



*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 - September 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021*

Opening Music: What A Wonderful World (Louis Armstrong)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2nGKqH26xlg>

### 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!

### Welcome

- Today is Father's Day
- True Spring for the Wurrundjeri people – the season of the orchid and the return of the sacred kingfisher
- For the next week our focus will be Creation. Today the earth, next week humanity, then sky and finally mountains

### Lighting the Candle - Jesus said 'I Am the Light of the World' (Sunny)

#### Call to Worship

Creator God,

We come before you as a small piece of your vast creation.

We come in awe at the beauty and wonder of our planet, and we feel its pain.

Let the embers of our burning bushland

Rekindle the flame of Pentecost

**Shine your light in us that we may strive for a greener future.**

Let the dryness of the land in seasons of drought

Remind us to thirst for your leadership

**Holy Spirit, lead us towards the well of hope for a sustainable planet.**

Let the waters of our flooded plains and rivers

Drench our hearts with your mercy

**Living Water fill us with mercy for your suffering creation.**

Let the roaring of raging winds and cyclones

help us hear the cry of Mother Earth

**Jesus, give us your peace to calm our storm, and peace to strengthen our calling.**

Let the rise in sea levels  
raise our concern and love towards our neighbour  
**Risen Christ, resource us with your love for the world.**

Creator God, we are your people, called and purposed to be good stewards of our planet.

Bless this day.  
In Jesus' name,  
Amen.

(Written by Michael Ramaidama, sourced from Common Grace, Creation Toolkit 2021)

*Song: For the Beauty of the Earth*  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wDnmVECSdKQ>

### Opening Prayer

God of creation  
– each star and every flower,  
– each drop of water and every person,  
– each and every atom, down to its very electrons, explodes with the revelation of your sacred mystery.  
Our minds alone cannot fathom such splendour,  
Our hearts can only respond in awe, praise and gratitude.

**Forgive us, we pray, our ignorance and insecurity which –**  
– **blind us to your thumbprint writ large,**  
– **deafen us to the sacred space between two heartbeats,**  
– **prompt us in arrogance to demand and dominate,**  
– **numb us to the destruction we've caused,**  
– **hold us hostage to “either-or” thinking and living.**

May we always walk gently upon this earth,  
– in right relationship, nurtured by your Love,  
– taking only what we need, – giving back to the earth in gratitude, honouring all with reverence,  
– reconciling and healing, mindful of those who will come after,  
– recognizing our proper place as part of, not apart from, your creation.  
Grant us the strength and courage, we pray for such radical transformation. Amen

*(From Michelle Balek, OSF, Progressive Christianity)*

### Bible Reading: Genesis 1:1-2, 10-13, 24-25 (NRSV)

In the beginning when God created<sup>[a]</sup> the heavens and the earth, <sup>2</sup> the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters.

God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good, <sup>11</sup> Then God said, “Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it.” And it was so. <sup>12</sup> The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind, and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good. <sup>13</sup> And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

<sup>24</sup> And God said, “Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind.” And it was so. <sup>25</sup> God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind, and the cattle of every kind, and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good.

### *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 Readings*

#### *Psalms 24:1-2 (NRSV)*

The earth is the LORD's and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it;  
<sup>2</sup> for he has founded it on the seas, and established it on the rivers.

#### *Psalms 96:11 (NRSV)*

Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice; let the sea roar, and all that fills it

#### *Romans 8:22 (NRSV)*

<sup>22</sup> We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labour pains until now

#### *Colossians 1:15-16 (NRSV)*

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; <sup>16</sup> for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him.

### *Children's Talk: The Earth is Home For all*

*Children's Song: If I Were A Butterfly* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L-nb5CR1uec>

### *Reflection: The Earth - a rich tapestry*

#### *Communion Song: Seed Scattered and Sown*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2Y3imq5aFvk>

### *Communion*

#### *Invitation*

Open hearts and spirits to the Holy One who invites us to this meal.

Taste the earth-borne gifts that bare the communion of Christ's presence.

Grains drawn from soil, milled and mixed, kneaded and baked, form the loaf of our common life.

Grapes plucked and pressed, strained and aged, fill the cup of our common hope.

All these, all of us, fearfully and wonderfully made by God:

All these, all of us, gathered to celebrate the mystery of presence in this communion and in all of life.

### Prayer of Preparation

Gracious God, ever-creating, with all of creation we look to you.  
We look to you as the One from whom all things have sparked:  
from sub-atomic particles to forested slopes,  
from strands of DNA to the deepest ocean trenches.

We look to you as the One in whom all life holds together:  
from the delicate balancing of soil and water and oxygen and light, to the delicate  
balancing of personalities and faith and values.

We look to you as the One who fashions this table in multiple places but with singular  
purpose: to offer invite and gather all, to offer unlimited forgiveness, to offer vocation  
with Christ.

May all creation be blessed in this meal, a reminder of life shared with and for others,  
and of community fashioned, not on the basis of our differences, but by the truth that  
all are one in you. Amen.

*(Invitation and Prayer of Preparation from: online sample of SeasonsFUSION)*

### Words of Institution: Mark 14:22-26)

While they were eating, he took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to them, and said, "Take; this is my body." <sup>23</sup> Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, and all of them drank from it. <sup>24</sup> He said to them, "This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many. <sup>25</sup> Truly I tell you, I will never again drink of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God." <sup>26</sup> When they had sung the hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

### Sharing Bread & Wine

Grain and grape, symbols of God's love for us.  
Bread of life, Cup of blessing  
Let's eat and drink with thanksgiving

### Prayers for the Church & World

Remembering:

- Those known to us who struggle with their health
- For those who wait to hear about their visas
- For fathers everywhere, especially those separated from children due to the pandemic
- The people of **Myanmar**
- The people of **Afghanistan**, those who are displaced, those that are fearful, those in danger, those who have fled
- People in the aftermath of floods and storms in **Spain and United States**
- For our neighbours at **Westhaven**
- Those who have Covid 19 – the vaccine rollout, treatments, testing,
- Those living in lockdown in ACT, New South Wales & Victoria.
- Those affected by political unrest
- Global Interaction- for the work with the people of South East Asia
- Baptist World Aid – for the health of the workers and those they work with in Baptist World Aid and for energy to overcome challenges that come with the pandemic

- 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 abundant life,

We pray for the complex ecosystem of which we are a part.

In a time of climate crisis and ecological emergency, help us to rediscover Your love of creation and to reflect that in our own lives.

Help us to listen to contemporary prophets who are challenging us to act on climate change;

- indigenous people and their invaluable knowledge of the land and sea,
- scientists dedicating their careers to warning us about changes to the planet,
- young people striking for their future

We pray for those in power may they hear the prophetic voices.

- May they see beyond short-term political priorities and business plans.

Give them wisdom and courage when they face difficult decisions.

We pray for the people who are displaced in the world. Displaced because of natural disasters or because of conflict.

- We especially prayer for the people of Afghanistan and Myanmar.
- We cannot understand their fear and pain, keep them safe, restore their hope in humankind.

Help us to minister to their needs for food, water, safety and a safe home.

We pray for fathers everywhere.

- new fathers getting used to new joys and demands,
- those who feel uncertain about their roles,
- those who can't provide for their children,
- those who are find it hard to love,
- those separated from their children,
- those who have been rejected.

May they all strive to love, encourage and provide all they can for their children.

Bless them all, enable them to be both tender and strong.

Enable them to teach their children all that is good and wise.

We pray for the coming of a better world with justice, kindness and humility at its heart. We ask that You guide us to be co-creators of this new world.

Give us confidence to follow the prophetic voices, to stand against injustice to people and to planet.

So that together, in Your strength, we stop this climate crisis.

*(Adapted from a prayer by Wendy Lloyd, Church of Scotland)*

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=7e-c8NP7cY8>

### Offering

Generous God,  
Every good gift comes from you. You have given us this earth as our home. Take the gifts we bring now and use them and us to nurture our planet so it is a home for all.  
Amen.

Offerings can be made by using our direct debit facility or placed in plates at entrances and exits of the church when we return to face to face worship

**Footscray Baptist Church BSB: 083 437 Account No: 515383063**

### News & Notices

- **Reflective Prayer** – will recommence after a break on Thursday Sept 16<sup>th</sup> at 5pm on zoom. Contact Ros or Cheryl for an Invite.
- **Chat Groups** – whilst in lockdown an opportunity to catch up with each other on zoom. Emails with invites will be sent out each week and posted on facebook  
Monday's at 2pm; Tuesday's at 7.30pm; Thursday's at 11.30am; Friday's at 5.30pm
- **Food Donations for Sanctuary** – beans, lentils, rice, pasta, tuna. Please no cereal as they do not eat cereals.

*Song: It's Not Too Late* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8iuePsowQkU>

### Blessing

Creator God,  
May we see,  
Your love in each others hearts,  
Your joy in the Golden Wattle,  
Your peace in the morning sunrise,  
Your patience in the mighty mountain,  
Your kindness in the Quokka,  
Your goodness in the Rainbow Lorikeet,  
Your faith in the ancient Grasstree,  
Your gentleness in the Leafy Sea Dragon,  
Your self-control in the dry desert plains.  
Now with the fruits of the spirit, and all of creation,  
Go in truth, justice, love, and hope. Amen

*'Fruits of the spirit and all of creation blessing' by Brooke Prentis, sourced from Common Grace*

*Song: For You Deep Stillness* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gpRWWnZa6Ro>