



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 - January 9th, 2022

The Baptism of Jesus

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!

Call to Worship (Psalm 29)

Give yourselves to Christ Jesus, children of God!

Give to Christ all honour and glory!

Offer him the praise his name deserves!

Worship him with wholeness of life!

The voice of Christ is stronger than rushing streams;

above the thundering surf of the oceans he speaks.

Listen to the mighty word of the Lord;

filled with majesty is his message.

His voice could splinter Tasmanian blue gums;

the cedars of New England would shatter into pieces.

At his word mountains would leap like the wallaby;

Kosciusko and the Cradle like the red kangaroo.

If the Lord commanded it, Uluru would split;

torn asunder as from volcanic fire.

The voice of the Lord whips up the Gibson desert;

he whirls the Simpson in red dust storms.

When he speaks, forest giants are uprooted,

and the mulga scrub is stripped bare.

Those who live close to him are in awe,

while everything shouts "Glory!"

From the very beginning, Christ alone is King;

his government is established forever.

Lovingly he gives strength to his people;

in his blessings is our joy and peace.

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Song: Let's Go Down to the River to Pray

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zSif77IVQdY>

Opening Prayer - Renewal of Baptismal Vows

Creator of heaven and earth,

as your Spirit swept over the primal waters

sweep over us now;

as you redeemed Noah's creatures from the waters of destruction

stretch your bow in the clouds above again;
as you divided the waters of the sea for the slaves from Egypt,
free us now, and call us forward into a new journey;
bring us again to the Jordan river, to be cleansed with Naaman,
and to be baptized by John under the vault of heaven;
flood us with the memories of our ancestors
Hagar and Ishmael at the spring in the wilderness,
and the Samaritan woman who drank with Jesus at Jacob's well.

We come from many nations to be buried in the depths of baptism,
to rise with your Son Jesus into new life,
and to invite others into his cleansing waters.

In his living and dying, he declared your love,
and gave us the ministry of reconciliation.

As we now share in Christ's body, in the power of your Spirit,
keep us firm in faith, and joyous in hope
so that we and all your children can be free,
and the whole earth be redeemed in your glory.

(Prayer by Dr Mark Brett, written for services of Baptism at Brunswick Baptist Church)

Bible Reading: Isaiah 43:1-7 (NRSV) -

But now thus says the LORD, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. ² When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. ³ For I am the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Saviour. I give Egypt as your ransom, Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you. ⁴ Because you are precious in my sight, and honoured, and I love you, I give people in return for you, ⁶ I will say to the north, "Give them up," and to the south, "Do not withhold; bring my sons from far away and my daughters from the end of the earth— ⁷ everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made."

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 3:15-17, 21-22 (NRSV)

¹⁵ As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, ¹⁶ John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with^[e] the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷ His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire." ²¹ Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, ²² and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

Song: Deeper River <https://www.sixmaddens.org/?p=1816>

Children's Talk: The Baptism of Jesus

Reflection: Living Into Our Baptisms (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
- Places and people affected by the **Omicron** strain of Covid
- The **Kachin** church after they had a positive covid case
- Places of conflict – **Afghanistan, Myanmar**
- **Floods in Queensland & Snow storms in Pakistan** endangering life
- For our neighbours at **Westhaven**
- Doctors, nurses, ambulance officers and welfare workers, all working to provide assistance in this pandemic
- Global Interaction – work in Malawi
- Baptist World Aid – pray for children around the world still affected by the impact and uncertainty of Covid on their education and family, that God's steadfast love would protect them.
- Our friends at Sanctuary and the Houses of Hope in Footscray

Silence – in the silence and through our minds and imaginations we bring prayers which words cannot contain:

(p. 56-7 A Wee Worship Book)

We pray for the church: grant it Your Holy Spirit so that we may become in practice more truly what we already are in faith and hope: the body of Christ and a new family God. May there be truth, healing, compassion and joy, O God.

We pray for the world, that the values of the kingdom of God may become less unusual in the way we care for the weak and the neglected, the foolish and the disgraced. May there be truth, healing, compassion and joy, O God.

We pray for all suffering, broken, and forlorn people around us in church and community; that the healing of Christ may reach into the soul's depths where no human hand can touch or human word console. May there be truth, healing, compassion and joy, O God.

And now unto the loving God who is always doing far better than we can think or pray or do, be glory now and beyond the end of time. Amen!

(Based on prayer by Bruce Prewer)

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: Be Not Afraid <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K3zgjRCbT5s>

Offering

Loving God,

As Jesus willing gave himself to be baptized just like everyone else. We willingly offer you our gifts of money and lives to be used to bring love, joy and aid to those in our local community. Amen.

(Prayer by Cheryl Williams)

- 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.
- **Orange Sky** has started using the car park on Monday nights for their laundry service
- **Deacon's Meeting** – Sunday January 23rd, immediately following the service
- **Reflective Prayer** – recommences on Thursday January 27th 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.

Song: Here I Am Lord <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EcXOkht8w7c>

Blessing

Go out now, in the knowledge you are God's beloved
Live out the truths of your baptism
Tell others of abundant life beyond the waters.
May God, our beloved, give you strength
May Christ fill you with the Holy Spirit
And may the Spirit give you peace. Amen.

(Based on prayer by Nathan Nettleton)