



*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 21<sup>st</sup>, 2021*

### *Lent 1*

Music: Bless the Lord my Soul <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t4Svh-9ohg4>

#### *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*

Our Lord and our God,

**To you we lift our souls**

Our Lord and our God,

**In you we put our trust**

Show us your ways

**Make known to us your paths**

Lead us in truth

**Shower us with mercy and love**

Remember your covenant to us, we pray.

**Amen.**

(  
*Prayer by Cheryl Williams, February 2021 - Based on Psalm 25:1-10*)

#### *Song: Take this moment, sign and space*

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ymXD\\_4R292Q](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ymXD_4R292Q)

#### *Opening Prayer*

God of promises,

**We thank you for the example of all who have withstood times of testing, trial and ridicule – Noah, the prophets, Jesus, countless men and women and children down through the ages.**

We thank you for those who have been brave. Who have bravely stood up against injustice of all kinds, who have stood up against those trying to trick or to take advantage of others.

**We thank you for those who have supported us in times of trial. For those who have listened to us, who have encouraged us and who have helped us see some light at the end of the tunnel. For those who have helped us make good or better decisions and choices.**

We thank you that no matter what difficulties or darkness we find ourselves in, you are always close by.

**We thank you for the gift of the rainbow, a reminder to us always of your love and mercy. Amen.**

*(Prayer by Cheryl Williams, February 2021)*

### *Bible Reading: Genesis 9:8-17 (NRSV)*

<sup>8</sup> Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, <sup>9</sup> “As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, <sup>10</sup> and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. <sup>11</sup> I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.” <sup>12</sup> God said, “This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: <sup>13</sup> I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. <sup>14</sup> When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, <sup>15</sup> I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. <sup>16</sup> When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.” <sup>17</sup> God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.”

### *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.

### *Special time of prayer for Myanmar (Burma)*

Given the circumstances in Myanmar in the past few weeks and at the request of our Kachin brothers and sisters we will spend some time praying for the people of Burma.

God of the World,

- We pray for the people of Myanmar/Burma,
- We pray for the safety of all people but particularly those who are internally displaced.
- We pray for the release of hundreds and hundreds of people arrested whilst protesting the military coup – grant them justice
- We pray for the release of President Win Myit, State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi and other officials – grant them freedom
- We pray that the work of Baptist Conventions who are resettling internally displaced persons may not be hampered – grant them safety
- We pray that internet and phone services may be unblocked – we pray for fairness
- We pray for the re-instatement of a democratically elected government
- We pray for the people, grant them resilience – grant them strength
- We pray for our brothers and sisters from Myanmar who now live in Australia – take away their fear and anxiety as they worry about family and friends – grant them solace
- We pray for the leaders of Burmese churches in Australia – grant them wisdom

- We pray for those who are also affected by the global pandemic in the midst of this crisis – grant them healing
  - We ask that your peace, your justice, reconciliation, non-violence, and respect for human rights and dignity might reign
  - Above all we pray for a peaceful and free future for the people of Myanmar/Burma.
- Hear our prayers for the people for we ask this in the name of Jesus who sought to eradicate injustice and bring freedom to all. Amen.

*Song: Be Not Afraid*

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dWpG7qHtB8g&list=RDdWpG7qHtB8g&start\\_radio=1](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dWpG7qHtB8g&list=RDdWpG7qHtB8g&start_radio=1)

*Bible Reading: Mark 1:9-15 (NRSV)*

<sup>9</sup> In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. <sup>10</sup> And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. <sup>11</sup> And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.” <sup>12</sup> And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. <sup>13</sup> He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him. <sup>14</sup> Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, <sup>15</sup> and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.”

*Children's Talk: Rainbows*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4yzN0fUxjkQ>

*Children's Song: The Arky Arky Song*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6lejYSgmlLE>

*Reflection: Tried and Tested - Noah & Jesus (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
- Those affected by the Eboli virus that has re-emerged in Africa, particularly Congo
- 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 & Yemin.
- Global Interaction – workers and their children, team work and team growth
- Baptist World Aid – that parents would see the importance of a quality education for their children
- 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)*

God of the world, we bring our prayers now for that world

- Where people are tested beyond all they can bear – ill health, grief, sadness, anxiety
- Where people feel like they have been left in the wilderness alone
- Where people find it difficult to distinguish between truth and falsehood, good and bad, good and better, what is important and what is trivial
- Where people are tempted by drugs and other dependencies, tempted by the pursuit of wealth, tempted to cause another harm

As You spared Noah, his family and the animals from destruction, spare those for whom we have just prayed.

Help us stand up for and encourage those being tempted or taken advantage of. Remind us of your way and enable us to hold onto your truth.

We pray in the name of the one who was tested and who rose above it in order to show us how to live, Jesus the Christ. Amen.

*(Prayer by Cheryl Williams, February 2021)*

*Song: What a friend we have in Jesus* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pi1-5kmbkyQ>

### *Offering*

Generous God, take the gifts and lives we offer and use them to relieve those who are tempted and tested beyond that which they can bear. Amen.

*(Prayer by Cheryl Williams, February 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*

- 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 26<sup>th</sup>, 5pm via zoom. Speak to Ros or myself if you are interested and we can send you an invite
- **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: God of grace and God of glory*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i1G6uArjXYI>

*Blessing*

As we leave this place, may

The inexhaustible grace of Christ Jesus,  
the all-embracing love of God,  
and the resilient friendship of the Spirit,  
be yours today and for evermore.  
Amen!

*(Blessing by Bruce Prewer)*