



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 - April 11th, 2021

Music: Make Me A Channel of Your Peace

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mSs-BySZFcY>

Welcome and Acknowledgement of Country (Cheryl)

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

From the corners of our world

From the confusion of our lives

From the loneliness of our hearts

Gather us, O God.

To feed our minds

To fire our imaginations

To free our hearts

Gather us, O God.

(from Pattern of our Days)

Song: How Great Thou Art https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bLz3Xv2Hr_4



Opening Prayer

God of Peace,

We thank you this day for your words of peace to the first disciples and to us.

We thank you for the peace we feel as we sit by a river or sunset or garden

We thank you for the people who have made a stand for peace – even at great cost to themselves – Jesus, Martin Luther King Jr, the people of Myanmar

Lord, make us instruments of your peace:

where there is hatred, let me sow love;

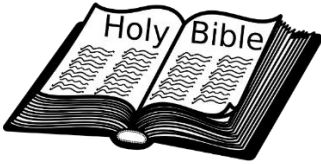
where there is injury, pardon;

where there is doubt, faith;

where there is despair, hope;

where there is darkness, light;

where there is sadness, joy. Amen.



Bible Reading: John 20:19- 31 (NRSV)

¹⁹ When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” ²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹ Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” ²² When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.” ²⁴ But Thomas (who was called the Twin, one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.” ²⁶ A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” ²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.” ²⁸ Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” ²⁹ Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.” ³⁰ Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. ³¹ But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

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: Acts 4:32-35 (NRSV)

³² All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of their possessions was their own, but they shared everything they had. ³³ With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And God’s grace was so powerfully at work in them all ³⁴ that there were no needy persons among them. For from time to time those who owned land or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales ³⁵ and put it at the apostles’ feet, and it was distributed to anyone who had need.

Children's Talk: Whoever You Are (Mem Fox)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g315xmVhaeQ>

Song: They'll Know We Are Christians By Our Love

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k6k_mwNqFdQ

Reflection: No Peace Without Forgiveness (Cheryl)



Image: Caravaggio at [Hermanoleon](https://www.hermanoleon.com)

Prayers for the Church & World

Remembering:

- Those known to us who struggle with their health
- Asylum Seekers & Refugees in Australia waiting for a home
- For those who wait to hear about their visas
- The people of **Myanmar** – hundreds have now been killed, women are raped, families have bodies taken away and cannot grieve, people are trying to escape and being turned back, people from Myanmar living in Australia are distressed and anxious, ethnic leaders are joining together to act for peace
- The people of **Brazil, Papua New Guinea & the Philippines** – as they struggle with ever increasing Covid cases
- The people of **Timor Leste & Indonesia** after floods and landslides
- For our senior citizens, that their lives and their care may characterised by dignity, especially our neighbours at Westhaven
- Those who have Covid 19 – the vaccine rollout, treatments and testing.
- Those affected by political unrest in especially **Chin State, Kachin State, Karen State and Rakine State and all of Myanmar, Lebanon, Russia, Thailand, United States & Yemin**
- Global Interaction – ‘B’ people of South Asia
- Baptist World Aid – Give thanks for those who have been freed from modern day slavery and pray for those still experiencing such
- 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)

We pray for all those this day who are lonely,

- those who live alone or without friend or family
- those forgotten by the world

Forgive our role in such and grant them peace.

We pray for all who are afraid,

- those detained unjustly or live in the midst of conflict
- those suffering abuse at the hands of others

Forgive our role in such and grant them peace.

We pray for those who are distressed and grieving

- those who worry about family and friends in Myanmar
- those who have lost loved ones to war, conflict, cruelty

Forgive our role in such and grant them peace.

We pray for those who feel like outsiders

- those who are homeless
- those who find themselves vilified

Forgive our role in such and grant them peace.

We pray for all who are dispossessed and exploited

- the first nations people of this land
- the people who do not receive fair payment for their work

Forgive our role in such and grant them peace.

We pray for all who are confused and doubting,

- those who ponder their own usefulness
- those trying to find their place in the world

**Forgive our role in such and grant them peace.
And we continue to pray the prayer Jesus taught us:**

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: Be Not Afraid <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dWpG7qHtB8g>

Offering

Merciful God,
Accept the gifts we bring before you now. They are our response to your gracious love for the world. They symbolise all that we are and all that we have - our dreams and doubts, our faith and fear, our life and love. We pray these gifts, and our lives, which they symbolise, will be used for your work in our part of the world. Amen.

- Offerings can be made by using our direct debit facility or placed in plate at back of church

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

News & Notices

- **Prayer Vigil for Myanmar** (via zoom) – Tuesday April 13th at 8pm
- **Bible Studies** – if you are interested in joining a group, please let Cheryl know.
- **Reflective Prayer** – there is no reflective prayer this week.
- **Westhaven** – looking for volunteers who speak Vietnamese
- **Houses of Hope in Footscray** – if you are interested in volunteering and happy to undertake some training, please speak to Cheryl
- **Food Donations for Sanctuary** – beans, lentils, rice, pasta, tuna. Please no cereal as they do not eat cereals.

Song: Christ Be Our Light <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kt3Qc04ulOM>

Blessing

Go, seeking peace and pursuing it.
Go, loving and serving the Lord.
And may the blessing of the Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer be with you,
as it was in the beginning and is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

(Adapted from Pattern of our Days, p. 79)