



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 - November 22nd, 2020

Baptist World Aid - Be Hope

Music: O Worship the King <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NOnOAxIhGeU>

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!

Today we celebrate the Feast of Christ the King. We also shall focus on the work of
Baptist World Aid.

We will hold our November Quarterly Meeting immediately following today's service.

Lighting the Candle - *Jesus said 'I Am the Light of the World'*

Call to Worship

We come, for God gathers us here, with that community called faith:

where the hungry are served first, where the thirsty drink life's water.

We come, for God welcomes us here into that home called grace:

**where the naked are clothed in robes of hope; where the stranger is embraced as
the long-lost prodigal.**

We come, for God reunites us here, sisters and brothers in that family called love:

where the imprisoned model justice, where the sick are cradled in God's peace.

(Prayer by c) 2014 Thom M. Shuman found at lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/2014/11/liturgy-for-november-23-2014-reign-of.html

Song - Meekness and Majesty <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4tK1hQpacs8>

Opening Prayer

King of the poor to whom belongs the kingdom of heaven, we thank you for your mercy
and enduring love

**King of the sorrowful who experience a comfort this world cannot give, we thank
you for your mercy and enduring love**

King of the meek, who are destined to inherit the earth, we thank you for your mercy
and enduring love

King of the hungry and thirsty to whom are given heavenly bread and wine, we thank you for your mercy and enduring love

King of the merciful who receive far more than they ever give or expect, we thank you for your mercy and enduring love

King of the pure of heart, who see God where others see wilderness and despair, we thank you for your mercy and enduring love

King of the peacemakers, who receive the right to be called children of God, we thank you for your mercy and enduring love

King of persecuted believers, who rejoice to be counted worthy of suffering for Christ's sake, we thank you for your mercy and enduring love

Thanks be to you, God of Christ our Wounded King,

For yours in the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen

(Prayer by Bruce Prewer)

Bible Reading: Ezekiel 34:11-24 (NRSV)

¹¹For thus says the Lord GOD: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. ¹²As shepherds seek out their flocks when they are among their scattered sheep, so I will seek out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. ¹³I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land; and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. ¹⁴I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. ¹⁵I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord GOD. ¹⁶I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice. ¹⁷As for you, my flock, thus says the Lord GOD: I shall judge between sheep and sheep, between rams and goats: ¹⁸Is it not enough for you to feed on the good pasture, but you must tread down with your feet the rest of your pasture? When you drink of clear water, must you foul the rest with your feet? ¹⁹And must my sheep eat what you have trodden with your feet, and drink what you have fouled with your feet? ²⁰Therefore, thus says the Lord GOD to them: I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. ²¹Because you pushed with flank and shoulder, and butted at all the weak animals with your horns until you scattered them far and wide, ²²I will save my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged; and I will judge between sheep and sheep. ²³I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. ²⁴And I, the LORD, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them; I, the LORD, have spoken.

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: Matthew 25: 31 -42 (NRSV)

³¹ “When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. ³² All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, ³³ and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. ³⁴ Then the king will say to those at his right hand, ‘Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; ³⁵ for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, ³⁶ I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.’ ³⁷ Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? ³⁸ And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? ³⁹ And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?’ ⁴⁰ And the king will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.’ ⁴¹ Then he will say to those at his left hand, ‘You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; ⁴² for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, ⁴³ I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.’ ⁴⁴ Then they also will answer, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?’ ⁴⁵ Then he will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.’ ⁴⁶ And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

Children's Talk & Reflection:

Vulnerable Children Video <https://vimeo.com/473306908>

Disaster Video <https://vimeo.com/473302588>

Reflecting on Matthew 25 - Cheryl

Our reading today teaches us that God is encountered in the faces of the least – the poor, the ragged, the scrappy, the ill, the jailbirds. Living kingdom life means seeking out the hungry, thirsty, sick, naked, imprisoned, stranger and working to meet their needs. This is what it means to live in the reign of Christ

So, do we help those that are needy because that is where Jesus awaits us? No, we love one another and show spontaneous care and have as our focus the other person's good – to act in any other way is to exploit them as a tool to encounter God.

Living the faith means trying to find ways to feed those who are hungry for food, for love, for acceptance. Trying to find ways to give refreshing drinks to those who thirst for meaning and for purpose. Trying to find ways to welcome the strangers, sharing our land and resources with the refugee and asylum seeker and others in need in our midst. Trying to find ways of clothing the poor with dignity, to care for those who are ill in body, mind or spirit, to build up those who are imprisoned by walls or fears or prejudice. To do so is to be who we truly are, those who have been invited into the kingdom of Jesus. It is here that we find Christ and discover what it means to be a community of faith.

One way to live as kingdom people might be to buy BWA Christmas Gift cards.

Prayers for the Church & World

Remembering:

- Those known to us who have struggled with their health
- For those who wait to hear about their visas
- For those doing exams, final assignments or marking papers
- For those living in aged care, those caring for them, especially our neighbours at Westhaven
- Those who have Covid 19, those in hospital and families who have lost loved ones, those working on cures, vaccines, treatments. For places experiencing increases in Covid 19 cases
- Those affected by political unrest in especially Armenia & Azerbaijan, Ethiopia, Kachin State & Thailand
- Those affected by the aftermath of the typhoons in the Philippines
- Those affected by the fall out of the report into war crimes in Afghanistan, both those in Afghanistan and the ADF
- Global Interaction – the churches, leaders and bible translation of bible in Papua New Guinea, The churches in Zambia and Zimbabwe
- Baptist World Aid – those supporting people with CoVid and those help many stay safe across the world
- Our friends at Sanctuary and the Houses of Hope in Footscray
- Our friends in Kenya as they prepare to build a church building on recently acquired land

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

(p. 56-7 A Wee Worship Book)

Lord God, hear the prayers of our hearts as we continue to pray for your church:

Our God, you call us to be Church:

Enable us to create – across cultural, age and class boundaries – a laboratory of peace, testing out your vision of community and love as we struggle to live with our differences.

Our God, you call us to be Church:

Enable us to be a parable of the Kingdom, allowing the upside-down values of your commonwealth to nudge us away from the acquisitive and self-regarding attitudes of our day.

Our God, you call us to be Church:

Enable us to be a sign of contradiction among the nations, pointing to hope in the midst of disillusion, offering non-violent resistance when evil threatens, accepting loss of prestige or wealth in the cause of justice.

Our God, you call us to be Church:

Enable us to be a place of welcome and warmth, where what is ignored elsewhere may be heard and honoured, where sorrows may be shared and stories told, where hard questions may be asked and new ideas greeted with joy.

Our God, you call us to be Church:

Enable us to be a community of praise, cracking open the dry husks of cynicism and

despair, being clowns and jesters for Christ, celebrating the mystery of faith in stillness and song. Amen.

(Prayer A Litany: 'Call to be Church' by Kate Compston)

Song: God of the Poor (Beauty for brokenness)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3kVHKuldZyw>

Offering

Eternal God,

With cheerful voices and thankful hearts, we offer to you these gifts and our lives. May Christ rule in our hearts so that we are powerful witnesses to the truth of your kingdom of love, justice and peace. This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

(Prayer by Moira Laidlaw – www.liturgiesonline.com.au)

- Offering can be made in a couple of ways – put it aside and when we can gather again you could place it in our offering bowl in the normal manner. Or you could take the opportunity to use our direct debit facility –

Footscray Baptist Church

BSB: 083 437

Account No: 515383063

Community Time & Notices

- **Reflective Prayer** – November 24th at 12.15pm via zoom, contact Ros or Cheryl for more details
- **November Quarterly Meeting** – TODAY immediately following the service on zoom
- **Baptist World Aid**
 - Big Hearted Gifts are available to be bought via myself or directly through the BWA website
- **Bible Study Groups** – Currently a number of groups are continuing their study into mission in Matthew. If we would like to join a group or start a group speak to Cheryl. Study questions will be posted on our Website.
- **Baptcare Sanctuary** - is very grateful for all the donations Footscray Baptist has made. Donations can be left at church when Nia or I are there or I can collect them from you, next delivery probably on Nov 26. They are also looking for financial donations to hold some Christmas dinners for residents contact Cheryl if you can assist.

Song: Servant King <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C4FtZ9XzZag>

Sending Out

Go now into the week ahead

And may the Creator surround you with love

May Jesus speak words of truth to you

And may the Spirit give you joy. Amen.

(Blessing written by Cheryl Williams, 2003)