



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 - February 14th, 2021

Transfiguration Sunday

Music: Swing Low Sweet Chariot <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IEKXt2EfyLQ>

Welcome and 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 Candle - Jesus said 'I Am the Light of the World'

Call to Worship

Almighty God

As the sun rises and sets again

You speak and you call us.

As your beauty shines in the universe

You speak and will not be silent.

You speak in the thunder and storm

You call us in the midst of calamity and crisis.

You speak in the gentle breeze and quiet places

You call us in the midst of our joy.

Heaven declares your justice and peace.

Gather us and all the faithful into your arms. Amen

(Prayer based on Psalm 50, by Cheryl Williams - Feb 2021)

Song: Be Exalted O God, above the heavens

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4QRXCYHh9hg>

Opening Prayer

God of the world,

In the beauty of the world, we glimpse your glory.

Jesus Christ is the very image of you.

We give thanks for all things that bear your image:

- Carers who look after another
- **Teachers who enable others to learn**

- Children who joyfully play, learn and discover
- **Elderly who share the wisdom they have learnt**
- Comedians who make us laugh even at ourselves
- **Mentors who both encourage and inspire us to walk your way**
- Civic leaders who work for justice for the vulnerable
- **Artists who reveal the beauty of the world to us**
- Cartoonists who speak the truth into our lives
- **Healers who bind the wounded and comfort the downtrodden**

Continue to transfigure your world by your presence.
Amen.

(Prayer by Cheryl Williams – Feb 2021)

Bible Reading: Mark 9: 2-10 (NRSV)

²Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, ³and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. ⁴And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. ⁵Then Peter said to Jesus, “Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” ⁶He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. ⁷Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, “This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!” ⁸Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them anymore, but only Jesus. ⁹As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead. ¹⁰So they kept the matter to themselves, questioning what this rising from the dead could mean.

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: 2 Corinthians 4: 3-6 (NRSV)

³And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. ⁴In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. ⁵For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. ⁶For it is the God who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

Children's Talk: The Transfiguration

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dC081rBhFsE>

Children's Song: This little Light of Mine

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QCN893hzueQ>

Reflection: Transfixed or Transfigured? (Cheryl)

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
- For those living in aged care, those caring for them, especially our neighbours at Westhaven
- Those who have Covid 19, those in hospital and families who have lost loved ones, those working on cures, vaccines, treatments and testing. For places experiencing increases in Covid 19 cases
- Those affected by political unrest in especially Kachin State, Lebanon, Myanmar, Russia, Thailand & United States
- Global Interaction – ‘K’ children and youth of the Silk Road Area and for projects in Allied Health, Agricultural Innovation & English Teaching Centre
- Amnesty – Human Rights in Bangladesh
- Baptist World Aid – pray for a way for children who have been forced out of school due to the global pandemic to return to their learning
- Our friends at Sanctuary and the Houses of Hope in Footscray
- Our friends in Kenya as they build a new church building

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

(p. 56-7 A Wee Worship Book)

Come down the mountain and into our life, Jesus Christ.

Come and join our world and lift up hope among us.

Gracious God,

We, pray for:

- Myanmar/Burma and all who are anxious about what is happening there, especially those in our Kachin Congregation
- North India experiencing the effects of melting glaciers, those who have lost loved ones in the aftermath
- Those who are unwell
- Asylum Seekers and refugees – especially those who were medivac’d here and who are still in detention
- Teachers and students as they begin a new year of learning together
- Residents of Sanctuary and the Houses of Hope
- Our Persian congregation
- Our earth and the effects of climate change
- Politicians of all persuasions – that they might listen to the people and act with compassion and justice
- The Covid19 situation throughout the world
- Wherever beauty is disfigured, broken and diminished

Come Jesus Christ and give courage to your church.

Unite us in love and faith, that the world might believe.

Renew a right Spirit within us, O Christ.

Come Jesus Christ, and inspire in us a new vision of your life.

Inspire in us a new commitment to justice and peace, flowing from your word into the world.

We turn to you and we rejoice in hope. Amen.

(Prayer by Dorothy McRae-McMahon in 'Prayers for Life's Particular Moments' p. 12)

Song: The Lord is my Light <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VNJCGEQPwk4>

Offering

God of love,

Receive these gifts of love we bring with thanksgiving

Like Peter, James and John who stood on the mountain in awe, we too stand in awe.

Enable us to carry your love down the valley and into the world. Amen.

(Based on a prayer by Dorothy McRae-McMahon, in 'The Journey of Life' p. 94)

- 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

- Services will continue to be zoomed as well as face to face worship
- **Bible Studies** – if you are interested in joining a group please let Cheryl know.
- **Free Lenten Studies online** – Tuesday nights in Lent 7pm-8pm by Yarra Theological Union & University of Divinity
<https://garratt1.wufoo.com/confirm/virtual-lent-series-registration-form/>
- **Reflective Prayer** – Friday Feb 19th, 5pm via zoom. Speak to Ros or myself if you are interested and we can send you an invite
- **February Quarterly Church Meeting** – February 21st immediately following church in the Hall to allow for social distancing, or on zoom if still in lockdown
- **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
- **Feast for Freedom** – join in the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre 'Feast for Freedom' in March. For details and recipes see <https://feastforfreedom.org.au/>
- **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=7Y5N6oxIKH0>

Blessing

Go down from the mountain and into the world.

May God transfigure our perceptions and recast our life's intentions

May our living and loving be according to your will. Amen.

(Prayer based on one by Thomas H Troeger)

Blessing Song: Thuma Mina <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jAcZsqH6NYw>