

Order of Service - January 29th, 2023

Opening Music:

- [The Steadfast Love of the Lord \(426\) Maranatha singers The steadfast love of the Lord - YouTube](#)
- [Alleluia the Great Storm is Over \(426\) Alleluia, The Great Storm Is Over - 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

It is good to be together, God, in this place, with these people, at this time,
together listening for your voice.

**In this hour of worship tell us about your kingdom of kindness so that we can seek
it.**

Show us your justice.

We want to walk with you, humbly, closely, daily. Amen.

(Prayer found at [leadinginworship: Prayers: Call to Worship \(typepad.com\)](#))

Song: [Praise with Joy the World's Creator \(429\) PRAISE WITH JOY THE WORLD'S CREATOR
VU 312 - YouTube](#)

Opening Prayer:

Though it may seem foolish,

We boast in the cross!

The wisdom of God,
the place of infinite Love's
extravagant sacrifice,
the sign of scandalous grace
welcoming all.

**We praise you, O Christ, for your cross,
and for the love and grace we find there.**

Though it may seem weak,

We boast in the cross!

The power of God,
the scene of death's demise
and life's unstoppable outbreak,
the mark of evil's failure

to extinguish the light of goodness and peace.

**We praise you, O Christ, for your cross,
and for the life and goodness we find there.**

In the face of this world's information economy
and petty power-games,
**we boast in the foolishness and weakness
of the cross of Christ.
For in it we find all the wisdom and power
that makes this world whole.**

Amen.

(Prayer 'Boasting in the Cross' found at [Epiphany 4A – Sacredise](#))

Bible Reading -Matthew 5:1-12

5 When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. **2** Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:
3 'Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
4 'Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.
5 'Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.
6 'Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.
7 'Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.
8 'Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.
9 'Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.
10 'Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
11 'Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. **12** Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

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 1:18-31

18 For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. **19** For it is written,
'I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.'

20 Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? **21** For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. **22** For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, **23** but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling-block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, **24** but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. **25** For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

²⁶ Consider your own call, brothers and sisters:^[a] not many of you were wise by human standards,^[b] not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. ²⁷ But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; ²⁸ God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, ²⁹ so that no one^[c] might boast in the presence of God. ³⁰ He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, ³¹ in order that, as it is written, 'Let the one who boasts, boast in^[d] the Lord.'

Children's Talk: The Lion and the Mouse (Aesop)

Reflection: Utter Foolishness

Prayer for Iran

Song: Be Not Afraid [\(429\) Be Not Afraid by Bob Dufford, sung by John Michael Talbot with lyrics - YouTube](#)

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
- **The people of Iran**, many who have been killed or arrested after protesting in the streets
- **China** as it begins to open up post pandemic and as people travel for Lunar New Year
- 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 **Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia, Moldova, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Mozambique & Myanmar**
- **Baptist World Aid** – The horn of Africa is on the verge of famine. Pray that families would find solutions to hunger and have enough to eat.

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

Merciful God, we pray now for your world.

We remember those who are poor – financially, emotionally, spiritually. Remind them of your favour.

We remember those who mourn a loved one, a lost opportunity, a dream. Comfort them we pray.

We remember those who are humble, those who do not value themselves, whose self-esteem is low. Remind them they are precious in your sight and indeed will inherit the earth.

We remember those who hunger and thirst for sustenance, for justice, for peace. Especially those in the horn of Africa and other places where food is in short supply. May they one day be filled.

We remember those who are kind, who put others before themselves, who offer forgiveness and who do not judge others. May their kindness be returned in spades.

We remember those who are honest with themselves and others, who do their best to live lives of integrity and do the right thing. May they see You face to face.

We remember all who work for peace in their lives, in this country and throughout the world, especially in Iran, Myanmar and Ukraine. They are truly your children.

We remember those who are persecuted unjustly, particularly in Iran and Myanmar but all over the world, especially those whose only crime is to stand up for another. Remind them that the kingdom of heaven is theirs.

We remember those who are ridiculed and made fun of, whose colour or creed or identity is denied and who are victimised. May they know your blessing.

Finally, we pray for ourselves, may your words on the mount become principles for life and for us, may we do all we can to live them out and be a blessing to others.

We pray in the name of the one who uttered such blessing, Jesus the Christ. Amen.

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

May we always be foolish enough to offer our gifts to you, Generous God, for you use them to bring justice to the oppressed, to bring laughter to those who mourn, and to offer wonder to little children. This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

(c) Thom M. Shuman

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
- **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 in February. It will be on either Monday, Tuesday or Thursday afternoons at 5pm, speak to Ros or Cheryl if you are interested and with a preference for day. It will be on zoom
- **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

Song: Make Me A Channel of Your Peace [make me a channel of your peace - Google Search](#)

Benediction:

We have been nourished by God's grace and hope,
**and so we will go to those who hunger for justice,
 as well as to those who thirst for reconciliation.**

We are called to follow the One who is weak and powerless,
**and so we will bring healing to the broken among us,
 as well as comfort to those who grieve in every moment.**

We learn what is right and good from the Holy Spirit,
**and so we will go as fools to be blessings to the wise,
 as well as to do not what is easy, but what is difficult.**

(c) Thom M. Shuman

Go in Peace