



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 23rd, 2022 Aboriginal Sunday

Opening *Mu Amazing Grace (Gurrumul & Paul Kelly)*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MVORrx9jliE> sic -

Welcome and Introduction

- Today is Aboriginal Sunday, a day William Cooper called for in the 1930's, and is a day for Christians to act in solidarity with Aboriginal peoples and begin to understand the injustices they experience. We will listen to aboriginal voices in our songs, prayers and reflections. You will use the gum leaf you received later in the service.

Acknowledgement of Country (Cheryl)

We acknowledge the Wurrundjeri people of the Kulin Nation, the sovereign First Peoples of this place.

We honour their elders, past, present and emerging together with the descendants of this Nation, for their care for these lands and waters since creation.

Call to Worship

Our land is alive with the glory of God.

Desert sands hum and gum trees dance.

Brown grasses sing

and mountains breathe their stillness

All created things add their rhythms of delight

and even stones rap out their praise.

Let our voices mingle with those of the earth

may our hearts join the beat of her joy,

for our triune God is with us.

The source of all being surrounds and upholds us

Christ Jesus walks beside us and before us.

The Spirit moves within and between us.

Blessed be God, our wonder and delight.

(from 'Day of Mourning' 2020, Uniting Church in Australia)

Song: You Were in this Place https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ed9-in8_TW0

Opening Prayer

Creator God,

We thank you for this large island we call home – its beauty, its grandeur and its fragility tell of your works:

- the wind as it whistles through the grass trees
- the might rivers and raging seas surrounding us
- the red, red dirt at the centre
- the colours of the reef

- the great monolith at the heart of the land
- the curious animals – roos, emus, quokkas, wombats and platypie

We thank you for the many diverse people who call this place home and who share our lives.

We thank you for the ancient culture of the first peoples – for its stories and its wisdom teaching us more about you, about each other, about us.

Help us to respect the land, its peoples and their cultures.

We pray in the name of Jesus. Amen

(Prayer by Cheryl Willaims, Jan 2022)

Bible Reading: Luke 4:14-21 (NRSV)

14 Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. **15** He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone. **16** When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, **17** and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

18 “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives
and recovery of sight to the blind,
to let the oppressed go free,
19 to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favour.”

20 And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. **21** Then he began to say to them, “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”

Time of Confession & Lament

God of Mercy,
As the second peoples of this land
We acknowledge and lament

- the injustice and abuse first peoples have experienced
- the taking of land, language, culture and law
- the way Christians have been complicit in this
- that such injustice and abuse still continues today
- our own indifference, and apathy

Liberating Jesus, bring healing, hope and transformation into all our lives
Gracious God, forgive us our failures and give us the grace to make a fresh start
Sprit, transform our minds and hearts so we may love and speak the truth
In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

(Based on prayer from ‘Day of Mourning’ 2020, Uniting Church in Australia)

Assurance of Forgiveness

Know that in Christ, through Christ and because of Christ our sins are forgiven.
Thanks be to God.

Song: Took the Children Away (Archie Roach)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EA52bupg-BY>

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: 1 John 3:16-24(NRSV)

16 We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. **17** How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister^[a] in need and yet refuses help?

18 Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. **19** And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him **20** whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. **21** Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; **22** and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

23 And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. **24** All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

Children's Talk: (Cheryl)

Reflection: Derrimut, William, Doug and Us (Cheryl)

Song: Ntari Ladies Choir (CD) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zn1dtkdvd_M
(Best of Friends)

Prayers for the Church & World

Remembering:

- Those known to us who struggle with their health
- For those who wait to hear about their visas
- **Indigenous people** and the relationship between first and second peoples
- Places and people affected by the **Omicron** strain of Covid
- People of **Tonga and the Pacific** after the undersea volcanic eruption and the destruction and displacement it has caused
- Those affected by the explosion in **Nigeria**
- Places of conflict – **Afghanistan, Myanmar, Ukraine & Yemen**
- For our neighbours at **Westhaven**
- Doctors, nurses, ambulance officers and welfare workers, all working to provide assistance in this pandemic
- Global Interaction – staff as they begin another year of bringing good news to the others
- Baptist World Aid – for the International Day of Education (24 January), pray for women and girls throughout Afghanistan, for their protection, continued education and courage to dream

- 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)

Gum leaf – as we pray today, hold the leaf in your hand as a symbol of the prayers we make for our first peoples. Take it with you in the week and think about the way you can commit to changing the injustices our first peoples still experience.

Loving God,

We come now to pray for this land and all who live here.

- Where there is inequality, bring justice.
- Where there is disease, bring healing.
- Where there is estrangement, bring reconciliation,
- Where there is scarcity, bring abundance,
- Where things have been taken, bring restoration.

We seek courage

- To search for the truth of our common history
- To listen to the stories of others
- To respect the cultures of all
- To stand up for those who are vulnerable
- To enable all to find their dignity and worth
- To ensure all have a decent quality of life
- To share our common resources fairly
- To work for reconciliation

We pray in the name of Jesus who taught us to pray

(Prayer by Cheryl Williams, Jan 2022)

The Lord's Prayer

You are our Father, you live in heaven, we talk to you. Father you are good.

We believe your word, Father, we are your children, give us bread today.

We have done wrong, we are sorry, teach us, Father, all about your Word.

Others have done wrong to us, and we are sorry for them, Father, today.

Stop us from doing wrong, Father, save us all from the evil one.

You are our Father, you live in heaven, we talk to you. Father you are good.

(Abbreviated version of prayer by © Diocese of Broome Permission to use the Aboriginal Our Father is given by the Bishop of Broome)

Offering

Extravagant God,

Your gifts to us are numerous, we are richly blessed.

Take these gifts we bring to your now and the lives they symbolise.

Use them and us to bring justice to all in this land. Amen.

(Prayer by Cheryl Williams, Jan 2022)

- 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
- **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: It's Not Too Late (Archie Roach)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8iuePsowQkU>

Benediction

As you leave this place, may God bless you
May God give you a generous spirit and a kind heart
May Jesus walk alongside you as you walk alongside others
May the Spirit strengthen you as you work for reconciliation. Amen.

(Prayer by Cheryl Williams, Jan 2022)

Blessing Song: For You Deep Stillness