

Order of Service - February 12th, 2023

Opening Music: *Hearts on Fire*
[\(13\) Hearts on Fire - YouTube](#)
Breathe on me, breath of God
[\(13\) Breathe on me, Breath of God lyrics. - YouTube](#)

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

The heavens tell of your glory,
The firmament proclaims your handiwork.
Your law is perfect,
It revives our souls.
Your decrees are sure,
They make us wise.
Your precepts are right,
In them our hearts rejoice.
Your commandments are clear,
Enlightening our lives.

As we gather here today,
Teach us, enlighten us, bring us joy. Amen.

(Prayer by Cheryl Williams, 2023 based on Psalm 19:1-8)

Song: Great is Thy Faithfulness

[\(13\) Great is Thy Faithfulness \(Tune: Faithfulness - 3vv & chorus\) \[with lyrics for congregations\] - YouTube](#)

Opening Prayer:

Almighty God,
all thoughts of truth and peace proceed from you.
Kindle in the hearts of all people the true love of peace.
Guide with your pure and peaceable wisdom those who take counsel for the nations of
the earth; that in tranquillity your kingdom may go forward, till the earth is filled with
the knowledge of your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

—From the Book of Common Order of the Church of Scotland, St. Andrew Press.

Bible Reading - Matthew 5:21-37 (NRSVA)

²¹ You have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, "You shall not murder"; and "whoever murders shall be liable to judgement." ²² But I say to you that if you are angry with a brother or sister, you will be liable to judgement; and if you insult a brother or

sister,^[a] you will be liable to the council; and if you say, “You fool”, you will be liable to the hell^[a] of fire. **23** So when you are offering your gift at the altar, if you remember that your brother or sister^[a] has something against you, **24** leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother or sister,^[a] and then come and offer your gift. **25** Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are on the way to court^[a] with him, or your accuser may hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you will be thrown into prison. **26** Truly I tell you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny.

27 ‘You have heard that it was said, “You shall not commit adultery.” **28** But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart. **29** If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to be thrown into hell.^[a] **30** And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to go into hell.

31 ‘It was also said, “Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.” **32** But I say to you that anyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of unchastity, causes her to commit adultery; and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

33 ‘Again, you have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, “You shall not swear falsely, but carry out the vows you have made to the Lord.” **34** But I say to you, Do not swear at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, **35** or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. **36** And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. **37** Let your word be “Yes, Yes” or “No, No”; anything more than this comes from the evil one.

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: 1 Corinthians 3:1-9 (NRSVA)

3 And so, brothers and sisters,^[a] I could not speak to you as spiritual people, but rather as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ. **2** I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for solid food. Even now you are still not ready, **3** for you are still of the flesh. For as long as there is jealousy and quarrelling among you, are you not of the flesh, and behaving according to human inclinations? **4** For when one says, ‘I belong to Paul’, and another, ‘I belong to Apollos’, are you not merely human?

5 What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you came to believe, as the Lord assigned to each. **6** I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. **7** So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. **8** The one who plants and the one who waters have a common purpose, and each will receive wages according to the labour of each. **9** For we are God’s servants, working together; you are God’s field, God’s building.

Children's Talk: True Valentines

Reflection: Practical Reconciliation

Song: A New Commandment

[\(13\) A NEW COMMANDMENT --- BCBP SONG with Lyrics - YouTube](#)

Prayer for Iran

Prayers for the church and world:

Remembering:

- Thousands affected by the earthquake in Syria & Turkiye
- Those known to us struggling with their health
- For teachers and students as they prepare for studies and teaching in 2023
- Those in our community travelling in Feb/Mar
- **The people of Iran**, many who have been killed or arrested after protesting in the streets
- 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** in February
- Places of tension, unrest & conflict especially **Iran, Israel, Myanmar, Peru, Ukraine**
- The peoples of **Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Palestine, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal**
- **Baptist Mission Australia** – Pray for the work and workers in Lebanon, South East Asia & Papua
- **Baptist World Aid** – This Valentine's Day, pray that as God's people, we would show his love to all in need

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

Loving God, having reconciled us in Christ Jesus, you have given us the ministry of reconciliation.

So we pray now for your world that so desperately needs peace and reconciliation.

Bring healing to strained or broken relationships both in the world and in our lives.

Bring healing to those who have been wronged by others.

Bring courage to those needing to ask for forgiveness

Bring grace to those who need to offer such forgiveness

Bring peace to those living in the midst of wars and conflicts

Bring justice to those who have been mistreated

Reconcile us, O Christ, by your cross.

Break down the walls we have built for our protection

Break down the walls we have built to divide race from race

Break down the walls we have built to divide rich from poor

Break down the walls we have built to divide men and women
Break down the walls we have built to divide young and old
Break down the walls we have built to divide cultures
Break down the walls we have built dividing the Church
Reconcile us, O Christ, by your cross.

Confront us, O Christ, with the hidden prejudices and fears that deny and betray our prayers.

Enable us to see the causes of strife and teach us to grow in unity.

Fill our hearts with your peace as we strive to be reconciled to you and each other.

Remind us that Jesus taught us to pray – forgive our wrongs as we forgive those who wrong us.

As we pray that prayer that Jesus taught us ... Our Father ...

(Adapted from prayers by Nolan Palsma, Pitcher Hill Community Church, North Syracuse, NY)

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.

Offering & Prayer

Take our lives and offerings we bring before you now. Use them to bring love, peace and reconciliation to your world. Amen.

(Prayer by Cheryl Williams, 2023)

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. A working group to prepare the celebrations is being formed – if you would like to be part of it please speak to Cheryl or a deacon
- **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**
- **Baptist World Aid Appeal for Horn of Africa**
- **Quarterly Meeting** – has been postponed until March 19th
- **Food Donations** for the Houses of Hope can be left in the tub in the church

Song: Brother Sister Let Me Serve You [\(13\) Brother Sister let me serve you song lyrics - YouTube](#)

Benediction:

God has placed before you, life and death, blessings & curses.

Therefore choose life, follow God's way.

Go now, and be a people of reconciliation and integrity.

Let your "yes" be "yes" and your "no" "no".

And in all the paths you walk

may God hold you steady and close.

May Christ Jesus bless you and every place you enter.

And may the Spirit give you length of days and fullness of life.

We go in peace to love and serve the Lord,

...**In the name of Christ. Amen.** ((inspired by Deuteronomy 30:15-20, Matthew 5: 37 Source: [Nathan Nettleton](#))