



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 - October 3rd, 2021

St. Francis Day & Blessing of the Animals

Opening Music: *Morning Has Broken* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=we-n-Zmgl0>

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 (Cheryl)

- True Spring for the Wurrundjeri people – the season of the orchid and sacred kingfisher
- Today we celebrate St. Francis. October 4th is the feast day for St. Francis and also World Animal Day

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

Call to Worship

Praise our God, all the earth,

Whales and penguins and all who call the sea home

Fire and rain, snow and sun refreshing and reviving us

Fruit tree and tall gum

Mountain range and desert plain

Kangaroo and emu

Blue tongue lizard and magpie

All the peoples of the earth – women, men, children and elders

Let us praise our God!

Our God is exalted

God's glory is above the heavens and the earth

All of us who desire to be faithful, to draw close to God

Praise our God!

(Prayer by Cheryl Williams, September 2021, based on Psalm 148:7-14)

Song: All Things Bright and Beautiful

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1HyWkC64X08>

Opening Prayer

We give thanks to our God, who is good and whose love endures forever.

With the sun, moon and stars of the sky

we give you thanks and praise.

From sunrise until sunset, night and day

we give you thanks and praise

With mountains and paddocks, desert and rainforest,

we give you thanks and praise

With wind and waves, gums and ferns, storms and gentle breezes,

we give you thanks and praise

With platypus and coral, crocodile and frilled necked lizard,

we give you thanks and praise

With kookaburra and emu, kangaroo and wombat,

we give you thanks and praise

With cows and sheep, blue heelers and chickens,

we give you thanks and praise

With cats and dogs, rabbits and birds,

we give you thanks and praise

With women and men, children and older folk of every race,

we give you thanks and praise.

Amen.

(Prayer by Cheryl Williams September 2021, based on 'Cosmic Hymn of Praise', in Be Our Freedom Lord, p.107)

Bible Reading: Genesis 1:20-25 (NRSV)

²⁰ And God said, "Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky." ²¹ So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm, and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good. ²² God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth." ²³ And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day. ²⁴ And God said, "Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind." And it was so. ²⁵ God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind, and the cattle of every kind, and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good.

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: Matthew 6:25-29(NRSV)

²⁵ "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? ²⁶ Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? ²⁷ And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? ²⁸ And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, ²⁹ yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these.

Children's Talk: Which is your favourite animal?

Children's Song: If I were a butterfly

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

Blessing of the Animals

May you be blessed in the name of the One who created you.
May you enjoy life with the rest of creation and with our God. Amen

Reflection: St. Francis and the Animals

Communion Song: Seed Scattered and Sown

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2Y3imq5aFzk>

Communion

Invitation

Come, to the table
Share with all in need:
the gift of healing,
the gift of forgiveness,
the gift of assurance,
and the gift of hope.

Prayer of Preparation

Let us give thanks to our Creator.
Your Word is the impulse for all things to be,
for space, stars, and stardust to appear,
for Earth to emerge from the deep,
for life to be born of Earth and for humans to be born of Earth and the Spirit.

You chose to be born a human being, to become a part of Earth, to suffer, die,
and rise from death to redeem humankind,
to renew creation, and affirm all born of Earth and the Spirit.
Your presence is the living impulse in all things,
the Christ deep among us, filling Earth—land, sea and air;
filling every element and place;
filling the grain and the grape we share with you this day.

We join the ancient voices in the forest,
high voices from the sky,
deep voices from the sea
and the whole company of creation,
we proclaim your presence among us
God of all life, Earth and sea and sky and all things that exist are full of your presence
and glorify your name. Amen

(Prayers based on Liturgies for Season of Creation – Blessing of the Animals)

Words of Institution: Mark 14:22-26)

While they were eating, he took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to them, and said, "Take; this is my body." ²³ Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, and all of them drank from it. ²⁴ He said to them, "This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many. ²⁵ Truly, I tell you, I will never again drink

of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God.”

²⁶ When they had sung the hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

Sharing Bread & Wine

Grain and grape, symbols of God's love for us.

Bread of life, Cup of blessing

Let's eat and drink with thanksgiving

Prayers for the Church & World

Remembering:

- Those known to us who struggle with their health
- For those who wait to hear about their visas –Nia & family, members of the Persian congregation
- Those living with the effects of an earthquake in **Crete**
- Those living with the effects of lava still spilling out from a volcano on the **Canary Islands**
- The people of **Myanmar**
- The people of **Afghanistan**, those who are displaced, those that are fearful, those in danger, those who have fled
- For our neighbours at **Westhaven**
- The increasing numbers of people in Australia who have Covid 19 – the vaccine rollout, treatments, testing
- Doctors, nurses, ambulance officers and welfare workers, all working to provide assistance in this pandemic
- Those living in lockdown in ACT, New South Wales & Victoria
- Those affected by political unrest
- Global Interaction- the team working with people in Outback Australia
- Baptist World Aid – the people of Afghanistan
- 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)

Creator of all life,

We pray for all the animals in the world:

- For those nearing extinction
- For those we have neglected
- For those we have mistreated
- For those whose homes we have destroyed

Teach us to love and respect them all

We pray for people living in the midst of conflict

- Children, women and men in Afghanistan, fearing the future
- People in villages and cities in Myanmar, fearful of the military
- People in Somalia, fearful of what might happen next

Grant them all safety and peace

We pray for the covid situation in the world

- For those grieving the loss of loved ones
- For those unwell

- For those who are caring for patients
- For those making decisions about the next steps
- For those waiting and hoping for a share of the vaccines

Grant them comfort and wisdom

We pray for those in our community, who:

- Are in pain or fear
- Are disillusioned or disappointed
- Are uncertain or doubtful

Grant them all solace and peace

May we like St Francis walk in the ways of Jesus, delighting in and caring for all creation. Amen.

We pray in the name of Jesus who taught us to pray ...

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: Make Me A Channel of Your Peace

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p8Jr2o7oewU>

Offering

Creating God,

You have given us much in which to delight.

How can we every repay you?

Take that which we bring before you now – our offerings of love and money.

Use it to bring joy into this world.

Amen.

(Prayer by Cheryl Williams, September 2021)

Offerings can be made by using our direct debit facility or placed in plates at entrances and exits of the church when we return to face to face worship.

Footscray Baptist Church

BSB: 083 437

Account No: 515383063

News & Notices

- **Breakout Rooms** – immediately after the service we will break into smaller groups to chat and then come back to the bigger group. When asked on the screen all you need to is hit join. If you need to leave the meeting just hit leave.
- **Deacon's** meeting next week Oct 10th straight after church on zoom
- **Reflective Prayer** – Thursday October 7th at 5pm on zoom. Contact Ros or Cheryl for an Invite.
- **Chat Groups** – whilst in lockdown an opportunity to catch up with each other on zoom. Based on attendance we will only continue the ones on Monday, Tuesday

and Friday. If you would like to chat at another time, I will set it up. Emails with invites will be sent out each week and posted on facebook

Monday's at 2pm

Tuesday's at 7.30pm

Friday at 5.30pm

- **Food Donations for Sanctuary** – beans, lentils, rice, pasta, tuna. Please no cereal as they do not eat cereals.

Song: All Creatures of our God and King

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0d3gO6qDLNA>

Blessing

May God bless us with discomfort at easy answers, half-truths and superficial relationships, so that we will live deeply in our hearts.

May God bless us with anger at injustice, oppression and exploitation of people and the earth, so that we will work for justice, equity and peace.

May God bless us with tears to shed for those who suffer, so that we will reach out our hands to comfort them and change their pain to joy.

And may God bless us with the foolishness to think that we can make a difference in our world, so that we will do the things which others say cannot be done.

(Prayer attributed to St. Francis)