



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 20th, 2022

Welcome

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

Eternal God

We trust in You

We delight in You

Eternal God

Our refuge in times of trouble

Our help in times of need

Eternal God,

We commit our way to You

We have no need to fear.

(Prayer by Cheryl Willaims, Feb 2022, based on Psalm 37)

Song: Be Still for the Presence of the Lord

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZugvUQ4m90U>

Opening Prayer

Eternal God, we lift up our hearts and praise you for the unlimited power of your love in
Jesus Christ

**We thank you, we praise you
because he never stopped loving you
even when his disciples ran away
and death stared him in the face.**

Because he never stopped loving other people even when he was being nailed to the
cross

**Because the worst the world could do
in sending Jesus out to die
could not stand in the way of your love:**

Because you showed us the power of your love in raising him from death

**Because by his dying and rising again
we know that your love is strong enough
to go on loving till the end of time**

Lord, we praise you because we know you love must win in the end.
Amen.

(from Be Our Freedom Lord, p. 36)

Song: Give Thanks with a grateful heart

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5waffTnMH6g>

Bible Reading: Genesis 45:3-11, 15 (NRSV)

³ Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence.

⁴ Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come closer to me." And they came closer. He said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. ⁵ And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. ⁶ For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither ploughing nor harvest. ⁷ God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. ⁸ So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. ⁹ Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, 'Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. ¹⁰ You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. ¹¹ I will provide for you there—since there are five more years of famine to come—so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty.'

¹⁵ And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

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: Luke 6:27-38 (NRSV)

²⁷ "But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸ bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. ²⁹ If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. ³⁰ Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. ³¹ Do to others as you would have them do to you. ³² "If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. ³³ If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. ³⁴ If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. ³⁵ But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your

reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. ³⁶ Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. ³⁷ “Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; ³⁸ give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.”

Children's Talk: A Beautiful Coat (Cheryl)

Reflection: Love is the Measure (Cheryl)

Song: Lord Let Me See <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ocPvWfLM550>

Prayers for the Church & World

Remembering:

- Those known to us who struggle with their health
- For those who wait to hear about their visas
- **Orange Sky** – the volunteers and those who use the service
- People affected by landslides in **Brazil**
- Severe food shortage and impending famine in **Afghanistan**
- Places and people affected by the **Omicron** strain of Covid, those grieving the loss of loved ones
- The peoples of – **Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic**
- Places of conflict – **Afghanistan, Myanmar, Syria & Ukraine**
- For our neighbours at **Westhaven**
- Doctors, nurses, ambulance officers and welfare workers, all working to provide assistance in this pandemic
- **Baptist Mission Australia** – their work in Thailand
- **Baptist World Aid** – On the World's Day of Social Justice (20 February) pray that garment workers would be freed from exploitation and slavery, that God's people would work toward fairness for all
- Our friends at Sanctuary and the Houses of Hope in Footscray – especially those looking for new accommodation as the Preston Sanctuary closes.

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 love and compassion,

There are many in this world who need your help and your grace and we pray for them now

- for those who are in pain or lonely, in situations that are soul destroying
- for those who are confused and live lives of quiet despair
- for those who struggle to reach their full potential
- for those who are unwell
- for those who cannot provide their families with all they need
- for those seeking work and educational opportunities
- for those who need forgiveness and those who need to offer it
- for those yearning for reconciliation
- for those that need justice and a fair go

Pour out your love and mercy in good measure upon them.

Help us share, give generously and forgive.

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.
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Song: Don't be afraid, my love is stronger

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LoYKTFe9dVw>

Offering

God of infinite mercy,
Accept these gifts and offerings for your work in the world. Help us to continually offer our frail lives and hopeful lives in your service. Amen.

- Offerings can be made by using our direct debit facility

Footscray Baptist Church

BSB: 083 437

Account No: 515383063

News & Notices

- **Today's** service will not be on zoom or live streamed, copies of the service and sermon can be found on our website.
- **Deacon's Retreat** – Saturday Feb 26th, please pray for deacons as they consider priorities for FBC in 2022
- **Harvest Festival – Service on March 6th**, please bring non-perishable items to donate to Sanctuary & Houses of Hope residents
- **Shrove Tuesday** – March 1st
- **Ash Wednesday** – March 2nd
- **International Women's Day** – March 8th
- **Feast for Freedom** – join in the ASRC fundraising event from March 25-27th, see their website for details
- **Orange Sky** has started using the car park on Monday nights for their laundry service
- **Reflective Prayer** – continues on Thursday Feb 24th at 5pm on zoom. Please contact Ros or Chery for an invite.
- **Food Donations for Sanctuary** – canned chickpeas, red lentils, tuna in oil, oil, kidney beans. Please no cereal as they do not eat cereals.

Feb Birthdays – Luchie, Bruna & Cheryl

Song: Brother Sister Let Me Serve You

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i3v1vzMCsok>

Blessing

Go out into the world in peace. Have courage – repay wrong with good. Let compassion be your friend. Practice forgiveness and keep the faith. May the grace, peace and blessing of the creator, redeemer and sustainer be with you this and day and every day. Amen.

(Based on prayers in Be Our Freedom Lord, p. 238 & 245)