



*The Footscray Baptist Church celebrates the God-given diversity of cultures. We welcome you to join us in the journey of faith, whatever your race, religion, capability, gender or sexuality.*

## *Order of Service - January 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2022*

### *Celebrating Epiphany*

#### *Acknowledgement of Country (Cheryl)*

For thousands of years Indigenous people have walked  
in this land, on their own country.

Their relationship with the land is at the centre of their lives.

We acknowledge the Wurrundjeri people of the Kulin Nation and their stewardship  
of this land throughout the ages.

We honour their history, their elders, past, present and emerging and commit to work  
for reconciliation between all people, God and the land.

Welcome everybody to worship!

#### *Welcome*

#### *Lighting the Candle - Jesus said 'I Am the Light of the World' (Sunny)*

#### *Call to Worship*

Arise, shine for our light has come.

**And the glory of the Lord has risen upon us all.**

Darkness covered the earth and all its peoples.

**But the Lord has arisen and his glory has appeared,**

Nations have seen the light

**And kings the brightness of the dawn.**

Lift up your eyes and look around, gather together all you people,

**Then we shall see God's radiance,**

**Our hearts will rejoice and**

**We shall receive an abundance of love.**

Wise men brought gold, frankincense and myrrh to proclaim their praise.

**We now bring all that we have and are to sing praise to you. Amen**

*(Written by Cheryl Williams, 2003 based on Isaiah 60:1-6)*

*Hymn: As With Gladness* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UB8rKNrlpDQ>

#### *Opening Prayer*

God of all time,

We praise and adore you for breaking into the darkness of this world with the glorious  
light of your presence.

A light which made your love for the world visible in the babe born in Bethlehem – Jesus  
Christ, your Son, our Saviour.

A light which guided those gift-bearing travellers from afar to find and worship the  
Christ-child.

A light which leads us to you, now revealed in Jesus Christ.

We pray that you will accept our worship for it arises from hearts and minds in awe over the enormity of your gift to us of pure love. In Jesus name we pray. Amen.

(Written by Rev Moira B Laidlaw – [moira@liturgiesonline](mailto:moira@liturgiesonline))

### *Bible Reading: Ephesians 3:1-12 (NRSV)*

This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles - for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you, and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. If this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of his power. Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

### *Passing the Peace*

Shalom my friends  
God's peace my friends  
Go with you now  
And stay with you  
In all you do  
Shalom, shalom.

### *Bible Readings: Mathew 2:1-12 (NRSV)*

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem <sup>2</sup> and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him."

<sup>3</sup> When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. <sup>4</sup> When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. <sup>5</sup> "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written:

<sup>6</sup> "But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,  
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;  
for out of you will come a ruler  
who will shepherd my people Israel."

<sup>7</sup> Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup> He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him."

<sup>9</sup> After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup> When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. <sup>11</sup> On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. <sup>12</sup> And having

been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

Song: We Three Kings <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SUBTERdTKUg>

Children's Talk: Persian Legend of the Stone

Reflection: A New Journey Begins

Communion Song: Come to the Banquet

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=czRLWLOoqj8>

Communion

Invitation

The magi from the East knew of your child only by what the silent stars could tell. Draw us again to that child so that in him we might find the fulfilment of all our searching.

*(Based on a prayer by Nathan Nettleton 2000)*

Prayer of Preparation

We give you thanks, O God, for Your love for the world  
Your lifegiving light replaced the darkness of chaos

**A light which has nurtured generations of people,  
A light which reveals the fear caused by evil**

Through your love for the world the Word became flesh and lived among us full of grace and truth.

The angels carolled glory to you in the highest heavens and peace to all people on earth, The travellers with their treasures were overwhelmed with joy on finding Jesus, so we also are overwhelmed on finding out the depth of his love for us.

For Jesus showed just how beloved we are to him, by loving us and giving himself for us. Send the power of your Holy Spirit upon these gifts of bread and wine, O God, that we may experience the presence of the Word-made-flesh – Jesus Christ.

Breathe your Spirit in us that we may be one body with him – living out his ministry in the world today and every day. This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

*(Based on prayer written by Rev Moira B Laidlaw – [moira@liturgiesonline](mailto:moira@liturgiesonline))*

Words of Institution - Luke 22:14-20

**14** When the hour came, Jesus and his apostles reclined at the table. **15** And he said to them, "I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. **16** For I tell you, I will not eat it again until it finds fulfilment in the kingdom of God."

**17** After taking the cup, he gave thanks and said, "Take this and divide it among you. **18** For I tell you I will not drink again from the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes."

**19** And he took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me."

<sup>20</sup> In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you.

### Prayers for the Church & World

Remembering:

- Those known to us who struggle with their health
- For those who wait to hear about their visas –
- Places and people affected by the **Omicron** strain of Covid
- Places of conflict – **Afghanistan, Myanmar**
- For our neighbours at **Westhaven**
- Doctors, nurses, ambulance officers and welfare workers, all working to provide assistance in this pandemic
- Global Interaction – sharing the good news in the world
- Baptist World Aid – work with the poor in the world
- Our friends at Sanctuary and the Houses of Hope in Footscray

Silence – in the silence and through our minds and imaginations we bring prayers which words cannot contain:

*(p. 56-7 A Wee Worship Book)*

For those who journey with uncertainty, fear and worry – **be the Guide Star**

For those who journey with illness, betrayal and broken hearts – **be the Guide Star**

For war torn communities, victims of racism and violence – **be the Hope Light**

For those who yearn for an end to pain, grief and loss – **be the Hope Light**

We name now those who especially come to mind and need our prayer:

*(Prayer from liturgy by Rev James Lewis)*

### The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,

Your Kingdom come,

Your will be done on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

### Offering

Instead of gold, frankincense and myrrh, we bring to you. O God, the treasures you have first given to us – our hearts, minds, bodies, to be used in your service. We offer these gifts – of money and our lives – as signs of our total giving, praying that they will be used to herald the coming of your kingdom. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

*(Written by Rev Moira B Laidlaw – [moira@liturgiesonline](mailto:moira@liturgiesonline))*

Offerings can be made by using our direct debit facility or placed in plates at entrances and exits of the church

**Footscray Baptist Church**

**BSB: 083 437**

**Account No: 515383063**

## News & Notices

- **Today's** service will not be on zoom or live streamed, copies of the service and sermon can be found on our website.
- **Reflective Prayer** –recommences on Thursday January 27<sup>th</sup> at 5pm on zoom. Please contact Ros or Chery for an invite.
- **Food Donations for Sanctuary** –canned chickpeas, red lentils, tuna in oil, oil, kidney beans. Please no cereal as they do not eat cereals.

•

Song: Christ Be Our Light <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j3atFl7r78I>

## Blessing

May our walk with God be guided by the One who moves stars and births hope.

May we find treasures unearthed in ourselves as we share our gifts with others.

May we be richly rewarded as we seek the Way of wisdom.

May all our nights be lit with a sense of homecoming, even when we feel lost or alone.

And may the steadfast love of God sing us onwards in faith, hope and love.

Amen.

*(Prayer from liturgy by Rev James Lewis)*