



*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 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021 (The Baptism of Jesus)*

*Music: Thou Whose Almighty Word*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aJuqdIVH8VY>

### *Welcome and 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!

### *Call to Worship*

Lord of all the earth,

**We ascribe to you glory and strength**

Your voice thunders over the waters

**Your voice is powerful, full of majesty**

Your voice snaps the trees as they sway in the breeze

**Your voice makes us skip like a young calf**

Your voice shakes the wilderness

**Your voice speaks ever so gently**

Your voice whispers to us – you are my beloved

**Give strength to your people**

Give peace to us!

**Amen.**

*(Prayer by Cheryl Williams based on Psalm 29)*

*Song: Down to the River to Pray <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zSif77IVQdY>*

### *Opening Prayer*

**God of the waters,**

**We give thanks for water:**

- **In the form of a verdant oasis welcoming the desert traveller**
- **In the form of downpours creating rain forests**
- **In the form of storms that break the drought**
- **In the form of drops sounding on our roofs**
- **In the form of rockpools where children search**
- **In the form of the ocean inviting us in on a hot summer's day**
- **In the form of a long cool drink**
- **In the form of creeks and rivers where we can paddle and cool off**
- **In the form which cleanses us**
- **In the form of the Jordan where John showed the people a new way**
- **Where Jesus, showed his solidarity with all, was baptised**
- **In the place where we were baptised**

## God of the waters, we thank you. Amen

(Prayer by Cheryl Williams, based on one by Bruce Prewer)

### Bible Reading: Genesis 1:1-9 (NRSV)

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, <sup>2</sup> the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. <sup>3</sup> Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. <sup>4</sup> And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. <sup>5</sup> God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day. <sup>6</sup> And God said, "Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters." <sup>7</sup> So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so. <sup>8</sup> God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day. <sup>9</sup> And God said, "Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear." And it was so. <sup>10</sup> God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good.

### 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: Mark 1:4-11 (NRSV)

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>5</sup> And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. <sup>6</sup> Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. <sup>7</sup> He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. <sup>8</sup> I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit." <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."

### 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 in to 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)*

### *Song: Deeper River*

There's a river running deep within the silence of our souls

Where the quenching healing waters carve their art

At its source a spring of living water surging and sustained

It's the voice of Jesus waiting for the listening of our hearts

Chorus:     When the living waters flow in us  
              When the living waters flow again  
              They will carry us, they will wash us down  
              They will quench our thirst again

Sometimes the river of our life winds wandering away

Sometimes the rapids tumble restlessly

Comes the time to stop and find the deeper river running strong

To drink refreshing waters, and hear the Spirit's song

Chorus

Hear the call to thirsty people, there's no need to thirst again

To the weary come beside still waters lie

Full of goodness full of mercy our cup will overflow

When the call of that deep river is a voice we've come to know

Chorus

*(words & music by Digby Hannah)*

### *Children's Talk: The Baptism of Jesus*

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_VMNO2MAmwA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_VMNO2MAmwA)

### *Reflection: An Ordinary Baptism?*

### *Prayers for the Church & World*

Remembering:

- Those known to us who struggle with their health
- For those who wait to hear about their visas
- 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. For places experiencing increases in Covid 19 cases
- Those affected by political unrest in especially Afghanistan, Ethiopia. Kachin State, Thailand & United States
- Global Interaction – pray for leadership team based in Australia, especially Vic/Tas rep – Geoff Maddock
- Baptist World Aid – work amongst the poor and helping prevent Covid 19 in places they work
- 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)*

Life giving Lord,

We continue to pray for your church and world

As your spirit hovered over the waters, hover over the creation again. May we revel in it with a new sense of wonder and responsibility.

In the days of Noah, you saved him and his family and the animals from the flood. May you look with compassion on those affected by natural disasters, may we too show them compassion.

You led your people to freedom by stilling the Red Sea. Liberate those who live with oppression and cruelty. Show us how to show them dignity, hope and freedom.

Namaan was cured of his illness when he humbled himself and dipped into the Jordan. We pray for healing for all who are unwell and anxious. We also pray for healing and a cure or Covid.

In the River Jordan, Jesus shared with others as they turned their lives around and toward you. Save all from the time of trial.

In the waters of baptism, you claim us as your own. Remind us again and again we are loved by you. Send us out to tell of your forgiveness, your peace and your love.

We pray in the name of the one with whom you were well pleased, Jesus the Christ.  
Amen.

*(Prayer by Cheryl Williams, based on one by Janet Nelson in 'Let Us Pray' p.42)*

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

### Offering

Loving God,

In the beginning you created out of nothing. Take these our offerings of money and lives and create out of them gifts of love for your community in Footscray and beyond.

Amen.

*(Prayer by Cheryl Williams, 2020)*

- Offerings can be made by using our direct debit facility

**Footscray Baptist Church**  
**BSB: 083 437**

News & Notices

- Next Week we return to **face-to-face worship** – Jan 17<sup>th</sup>, 2021. For those who are unable to attend in person we will also zoom the service. Details were forwarded to you with the zoom invite. We will need a COVID helper to monitor numbers, and volunteers to clean church immediately following the service in preparation for the Persian & Kachin services.
- If you attend you must **adhere to the following rules:**
  - Sign in – manually or using QR code
  - Wear a mask whilst inside the church
  - Maintain 1.5m distance from others not in your household
  - Not attend if you are unwell or have COVID symptoms or are awaiting a Covid test result or been told to isolate or quarantine
  - Use sanitiser provided
  - Not shake hands, hug etc
  - BYO communion
  - Sit in marked seating
- **Food Donations for Sanctuary** – beans, lentils, rice, pasta, tuna. 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)*