



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: August 8th 2021

Opening Music *Bless the Lord My Soul*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UYLKrFOLS-E>

Welcome & 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

We will praise you at all times, O God

We give you thanks

We magnify your name

Answer us when we seek help

Free us from our fears

Save us from our troubles

Meet us in the depth of our pain

Come close to us

Embrace our hearts

Bring us to no harm

Gracious and good God, be with us now. Amen.

(Based on Psalm 34 as found in 'Psalms for a Pilgrim People' by Jim Cotter, p.72)

Hymn: Be Still For The Presence of the Lord

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZugvUQ4m90U>

Opening Prayer

We are made in the image of God

Echoes of the creator

Children of a loving energy

One with the universe and all that lies within it

Christ has been born out of our earthiness,
Seen in the face of justice,
Vivid in the moments of truth,
Dying and living in the passion of our life.

We can feel the power of the Spirit,
Surrounding us with grace,
She is wise in the centre of our wanderings
And joyfully gathering the whole creation
Into the freedom of God.

This we believe.

This we affirm.

From this we will live. Amen.

(Prayer from 'Liturgies for the Journey of Life' by Dorothy McRae-McMahon, p.25)

Bible Reading: John 6:35, 41-51

³⁵ Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.

⁴¹ Then the Jews began to complain about him because he said, "I am the bread that came down from heaven." ⁴² They were saying, "Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How can he now say, 'I have come down from heaven?'" ⁴³ Jesus answered them, "Do not complain among yourselves. ⁴⁴ No one can come to me unless drawn by the Father who sent me; and I will raise that person up on the last day. ⁴⁵ It is written in the prophets, 'And they shall all be taught by God.' Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to me. ⁴⁶ Not that anyone has seen the Father except the one who is from God; he has seen the Father. ⁴⁷ Very truly, I tell you, whoever believes has eternal life. ⁴⁸ I am the bread of life. ⁴⁹ Your ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. ⁵⁰ This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. ⁵¹ I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh."

Sharing 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: Ephesians 4:25-5:2

²⁵ So then, putting away falsehood, let all of us speak the truth to our neighbours, for we are members of one another. ²⁶ Be angry but do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, ²⁷ and do not make room for the devil. ²⁸ Thieves must give up stealing; rather let them labour and work honestly with their own hands, so as to have something to share with the needy. ²⁹ Let no evil talk come out of your mouths, but only what is

useful for building up, as there is need, so that your words may give grace to those who hear. ³⁰ And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with which you were marked with a seal for the day of redemption. ³¹ Put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander, together with all malice, ³² and be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you. **5** ¹ Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children, ² and live in love, as Christ loved us^{cl} and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

Children's Talk: The Lyrebird - the great imitator

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VjEOKdfos4Y>

Children's Song: Put on Love Everyday

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pE2S3gXm75o>

Reflection: Imitating God?

Prayers for the Church and the World

Remembering:

- Those known to us who struggle with their health
- For those who wait to hear about their visas
- For our neighbours at **Westhaven**
- Those who have Covid 19 – the vaccine rollout, treatments and testing, those in lockdown in **Queensland, New South Wales & Victoria**
- Those affected by fires in **Greece and Turkey**
- Those affected by high summer temperatures in **Europe**
- Conflict and subsequent displacement of people in **Ethiopia**
- 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 in Indochina
- Baptist World Aid – the work in Cambodia, Lebanon & Nepal, that their children might be encouraged to flourish and thrive
- 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)

Loving God, we continue to pray for your world,

Hear the cries of your people from and for those:

- Who suffer because of starvation
- Who suffer from oppression in its many forms,
- Who suffer the effects of climate change,
- Who are ill, because of Covid

Hear the cries of those in need:

- Who find themselves friendless,
- Who are bereaved,

- Who are unwell,
- Who are fearful,

Send us out as imitators of you,
 Bringing harmony and peace
 Bringing food and sustenance
 Bringing kindness and care
 Bringing comfort and relief

(Prayer by Cheryl Williams, based on one in 'Let Us Pray' by Janet Nelson, p.246)

And we continue to pray the prayer Jesus 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: Don't Be Afraid <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R5m15RsD7jE&t=67s>

Offering

May we imitate your generosity, gracious God, as we offer these gifts to you. Use them and us to bring justice, to bring hope, to bring love to all who are looking for grace in their lives. Amen.

(Prayer based on one by © Thom M. Shuman)

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

Footscray Baptist Church
BSB: 083 437
Account No: 515383063

News & Notices

- **Quarterly Church Meeting** – next week August 15th, either in person or on zoom depending on lockdown situation
- **Covid Crisis in Indonesia** - Would you give through our [COVID-19 Global Emergency Appeal](#) as we care for our neighbours in Indonesia?
- **Reflective Prayer** – Thursday August 12th at 5pm via zoom. Speak to Ros or Cheryl if you are interested and we can send you an invite
- **Volunteering at Houses of Hope** – meeting at church on Monday August 16th at 11.30am if interested
- **Food Donations for Sanctuary** – beans, lentils, rice, pasta, tuna. Please no cereal as they do not eat cereals. This month we are giving donations that symbolise 'the bread of life' (pasta, rice etc)
- **Amnesty International** – August 13th, are hosting a zoom discussion to think about ways we can help the people of Myanmar on the 6th month anniversary of the military coup. See their website for details

Hymn: The Servant King

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A0FSZ_iSYO8

Blessing

Let us go now, foolish enough to believe in God.

We will see God in everyone we meet.

Let us go now, foolish enough to follow Jesus.

We will share grace with those who need it the most.

Let us go now, foolish enough to be filled with the Holy Spirit,

We will serve with the Spirit in calming the fears of the world.

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May God strengthen you for the journey,
May Christ guide you in your living and loving
May the Spirit encourage you in all you do.