

Order of Service - Lent 3

March 19th, 2023

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 Candles: Jesus said: 'I Am the Light of the World'.

Call to Worship

We gather together, heeding the call of our God and shepherd,
to come and dwell together.

God of love,

May we know Your goodness and mercy,

We gather together, seeking green pastures and still waters,
seeking comfort on difficult journeys through dark valleys.

God of love,

Restore our souls,

We gather together, seeking truth, goodness and righteousness.
Teach us what is pleasing to You, O Lord.

God of justice,

Shine Your light upon us.

(from [19 March, 4th Sunday in Lent | The Church of Scotland](#))

Song: *The Lord's My Shepherd* [The Lord's My Shepherd - Stuart Townend \[with lyrics for congregations\] - YouTube](#)

Opening Prayer

We are grateful God,

For Your leading and guiding.

You are willing to get Your hands dirty for us
to give us a glimpse of Your vision of the world.

You do not hide who You are

but You let us ask questions and come to the wrong conclusions.

You don't leave us where we are, but You invite us to
speak out truth
strive for peace

fight for justice
work for healing
make disciples.

Thank You for trusting us
to be Your co-workers in realising the dream of God.

(from [19 March, 4th Sunday in Lent | The Church of Scotland](#))

Bible Reading - Ephesians 5: 8-14(NRSVA)

⁸ For once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light— ⁹ for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. ¹⁰ Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. ¹¹ Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. ¹² For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; ¹³ but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, ¹⁴ for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, ‘Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.’

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 9: 1-41 (NRSVA)

⁹ As he walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. ² His disciples asked him, ‘Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?’ ³ Jesus answered, ‘Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God’s works might be revealed in him. ⁴ We^[a] must work the works of him who sent me^[b] while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. ⁵ As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.’ ⁶ When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man’s eyes, ⁷ saying to him, ‘Go, wash in the pool of Siloam’ (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. ⁸ The neighbours and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, ‘Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?’ ⁹ Some were saying, ‘It is he.’ Others were saying, ‘No, but it is someone like him.’ He kept saying, ‘I am the man.’ ¹⁰ But they kept asking him, ‘Then how were your eyes opened?’ ¹¹ He answered, ‘The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, “Go to Siloam and wash.” Then I went and washed and received my sight.’ ¹² They said to him, ‘Where is he?’ He said, ‘I do not know.’

¹³ They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. ¹⁴ Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. ¹⁵ Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, ‘He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see.’ ¹⁶ Some of the Pharisees said, ‘This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath.’ But others said, ‘How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?’ And they were divided. ¹⁷ So they said again to the blind man, ‘What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened.’ He said, ‘He is a prophet.’

¹⁸ The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight ¹⁹ and asked them, ‘Is this your

son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?’ ²⁰ His parents answered, ‘We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; ²¹ but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.’ ²² His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus^[c] to be the Messiah^[d] would be put out of the synagogue. ²³ Therefore his parents said, ‘He is of age; ask him.’

²⁴ So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, ‘Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner.’ ²⁵ He answered, ‘I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.’ ²⁶ They said to him, ‘What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?’ ²⁷ He answered them, ‘I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?’ ²⁸ Then they reviled him, saying, ‘You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. ²⁹ We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.’ ³⁰ The man answered, ‘Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. ³¹ We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. ³² Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. ³³ If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.’ ³⁴ They answered him, ‘You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?’ And they drove him out.

³⁵ Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, ‘Do you believe in the Son of Man?’ ³⁶ He answered, ‘And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.’ ³⁷ Jesus said to him, ‘You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.’ ³⁸ He said, ‘Lord, I believe.’ And he worshipped him. ³⁹ Jesus said, ‘I came into this world for judgement so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind.’ ⁴⁰ Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, ‘Surely we are not blind, are we?’ ⁴¹ Jesus said to them, ‘If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, “We see”, your sin remains.

Children’s Talk: Seeing

Reflection: The Wrong Question

Prayer for Iran

Prayers for the church and world:

Remembering:

- People affected by recent natural disasters, especially in **Malawi and Mozambique**.
- Those known to us struggling with their health
- The **‘Left Write Hook’ program**, for the program and survivors who participate
- For those who wait to hear about their visas
- Our friends at **Sanctuary and the Houses of Hope** in Footscray and our neighbours at **Westhaven**
- Families attending the **‘Come & Try’ Playgroup**, they can have up to 15 children and their parents each week.
- Places of tension, unrest & conflict especially **Iran, Israel, Myanmar, Peru, Syria, Ukraine**
- The peoples of **Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe**

- **Baptist Mission Australia** – work and workers in Southeast Asia, Papua New Guinea, Cambodia & Thailand
- **Baptist World Aid** – Pray for the young people who attend our Child and Youth Clubs – that they would thrive and positively impact their communities.

Silence - in the silence and through our minds and imaginations we bring prayers which words cannot contain (p. 56-7 A Wee Worship Book)

[Prayers for our community and world](#)

Shepherding God,
 help us to be more aware of Your presence with us.
 As we move through life, may we live and move in You.
 Help us at each stage of our journey to recognise Your rod and staff comforting us.

We pray for all who seek green pastures
 We pray for all who seek still waters
 We pray for all who seek restoring of their soul
 We pray for all who seek right paths before them
 We pray for all who find themselves in dark valleys
 We pray for all who sit with their enemies around them,

We pray that Your goodness and mercy will go before us,
 will follow us, will uphold us and comfort us,
 all the days of our lives.

Amen.

(from [19 March, 4th Sunday in Lent | The Church of Scotland](#))

[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.
 Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.
 For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

[Song: Lord Let Me See](#) [Sunday 12 July 2020. Part 4. Hymn. Lord Let Me See - YouTube](#)

[Offering & Prayer](#)

God of love, take these our offerings and lives. Use them and us to provide restoration to those in our community. Amen.

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](#)

- **140th Birthday for Footscray Baptist** – this will be held on **May 28th**, which is also Pentecost Sunday. Stay tuned for more details.

- **Quarterly Church Meeting** – TODAY in church immediately following the service.
- **NowRuz** – March 21st
- **Working Bee** – March 25th
- **Church Lunch** – April 2nd, please bring a plate of food to share. Help needed to set up prior to morning service.
- **Knitted Goods** – Forouzan is taking orders for knitted goods – hats, headbands, slippers. See Cheryl for samples.
- **Myanmar Sunday** – the BUV has set aside April 30th for churches to focus on Myanmar.
- **Bible Study** – Our Lenten series continues on March 26, immediately following the service in the office.
- **Excess Furniture** – we have many items that we are looking to get rid of, see Ros for a list and **if you like it, take it!**
- **Reflective Prayer** – Monday March 20th at 5pm on zoom. Please speak to Ros or Cheryl for an invite.
- **Baptist World Aid Appeal for Earthquake Victims** – see their website for details,
- **Food Donations** for the Houses of Hope can be left in the container in the church.

March Birthdays: Becky, Forouzan, Hermie, Paul G, Paul S

Song: Christ Be Our Light [Christ be our light.m4v - YouTube](#)

Church Meeting

Benediction

God of goodness
 send us out to tell truth
 to do good, and to work for righteousness.
 Empower us to live as children of light in Your world.
 Amen.

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Go in Peace