



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 22nd 2021

Opening Music: Hymn of St. Patrick

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

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

Our souls long for you, Living Lord!

Our hearts sing for joy, Living Lord!

In you the sparrow finds a home

In you the swallow finds rest

In you we find our strength

In our dark days you uphold us

You are our sun and our shield

You are our warmth and protection

You give favour and honour

Good things come to those who walk with you

Happy are we who trust in You. Amen.

(Prayer by Cheryl Williams, August 2021, based on Psalm 84)

Hymn: God our Strength and Refuge

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

Opening Prayer

O God,

There is none like you on earth or in heaven!

Your love is steadfast and promises sure

You choose to dwell with us, even though you cannot be contained

Your inclusive love permeates the whole earth and beyond

That love is shown in your people

Thank you for those who stand up for truth, truth that liberates

Thank you for those who pursue justice, justice that liberates

Thank you for those who seek peace, peace that liberates

Thank you for those who have shared the faith, faith that liberates

Thank you for your Spirit,

The spirit that leads us to truth

The spirit that promotes justice

The spirit that enables peace

God, we praise you and give you thanks for your care and compassion for all. Amen.

(Prayer by Cheryl Williams, August 2021 based on 1 Kings 8 & Ephesians 6)

Bible Reading: 1 King 8: 22-30 & 41-43 (NRSV)

²² Then Solomon stood before the altar of the LORD in the presence of all the assembly of Israel, and spread out his hands to heaven. ²³ He said, “O LORD, God of Israel, there is no God like you in heaven above or on earth beneath, keeping covenant and steadfast love for your servants who walk before you with all their heart, ²⁴ the covenant that you kept for your servant my father David as you declared to him; you promised with your mouth and have this day fulfilled with your hand. ²⁵ Therefore, O LORD, God of Israel, keep for your servant my father David that which you promised him, saying, ‘There shall never fail you a successor before me to sit on the throne of Israel, if only your children look to their way, to walk before me as you have walked before me.’ ²⁶ Therefore, O God of Israel, let your word be confirmed, which you promised to your servant my father David.

²⁷ “But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Even heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain you, much less this house that I have built! ²⁸ Regard your servant’s prayer and his plea, O LORD my God, heeding the cry and the prayer that your servant prays to you today; ²⁹ that your eyes may be open night and day toward this house, the place of which you said, ‘My name shall be there,’ that you may heed the prayer that your servant prays toward this place. ³⁰ Hear the plea of your servant and of your people Israel when they pray toward this place; O hear in heaven your dwelling place; heed and forgive.

⁴¹ “Likewise when a foreigner, who is not of your people Israel, comes from a distant land because of your name ⁴²—for they shall hear of your great name, your mighty hand, and your outstretched arm—when a foreigner comes and prays toward this house, ⁴³ then hear in heaven your dwelling place, and do according to all that the foreigner calls to you, so that all the peoples of the earth may know your name and fear you, as do your people Israel, and so that they may know that your name has been invoked on this house that I have built.

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 Readings: Ephesians 6:10-20 (NRSV)

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. ¹¹ Put on the full armour of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. ¹² For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. ¹³ Therefore put on the full armour of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. ¹⁴ Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, ¹⁵ and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. ¹⁶ In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. ¹⁷ Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

¹⁸ And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people. ¹⁹ Pray also for me, that whenever I speak, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰ for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should.

Children's Talk: Clothed in Love

Children's Song: Put on Love <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pE2S3gXm75o>

Reflection: Standing Firm

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**
- For peace, justice & safety in **Afghanistan and Myanmar**
- For those trying to flee **Afghanistan**
- For those battling Covid and other medical issues whilst their homelands are immersed in conflict
- People of **Spain, Israel, Greece** in the aftermath of fires
- People of **Haiti** in the aftermath of the earthquake
- Those who have Covid 19, the vaccine rollout, treatments and testing, those in lockdown in **ACT, New South Wales & Victoria**
- Global Interaction – those barriers preventing workers building authentic relationships with people in Indochina, may be overcome
- Baptist World Aid – for wisdom for Australian leaders, that they might have a vision for generosity to and concern for those in need overseas
- 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)

God of love,
Your love permeates the whole earth and all are caught up in it

We pray for those currently experiencing violence

- People in Afghanistan watching hard won outcomes for justice disappear
- People in Myanmar, who six months after the coup are still crying for justice
- People fleeing their loved homelands looking for safety

Hear the cries and prayers of your people

We pray for those who experience the effects of climate change

- People in Haiti in the aftermath of the earthquake, mourning loved ones and having to pick up the pieces of their lives
- People in Spain, Israel, Greece witnessing the horror of fire
- Places where it is warmer than they have ever known

Hear the cries and prayers of your people

We pray for those who are victims of the misdeeds of others

- People whose lives are destroyed by hatred and conflict
- People whose lives are ravaged by poverty and neglect
- People whose lives are subjected to abuse and racism

Hear the cries and prayers of your people

We pray for those who struggle

- People who find their faith faltering in difficult times
- People who suffer, who have no work or no rest
- People who feel sad, unloved or without hope

Hear the cries and prayers of your people

We pray especially for Afghanistan

- Watch over the people of the land of 'kite runners'
- Comfort women and children, frightened for their futures
- Keep safe those who flee for their lives
- In the midst of chaos bring peace, bring justice, bring safety, bring hope and bring resilience
- Grant to those of us who look on, the courage to be generous and offer compassion

Pour out your Spirit on us so we might stand firm in the face of greed, corruption, destruction and all that devalues.

Enable us by your Spirit to live lives that proclaim your compassion and care

(Prayer by Cheryl Williams, August 2021, based on one by Janet Nelson in 'Let Us Pray', p.258)

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: Don't Be Afraid <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vZ3saempX30>

Offering

Generous God,

We bring you our offerings of money and lives. Take them and us and use us to spread your inclusive love in all the world. Amen.

(Prayer by Cheryl Williams, August 2021)

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

- **Baptist World Aid** – special service next week to pray for their work. An opportunity to consider your financial support to the children and their communities we support. Donations can be made using our direct debit just make sure you call it BWA donation so we know it is earmarked for BWA.
- **Afghanistan** – Help can be given through Red Cross who are still working on the ground in Afghanistan
- **August Services** – these will be held on zoom and a link sent out the week before. Hopefully we can meet again in person in September
- **Reflective Prayer** – Thursday August 26th at 5pm via zoom. Speak to Ros or Cheryl if you are interested and we can send you an invite
- **Deacon's Meeting** – Sunday August 29th, on zoom following worship
- **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)

Hymn: God of Grace, God of Glory

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u9rWrw3XB08>

Blessing

May God go with you as you leave our time together

May God deepen your trust

May God encourage you and give you hope

May God amplify your love

May God hold you in the palm of his hand until we meet again. Amen.

(Prayer by Cheryl Williams, August 2021)