



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 - June 13th, 2021

Welcome and Acknowledgement of Country

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!

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

Call to Worship

O Lord, our God,

We come today to give you thanks and sing your praises.

We will declare your steadfast love in the mornings

We will declare your faithfulness by night

With music and singing we declare our praise to you

We look around and see the works of your hands and we sing for joy.

Those who live in your love will flourish like palm trees, like cedars in Lebanon

We will dwell here in your house

May we flourish in your world. Amen.

(Prayer by Cheryl Williams based on Psalm 92:1-4, 12-13)

Song: How Great Thou Art https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PdE_NKyY_o0

Opening Prayer

We are not alone. We live in God's world.

We believe in God.

Who has created and is creating.

Who has come in Jesus,

The Word made flesh,

To reconcile and make new,

Who works in us and others

By the Spirit.

We trust in God.

We are called to be the church:

To celebrate God's presence,

To love and serve others,

To seek justice and resist evil,

To proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,

Our judge and our hope.

In life, in death, in life beyond death:

God is with us.

We are not alone.

Thanks be to God.

(From 'A New Creed' by United Church of Canada in Bread of Tomorrow (ed) Janet Morley, p. 164)

Bible Reading: Ezekiel 17:22-24 (NRSV)

Thus says the Lord GOD: I myself, will take a sprig, from the lofty top of a cedar; I will set it out. I will break off a tender one, from the topmost of its young twigs; I myself will plant it on a high and lofty mountain. ²³ On the mountain height of Israel I will plant it, in order that it may produce boughs and bear fruit, and become a noble cedar. Under it every kind of bird will live; in the shade of its branches will nest winged creatures of every kind. ²⁴ All the trees of the field shall know that I am the LORD. I bring low the high tree, I make high the low tree; I dry up the green tree and make the dry tree flourish. I the LORD have spoken; I will accomplish it.

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 Reading: Mark 4:26-34 (NRSV)

²⁶ He also said, "The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, ²⁷ and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. ²⁸ The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. ²⁹ But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come." ³⁰ He also said, "With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? ³¹ It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; ³² yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade." ³³ With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; ³⁴ he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.

Children's Talk: The Mustard Seed <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wnnxF-dg6SM&t=192s>

Children's Song: If I Were A Butterfly
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LjQxcWdVF1I>

Reflection: Seeds, Seeds, Seeds (Cheryl)

Prayers for the Church & World

Remembering:

- Those known to us who struggle with their health
- For those who wait to hear about their visas
- Nat and Tim as they prepare for the birth of their first child

- Sri Lankan family on Christmas Island, especially with their daughter in hospital in Perth
- Those affected by the floods in Gippsland and storm throughout Victoria
- The people of **India** (and family here in Australia) as they deal with the Covid crisis
- For our neighbours at Westhaven
- Those who have Covid 19 – the vaccine rollout, treatments and testing, those in lockdown in Victoria
- Those affected by political unrest in especially **Afghanistan, Chin State, Colombia, Kachin State, Karen State and Rakine State and all of Myanmar, Lebanon, Russia, Thailand, United States & Yemin**
- Global Interaction – the work amongst the Ethnic Thai men, women and children
- Baptist World Aid – Thank God for work done by BWA partners in Bangladesh, Cambodia, Lebanon & Solomon Islands
- Our friends at Sanctuary and the Houses of Hope in Footscray
- Our friends in Kenya as they continue to grow their church

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

(p. 56-7 A Wee Worship Book)

Hear the prayers of our hearts as we continue to pray for your world.

We pray for people all over the world:

We pray for those who are trapped in poverty

We pray for those in danger from war, terrorism, persecution and violence

We pray for leaders and all who work for peace.

Sow in our hearts the seeds of faith, that from small deeds of justice your presence will grow and be felt in the world.

We pray for people in our community:

We pray for all who are without work or means of support, especially as a result of this lockdown

We pray for those who feel unwanted, unvalued and unloved

We pray for our families, our friends, our children and ourselves

Sow in our hearts the seeds of faith, that from small deeds of love your presence will grow and be felt in the world.

We pray for all in need:

We pray for those who long for companionship

We pray for those who fear the present and the future

We pray for those who are in pain or ill and those who care for them

Sow in our hearts the seeds of faith, that from small deeds of compassion your presence will grow and be felt in the world.

Finally, we pray for ourselves:

We ask that we might grow in our understanding of you

We ask that by your Spirit we be enabled to sow justice, love and compassion wherever we find ourselves.

May your presence will grow and be felt in the world.

(Prayer by Cheryl Williams based on p198-99 of 'Let us Pray' by Janet Nelson)

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.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen**

Song: Lord Let Me See

<http://rosslangmead.50webs.com/rl/Downloads/SongsMP3/LordLetMeSee.mp3>

© Ross Langmead (www.rosslangmead.com)

May be used freely for non-commercial purposes

Offering

Generous God,

Take the money and lives we bring before you now. Use it to sow justice, love and compassion in the life of the community around us. Amen.

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

- **Services During Winter** – we are considering moving our services to the Hall Green Room during winter as it will be warmer. To do that we need a couple of things – if you have a spare projector and/or electronic keyboard at home we could use please let Cheryl or a deacon know.
- **June 20 – World Refugee Day**
- **Clearing out Blue Room** – Help needed to clear out and clean Blue Room in readiness for a new tenant, speak to Ros or Cheryl if you can help
- **Bible Studies** – if you are interested in joining a group, please let Cheryl know.
- **Reflective Prayer** – Thursday June 17th at 5pm via zoom. Speak to Ros or Cheryl if you are interested and we can send you an invite
- **Food Donations for Sanctuary** – beans, lentils, rice, pasta, tuna. Please no cereal as they do not eat cereals. Donations are being picked up sometime in June after lockdown ends.

Song: Now Thank We All Our God

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s99dNPKYtHk>

Blessing

Go with the strength you have.

Go simply.

Lightly

Gently

In search of Love.

And the Spirit go with you. Amen.

(From Be Our Freedom Lord, p.249)