



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 25th, 2021

Music: Eternal Father Strong to Save

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=79oJWx31xlU>

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

Lord our Shepherd,

You sustain and feed us

You guide us, leading us to restful waters

You refresh and restore us

You strengthen us in our dark moments

You provide more than we need, our cup overflows

May your loving kindness stay with us this day.

May your Spirit dwell within us and in the whole world

May we abide with you, content in your presence. Amen

(Prayer by Cheryl Williams based on Psalm 23 and prayer in 'Psalms for a Pilgrim People' by Jim Cotter, p. 50)

Song: Gather Us In <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IbNXqjwh8is>

Opening Prayer

God of love,

We give thanks for places of beauty:

- For an oasis in the desert,
- For peaceful waters,
- For places to rest

We remember with thanks those who have:

- Fed our minds, bodies and soul
- Guided us toward paths of peace
- Protected us from harm
- Stayed with us in our dark moments
- Defended the freedom of others
- Stood against injustice

Show us how to care for others as you care for us

In the name of the good shepherd, we pray. Amen. *(Prayer by Cheryl Williams, based on Psalm 23)*

Bible Reading: John 10:11-18 (NRSV)

¹¹ “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹² The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. ¹³ The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. ¹⁴ I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, ¹⁵ just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶ I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So, there will be one flock, one shepherd. ¹⁷ For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. ¹⁸ No one takes^[a] it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.”

Passing the Peace (Cheryl)

Shalom my friends
God's peace my friends
Go with you now
And stay with you
In all you do
Shalom, shalom.

Bible Reading: I John 3:16-24 (NRSV)

¹⁶ We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. ¹⁷ How does God’s love abide in anyone who has the world’s goods and sees a brother or sister^[a] in need and yet refuses help?

¹⁸ Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. ¹⁹ And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him ²⁰ whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. ²¹ Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; ²² and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

²³ And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. ²⁴ All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

Children's Talk: Cecil the Sheep

Reflection: Good Shepherd (Cheryl)

Song: The Lord's My Shepherd <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-eIQQayhpak>

Prayers for the Church & World

Remembering:

- Those known to us who struggle with their health
- For those who wait to hear about their visas
- The people of **Myanmar**
- The people of **Brazil, Iran, Papua New Guinea & the Philippines** – as they struggle with ever increasing Covid cases
- For 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 – the team working with the ‘B’ people of South Asia
- Baptist World Aid – Ask for God’s mercy for those living in poverty, especially those in Bangladesh
- Our BWA children and their communities we support through Baptist World Aid
- 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)

God of the world,
 We pray for your people everywhere
 We pray for peace where there is none – Myanmar, Middle East, United States
 We pray for understanding where there is none – the troubled, the confused, the anxious
 We pray for safety where there is none – where people are scared, where danger lurks around the corner
 We pray for unity between all peoples and between us and creation
 We pray for compassion for those traumatised by war
 We pray for solace for those who grieve
 We pray for abundance where there is little

Finally, we pray for ourselves,
 May we hear your voice when you call
 May you keep us from harm
 May we always know your loving presence around us.
 We pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

(Prayer by Cheryl Williams April 2021)

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: Brother, Sister Let Me Serve You

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

Offering

Good Shepherd,

Take these our offerings of money and lives and use them and us to help provide for the needs of others and bring them peace. Amen.

(Prayer by Cheryl Williams April 2021)

- 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

- **Annual General Meeting** – May 30th, immediately following the service – please note change of date, papers will be sent out two weeks prior to meeting, nomination forms for diaconate will also be available in next few weeks
- **Diaconate** – we are looking for new members for our leadership team, if you feel called to this please speak to Cheryl or Ros
- **Considering Membership** – if you would like to become a member of Footscray Baptist Church please speak to the Pastor or a deacon
- **Pastor's Leave** – Cheryl will be on leave from April 26th – May 10th, contact a deacon should you need pastoral care in that time
- **Bible Studies** – if you are interested in joining a group, please let Cheryl know.
- **Reflective Prayer** – Thursday April 29th at 5pm via zoom. Speak to Ros or myself if you are interested and we can send you an invite for our meeting the following week
- **Food Donations for Sanctuary** – beans, lentils, rice, pasta, tuna. Please no cereal as they do not eat cereals.

Song: Abide With Me <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NTT5HGSaO-Y>

Blessing

Go now into the world.

May God refresh and restore you.

May you hear Jesus calling your name

May the Spirit dwell in you and give you peace. Amen.

(Prayer by Cheryl Williams April 2021)