



Order of Service - May 17th, 2020

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.

Music

Welcome and Acknowledgement of Country

As we begin our worship, we acknowledge the Wurrundjeri people of the Kulin Nation, the traditional custodians of this land on which we gather to worship. We honour this history, their elders, past, present and emerging and commit ourselves to work together for reconciliation between all peoples, God and the land.

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

Song: Halle, Halle, Halle <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xjf6bYQRbtU>

Halle, Halle, Hallelujah

Halle, Halle, Hallelujah

Halle, Halle, Hallelujah

Hallelujah, Hallelujah.

Call to Worship

We are in the presence of God

And we are not alone

With the Church throughout the world

We are called to worship our Lord

And here with our hearts and voices

God's Holy Name will be praised

We are met in the presence of God

And we are not alone

(Based on Prayer in 'A Wee Worship Book', p. 74)

Song - Love Divine All Loves Excelling <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qwHxRxER650>

Opening Prayer

O God,

We believe, God of all Gods,

That you are the eternal maker of life and love.

That you are the creator of the heavens, the skies, the sea

That you created us and set us on our course.

That in Jesus you reveal to us your love, your truth, your peace and your mercy.

O God, you are not unknown to us.

Each day you reveal to us more and more of you.

We thank you.

Amen.

(Prayer by Cheryl Williams, May 2020 – based on prayer in 'A Wee Worship Book, p. 32 & Acts 17:22-31)

Bible Reading - Acts 17:22-31 (NRSV)

Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, 'Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, "To an unknown god." What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. For "In him we live and move and have our being"; as even some of your own poets have said, "For we too are his offspring."

Since we are God's offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.'

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: John 14:15-21 (NRSV)

'If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you for ever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

'I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.'

Song - God is Love (round) by Ross Langmead

<http://rosslangmead.50webs.com/ri/Downloads/SongsMP3/GodIsLove.mp3>

Children's Talk - Bill the Brilliant Branch (Lost Sheep)

Reflection: Known by Love

Song: One Bread, One Body <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FG9T8UmN6VY>

Communion

Invitation

Gather us in, the lost and the lonely, those longing for nourishment
Gather us in, the wishing and the wondering, those longing for deeper joy
Gather us in – to meet, to eat and to join with each other
Gather us in to meet you in this holy meal.

(Based on prayer in A Wee Worship Book, pp 80-81)

Prayer of Preparation

Let us pray

Creating and creative God
Dignifier and friend Jesus
Guiding and Spirit of truth

We praise you

We praise you

We praise you

God you loved as so much you gave us Jesus
Jesus you cared for the unloved and unlovable
Spirit you continue to bind us together in love

We thank you

We thank you

We thank you

The people you gave dignity
The ones that followed even faltering
Even those betraying you

We will remember

We will remember

We will remember

This bread broken so all may have life
We take this wine poured out for the forgiveness of many
For a world without pain or confusion
For a new heaven and earth – healed and forgiven

We take and eat

We take and drink

We hope

We pray

Shortly, as we leave the table may we be bread ready to be broken for others; may we be wine poured out for many.

We pray in the name of Jesus – friend of all. Amen.

(Invitation and Prayer of Preparation by Cheryl Williams, 2020)

Words of Institution from Matthew's gospel

While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body."

²⁷ Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you. ²⁸ This is my blood of the ^[b] covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. ²⁹ I tell you, I will not drink from this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father’s kingdom.”

³⁰ When they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

The sharing

The gifts of God for the people of God: The Bread of Life & the Cup of Blessing

Prayers for the Church & World (Cheryl)

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

(p. 56-7 A Wee Worship Book)

Remembering:

- Those in our community who struggle with ill
- A treatment and a cure/vaccine for Covid 19
- Those affected by the typhoon in the Philippines
- Those living in the refugee camp in Cox’s Bazar, Bangladesh

And as we continue to pray

Kindle in our hearts love and action for

- Our neighbours
- Our foes
- The caring
- The sick and dying
- Ones who are brave
- Ones who are scared
- Those who are oppressed
- Those who are vulnerable
- Our family and friends
- Our health care workers
- The homeless and the cold
- The weak and the lonely
- Ones who look for signs of love
- Ones who struggle for peace
- Those who we find difficult to love
- Those who carry heavy responsibility in this time

Give us hearts of compassion, souls to care

Give us a commitment to love without fear

Give us love that lives in action.

So that we all may know you are the God of love. Amen.

(Prayer by Cheryl Williams, May 2020)

Song: A Common Love <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9nkLbQClwhM>

Offering

Generous God,

We give thanks to you for all your gifts. We ask that you now take what we offer our money, our time, our lives and use to share your love in our communities and your world. Amen.

(Prayer by Cheryl Williams, May 2020)

- 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 – **Footsray Baptist Church BSB: 083 437 Account No: 515383063**

Community Time & Notices

- **Annual General Meeting** – May 31st via zoom after a shorter service. Reports and instructions on how to vote should we need to will be emailed shortly.
- **Reflective Prayer** – Tuesday May 19th at 12.15pm via zoom, contact Ros or Cheryl for more details
- **Baptcare Sanctuary** is very grateful for all the donations Footsray Baptist has provided in the last few weeks. They still need tinned tomatoes, tinned vegetables especially red kidney beans and chickpeas, tinned fruit and tinned tuna. If you are able to donate any of the following items please speak to Cheryl and we can arrange for them to be collected.

They also need:

Basmati rice	Red Lentils	Yellow dahl	Cooking oil
Red Kidney Beans	Butter Beans	Chickpeas	Tinned tomatoes
Onions & garlic	Black tea bags	Instant coffee	Milk UHT
Tumeric	Cumin	Coriander	Biscuits

Tinned fish – especially tuna

Fresh - bread, eggs, milk, yogurt, fresh fruit and vegetables.

Song: Christ Be Our Light <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8FUPltZ5Xs>

Sending Out

The blessing of God, be in your comings and goings

The peace of God, be in your life and living'

The love of God, at your endings and beginnings

The arms of God, welcome you and bring your home. Amen

(Based on prayer from A Wee Worship Book, p. 66)