

Order of Service - Lent 1

February 26th, 2023

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

We come to worship God,

We come, bringing our stories, our lives, and our whole selves

We come with our faith and our doubts,

With our hopes and our fears.

We come as we are,

Invited by God who will never turn us away.

All are welcome

Amen

(Adapted from The Church of Scotland – First Sunday in Lent 2023)

Song: *Be Still for the Presence of the Lord* [\(38\) Be still for the presence of the Lord - YouTube](#)

Opening Prayer:

Lord Jesus Christ, you refused to turn stones into bread.

**Save us from using our power, however little, to satisfy the demands of selfishness
in the face of the greater needs of others.**

Lord Jesus Christ, you refused to leap from the temple top.

**Save us from displaying our skills, however modest, to win instant popularity in
the face of nobler calls on our abilities.**

Lord Jesus Christ, you refused to bend the knee to a false god.

**Save us from offering our devotion, however weak, to cheap or easy religion in the
face of the harder path on which you bid us follow you.**

Saviour of the World, you saw Satan masquerading as an angel of light and shunned
him.

**Give us wisdom to discern behind each subtle temptation of the prince of
darkness; and in the face of all that is hellishly attractive,**

Help us to choose the will of God. Amen

(From The Church of Scotland – First Sunday in Lent 2023 - From the Book of Common Order, p.434.)

[Bible Reading - Matthew 4:1-11](#)

4 Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. **2** He fasted for forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. **3** The tempter came and said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.' **4** But he answered, 'It is written, "One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God."' **5** Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, **6** saying to him, 'If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written, "He will command his angels concerning you", and "On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone."' **7** Jesus said to him, 'Again it is written, "Do not put the Lord your God to the test."' **8** Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour; **9** and he said to him, 'All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.' **10** Jesus said to him, 'Away with you, Satan! for it is written, "Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him."' **11** Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

[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: Romans 5:12-19](#)

12 Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned— **13** sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law. **14** Yet death exercised dominion from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sins were not like the transgression of Adam, who is a type of the one who was to come.

15 But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died through the one man's trespass, much more surely have the grace of God and the free gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many. **16** And the free gift is not like the effect of the one man's sin. For the judgement following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brings justification. **17** If, because of the one man's trespass, death exercised dominion through that one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness exercise dominion in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.

18 Therefore just as one man's trespass led to condemnation for all, so one man's act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all. **19** For just as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

[Children's Talk: Desert Places](#)

[Reflection:](#) [Questions in the Desert](#)

[Song: Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God](#) [\(38\) Seek ye first the kingdom of God. Lyric video \(StF 254\) - YouTube](#)

Prayer for Iran

Prayers for the church and world:

Remembering:

- Thousands of those grieving the loss of loved ones and the millions displaced by the recent natural disasters in **Brazil, New Zealand, Syria & Turkiye**
- Those known to us struggling with their health
- 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**
- Places of tension, unrest & conflict especially **Iran, Israel, Myanmar, Peru, Syria, Ukraine**
- The peoples of **Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and The Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, South Korea, South Sudan, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland & Syria**
- **Baptist Mission Australia** – work and workers in Thailand and continue to pray for timely and effective aid to reach those affected by the Earthquake in Turkiye & Syria and the Cyclone in New Zealand, and that we might provide generous support for those communities in crisis
- **Baptist World Aid** – ask God to help us carefully steward the wonderful creation, through big steps and small.

*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

Tender God, Your love is unconditional.

Wider, deeper and truer than we can ever fully know.

For those of us who find it hard to accept ourselves, hear our prayer.

Lord in Your mercy,

Hear our prayer

Compassionate God, for those of us who feel stretched and tired and whose lives are strained and stressed, hear our prayer.

Lord in Your mercy,

Hear our prayer

Merciful God, for those of us holding onto life by our fingertips, or whose grip upon life is fragile, hear our prayer.

Lord in Your mercy,

Hear our prayer

Healing God, for those of us whose illness makes us vulnerable, or leaves us isolated, hear our prayer.

Lord in Your mercy,

Hear our prayer

Loving God, for those of us whose journey is chaotic or find ourselves in turmoil, hear our prayer.

Lord in Your mercy,

Hear our prayer

Caring God, for those of us whose calling is to journey with and care for others, hear our prayer.

Lord in Your mercy,

Hear our prayer

Eternal God, in Your infinite mercy hear our prayers and send us out into Your world to be a people who choose Your way of love. Whether we go into a garden or wilderness we go with You.

May we discern what will help and what will harm, empowered to nurture and not neglect. Help us to live as Your people choosing to turn toward love each and every day.

Amen.

(From The Church of Scotland – First Sunday in Lent 2023)

[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: Be Not Afraid](#) [\(38\) Be not afraid - YouTube](#)

[Offering & Prayer](#)

Generous God,

Take the gifts we bring and the lives they symbolize and turn them into bread for life, safety and empowerment for all. In the name of Jesus who pondered such things in the desert places. Amen.

(Prayer by Cheryl Williams)

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, we will have a meeting on zoom in the next week
- **International Women's Day** – March 8th
- **Bible Study** – A Lenten series each fortnight beginning today Feb 26, immediately following the service in the office or Green Room. Other dates will be March 5, 19 & 26
- **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**
- **Reflective Prayer** – tomorrow, Monday February 27th at 5pm on zoom. Please speak to Ros or Cheryl for an invite.
- **Baptist World Aid Appeal for Earthquake Victims** – see their website for details
- **Quarterly Meeting** – has been postponed until March 19th
- **Food Donations** for the Houses of Hope can be left in the container in the church

February Birthdays Bruna, Cheryl, Luchie

Song: For You Deep Stillness (38) [For you Deep Stillness - Robin Mann - YouTube](#)

Benediction:

May God our creator, redeemer and sustainer – be the truth on which our lives and deaths are built, our hope that cannot be destroyed, our freedom from which love and justice flow and the joy that has eternity within it. Amen. (*Be Our Freedom Lord*, p. 235)

Go in Peace