

Order of Service - February 5th, 2023

Opening Music:

- [Creator King \(15\) Creator King ~ Don Moen - YouTube](#)
- [How Great is Our God \(15\) How Great Is Our God - Lyric Video HD - 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

Called to be light,

We will carry God's hope into the shadows of the world.

Called to be salt,

We will enhance the lives of those around us, with joy.

Called to live in God's reality,

We will welcome everyone as sisters and brothers in faith.

(Adapted from a prayer by (c) 2017 Thom M. Shuman)

Song: [Gather Us In \(15\) Gather Us In - YouTube](#)

Opening Prayer:

Lord Jesus, you have said that your followers must be the light to the world*.

Light propagates itself, dispels darkness.

It sows rays of joy and hope. It is life-giving.

**Help us, Lord, to be a light to this world,
so that our lives radiate your message of love, hope, and joy.
May we be the beacon leading to You those who seek truth.**

You also said, Lord Jesus, that your disciples must be the salt to this earth.

Salt gives taste to food, it retards spoilage.

It is a healing agent.

**Lord, may we be salt
that takes away the blandness in the routine of living,
May we be the salt that brings compassionate healing to anguished souls we
encounter.**

(Adapted from [Facing Life: A Prayer on Graduation Day - Matthew, 5:13-16 - Prayers - Catholic Online](#))

Bible Reading -Matthew 5: 13-20 (NRSVA)

13 'You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything but is thrown out and trampled underfoot.

14 'You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hidden. **15** No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. **16** In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

17 'Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfil. **18** For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter,^[a] not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. **19** Therefore, whoever breaks^[b] one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. **20** For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

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 2:1-16 (NRSVA)

2 When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the mystery of God to you in lofty words or wisdom. **2** For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified. **3** And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. **4** My speech and my proclamation were not with plausible words of wisdom,^[c] but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, **5** so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God.

6 Yet among the mature we do speak wisdom, though it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to perish. **7** But we speak God's wisdom, secret and hidden, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. **8** None of the rulers of this age understood this; for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. **9** But, as it is written, 'What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the human heart conceived, what God has prepared for those who love him'— **10** these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. **11** For what human being knows what is truly human except the human spirit that is within? So also no one comprehends what is truly God's except the Spirit of God. **12** Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God. **13** And we speak of these things in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual things to those who are spiritual. **14** Those who are unspiritual^[d] do not receive the gifts of God's Spirit, for they are foolishness to them, and they are unable to understand them because they are discerned spiritually. **15** Those who are spiritual discern all things, and they are themselves subject to no one else's scrutiny.

16 'For who has known the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?' But we have the mind of Christ.

Children's Talk: Salt & Light

Song: May the Mind of Christ our Saviour [\(15\) May the mind of Christ my Saviour - YouTube](#)

Reflection: Salt & Light

Communion

Communion Song: Come to the Banquet [\(15\) Come to the banquet song by Fay White - YouTube](#)

Invitation

Come to the table of God
Come join in the feast
Come and be filled with love and peace.

Prayer of Preparation

God of wonder,
You bring forth amazing sights and sounds
You establish justice for the vulnerable
You bring healing for the broken
You send prophets speaking words of wisdom

You sent Jesus,
dashing the hopes of the wicked
bringing light into the shadows
rebuilding hope for crumbled lives
bridging chasms between people
reassuring us in the face of uncertainty

Here at the Table of grace,
the Holy Spirit proclaims life,
transforming these simple gifts
and the people gathered in this place.
As we taste the hope in the broken bread,
we would go to

break the bonds of injustice,
and free the oppressed.

As we are filled with the cup,
we would be light to the world,
opening our pantry to the hungry,
wrapping a naked child in our love.

We praise you God in Community, Holy in One. Amen.

(Adapted from a prayer by (c) 2017 Thom M. Shuman)

Words of Institution: Matthew 24:26-30 (NRSVA)

²⁶ While they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to the disciples, and said, 'Take, eat; this is my body.' ²⁷ Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, saying, 'Drink from it, all of you; ²⁸ for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. ²⁹ I tell you, I will never again drink of this fruit of the vine

until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom.' ³⁰ When they had sung the hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

Sharing Bread & Wine

The gifts of God for the people of God. The bread of life and the cup of blessing.

Prayer for Iran

Prayers for the church and world:

Remembering:

- 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 **Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, North Korea, North Macedonia & Norway**
- **Baptist Mission Australia** – Pray for the work and workers in Outback Australia, Malawi and the Silk Road Area
- **Baptist World Aid** – pray that garment workers would be paid a living wage that is enough to keep their families out of poverty

*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

God of light

We pray that there may be more love on earth, that people might be more understanding and friendlier to one another and to share more readily with those in need.

Let your light shine on them.

We pray that there may be greater justice on earth, that governments and their officials might remember those who are out of work, out of luck and out of money.

Let your light shine on them.

We pray that there may be more peace on earth, that nations will put an end to words and ways of hatred and revenge.

Let your light shine on them.

We pray that there may be more joy on earth, that we all might show sympathy and affection for one another, that we will be faithful in our friendships and concerned about our communities.

Let your light shine on us and enable us to be the salt of the earth.

**Lord, let your light shine in us reflecting the light of your love.
May we truly become the salt and the light of the world. Amen.**

(Adapted from COCU13A.Epiphany5A | pilgrimwr.unitingchurch.org.au)

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

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

Take these offerings of our money and ourselves. Use them to sprinkle love and light throughout the world. Amen.

(Prayer by Cheryl Williams, Feb 2023)

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
- **Bible Study** – to begin in February, fortnightly on Sundays after church, speak to Cheryl if you would like to be part of this. We will begin on February 11th.
- **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** – will begin tomorrow, Monday February 6th at 5pm on zoom. Please speak to Ros or Cheryl for an invite.
- **Baptist World Aid Appeal for Horn of Africa** – see website to donate
- BUV Seminar – **Gender Roles and Sexuality in the Church** – Feb 16th 9am – 3pm at Syndal Baptist or online. Cost \$35 or \$25. Book via BUV website
- **Quarterly Meeting** – has been postponed until March 19th
- **Film Set** – from Feb 20 for two weeks our hall will likely be transformed into a film set for 'Plausible Deniability', a series of episodes about homelessness, the hall will be strictly out of bounds during that time
- **Food Donations** for the Houses of Hope can be left in the container in the church

February Birthdays Bruna, Cheryl, Luchie

Song: Christ Be Our Light [\(15\) Christ Be Our Light \(with lyrics\) - Bernadette Farrell - YouTube](#)

Benediction:

In a world that is always asking us

to become something,
someone,
some success story,

In this place we say:
don't become,

be
who we already are.

Don't become light –
be the light you already are –
this is what God anciently placed in you.

Don't become salt –
be the salt you already are –
it is in this way you are known to God.

For from these elements:
Salt and Light,
God uniquely crafted you.

Don't become anything –
be who you are,
and discover the one who loves you
in your be-ing.

Salt and Light Blessing (inspired by Matthew 5:13-16) ~ written by Roddy Hamilton, and posted on **Mucky
aws.** <http://www.nkchurch.org.uk/index.php/mucky-paws>

Go in Peace