Anderson

Chair: Ann Kinnear

Connection & Care

Norm Chapman

Cheryl Power

Co-Chair: Lyndell O'Brien

Catherine Jones

Organist & Manager of Music

Rhys Boak

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Processional

Welcome and Acknowledgement of Country

*Wherever you are on your spiritual journey,
Wherever you have come from, wherever you are going to,
Whatever you believe, whatever you do not believe,
You are welcome.*

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.**

Hymn

Here in this place (Gather us in)

**Here in this place, new light is streaming,
now is the darkness vanished away.
See, in this space, our fears and our dreamings,
brought here to you in the light of this day.
Gather us in, the lost and forsaken,
gather us in, the blind and the lame.
Call to us now, and we shall awaken,
we shall arise at the sound of our name.**

We are the young, our lives are a mystery,
we are the old, who yearn for your face.
We have been sung throughout all of history,
called to be light to the whole human race.
Gather us in, the rich and the haughty,
gather us in, the proud and the strong.
Give us a heart so meek and so lowly,
give us the courage to enter the song.

Here we will take the wine and the water,
here we will take the bread of new birth.
Here you shall call your sons and your daughters,
call us anew to be salt of the earth.
Give us to drink the wine of compassion,
give us to eat the bread that is you.
Nourish us well, and teach us to fashion
lives that are holy and hearts that are true.
Not in the dark of buildings confining,
not in some heaven, light years away,
but here in this space, the new light is shining;
now is the Kingdom, now is the day.
Gather us in, and hold us forever,
gather us in, and make us your own.
Gather us in, all peoples together,
fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

Words and Tune: Marty Haugen (1950-)
Tune: Gather us in

Prayer of Awareness

Eternal God, our keeper, and our companion,
you who created the stars and the earth, the hills and the mudflats,
sheep and seagulls and dolphins, the cyclones and the clear still days;

**You who created the galaxies and the sunbeams
and the particles of dust that float in them,
you have put everything in motion and you hold all life together.**

And now we remember that you have created us
also: carefully you knit us together, body and spirit, emotions and mind.
O God, hold our life together too.

**Within ourselves we carry the stresses of the week,
a week of too much to do, or not enough to do,
of too many people wanting our time,
of not enough people wanting us;
a week of trying to keep the different strands
of our lives in some sort of order,
of trying to change behaviour patterns that aren't
working, and finding ways that do work.**

You created us, O God, like the galaxies, like the sunbeams
and the particles of dust. You know what we are like –hold us together.

**Come deep without our hearts, into the inmost centre,
the very core of our being.**

There let the flame of love burn quietly,
let it bring light into our darkness, and warmth into our coldness.

**Let it burn away what we don't need:
the pettiness, the hidden cruelties, the manipulations
and power games, the subtle violations of other people,
especially those we love the most.**

Sharing a Sign of Peace

The peace of God be with you today.

And also with you.

Gospel: Matthew 5: 38-48

Laura Beckett

For words of witness to Jesus' teaching,

We give thanks.

Epistle: 2 Peter 1: 16-19

For words of witness to Jesus,

We give thanks.

Hymn

Joyful, joyful, we adore you (TIS 152)

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!**

**You our lover, Christ ever loving,
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.

Contemporary Reading

“When Glory” by Jan Richardson

For vision that sustains us,

We give thanks.

Music for contemplation

December from 'The Seasons' – Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky

Dr Elyane Laussade (Piano)

Reflection

Rev David Fotheringham

“Who lives, who dies, who tells your story?”

Hymn

How good, Lord, to be here (TIS 234)



**How good, Lord, to be here!
your glory fills the night;
your face and garments, like the sun,
shine with unborrowed light.**

**How good, Lord, to be here,
your beauty to behold,
where Moses and Elijah stand,
your messengers of old.**

**Fulfiller of the past,
promise of things to be:
we hail your body glorified,
and our redemption see.**

**Before we taste of death,
we see your Kingdom come;
we still would hold the vision bright,
and make this hill our home.**

**How good, Lord, to be here!
yet we may not remain;
but since you bid us leave the mount
come with us to the plain.**

Words: Joseph Armitage Robinson (1858-1933) alt.

Tune: Carlisle. Charles Lockhart (1745-1815)

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.

Jesus' Prayer

**Gracious Spirit, who loves us unconditionally,
whose realm is even now emerging among us and within us.**

**We pray that your compassion guide us in every action.
May we receive what we need for each day,
and help us to be satisfied with the miracle of that alone.**

**Forgiver, whose embrace brings us to wholeness
may we reconcile ourselves to one another with grace.**

**And may we cancel the crushing debts
that imprison our neighbours
so that communities of justice and joy may flourish.**

**May we neither profit from nor ignore evil
but ever work to thwart it with non-violence
as we co-create the realm of peace in this world.
Now and each day. Amen.**

Music for contemplation

January from 'The Seasons' – Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky
Dr Elyane Laussade (Piano)

Offering Prayer

God of all,

We bring our gifts for the work and worship of this community;
may our lives and offerings mark our loving commitment
to your beauty and justice wherever we find ourselves.

Amen.

Notices

Scattering Hymn



Spirit of hopefulness (TIS 613)



Spirit of hopefulness, spirit of joy,
whose trust, ever childlike, no cares could destroy,
be there at our waking and give us, we pray,
your bliss in our hearts, Love, at the break of the day.

Spirit of eagerness, spirit of faith,
whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe,
be there at our labours and give us, we pray,
your strength in our hearts, Love, at the noon of the day.

Spirit of kindliness, spirit of grace,
your hands swift to welcome, your arms to embrace,
be there at our homing and give us, we pray,
your love in our hearts, Love, at the eve of the day.

**Spirit of gentleness, spirit of calm,
whose voice is contentment, whose presence is balm,
be there at our sleeping and give us, we pray,
your peace in our hearts, Love, at the end of the day.**

Words: Joyce Placzek ('Jan Struther') (1901-53)

Tune: Slane 2. Irish traditional melody

Blessing and Sung Amen

May the light of the Divine shine in your darkness.
May the love of the Divine be the love between you.
May the life of the Divine be your life everlasting.

And the blessing of God,
Divine Mystery, Divine Word, Divine Presence,
be with you now and always.

Postlude

February from 'The Seasons' – Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky
Dr Elyane Laussade (Piano)

Acknowledgements

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Prayer of Awareness: "You know what we're like" by Terry C Falla. From *Be Our Freedom Lord: Responsive Prayers and Readings for Contemporary Worship*.
Jesus' Prayer. Bret Hesla, in *Worship in the spirit of Jesus*. J Nelson-Pallmeyer, ed.
Adapted by Margaret Mayman.
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Music Notes

December from 'The Seasons' – Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky (1840-1893)

The celebrated Russian composer Pyotr Tchaikovsky composed a set of piano works, one for each month of the year, for the St. Petersburg music magazine. A new piece would appear with each issue of the magazine from December 1875 to the November of 1876. Elyane will perform the entire work for us in instalments throughout this year.

Dr Elyane Laussade (Piano)

January from 'The Seasons' – Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky (1840-1893)

The poem that accompanied this movement of 'The Seasons' is *Au coin du feu* (At the Fireside) - *A little corner of peaceful bliss, the night dressed in twilight; the little fire is dying in the fireplace, and the candle has burned out.*

Dr Elyane Laussade (Piano)

February from 'The Seasons' – Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky (1840-1893)

The poem that accompanied this movement describes a communal feast with sentiments of togetherness and friendship.

Dr Elyane Laussade (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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Information about ways to give is available on our website.

stmichaels.org.au/giving