



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 3rd, 2021

Epiphany Sunday

Music: Hallelujah Chorus

<https://youtu.be/NXFhkmyVRgM>

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!

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Call to Worship

God of God

Light of Light

True God of true God

We Bless You

Object of the Magi's search

Subject of an old man's song

Fulfilment of the Baptist's preaching,

We Bless You

Mary's son

Joseph's son,

God's only son,

We Bless You

(from 'Cloth for the Cradle by Wild Goose Worship Group, p. 131)

Song We Three Kings of Orient Are

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k8mjRxkMBkE>

Opening Prayer

God of all time,

We praise and adore you for breaking into the darkness of this world with the glorious light of your presence.

A light which made your love for the world visible in the babe born in Bethlehem – Jesus Christ, your Son, our Saviour. A light which guided those gift-bearing travellers from afar to find and worship the Christ-child. A light which leads us to you now revealed in Jesus Christ.

We praise you for the light of your life, love and freedom.

We praise you for both your and their generosity

We thank you for the example of those wise men, who came, searching for the child, aided only by a star, determination and the directions of a jealous king.

We thank you that they did not abandon their search because it was too long, too boring, too hard. Nor did they allow, themselves, to be side-tracked by all kinds of distractions.

May we too search for the child and return home never to be the same. Amen.

(Prayer written by Rev Moira B Laidlaw – moira@liturgiesonline and Cheryl Williams)

Bible Reading: Isaiah 60:1-9 (NRSV)

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. ²For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. ³Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. ⁴Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms. ⁵Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. ⁶A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD. ⁷All the flocks of Kedar shall be gathered to you, the rams of Nebaioth shall minister to you; they shall be acceptable on my altar, and I will glorify my glorious house. ⁸Who are these that fly like a cloud, and like doves to their windows? ⁹For the coastlands shall wait for me, the ships of Tarshish first, to bring your children from far away, their silver and gold with them, for the name of the LORD your God, and for the Holy One of Israel, because he has glorified you.

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: Matthew 2:1-12 (NRSV)

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ²asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." ³When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: ⁶'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my

people Israel.”⁷ Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸ Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.”

⁹ When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹ On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹² And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Children's Talk: Three Wise Camels (Lost Sheep)

Reflection:

Communion Song: Christmas Communion Song

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-MeelD95Szw>

Communion

Invite

The magi from the East knew of your child only by what the silent stars could tell. Draw us again to that child so that in him we might find the fulfilment of all our searching.

(Based on a prayer by Nathan Nettleton 2000)

Prayer of Preparation:

We give you thanks, O God,
For making your love evident
Since the very beginning of time
When you spoke the word
Which replaced the darkness of chaos with life-giving light.

A light which has nurtured generations of people, and plants and creatures, great and small. A light which also revealed the fear and powerlessness caused by corruption and evil actions.

And so, you spoke the word, which would once and for all dispel the darkness of chaotic lives. Through your love for the world the Word became flesh and lived among us full of grace and truth.

The angels carolled glory to you in the highest heavens and peace to all people on earth, and we join them and with all people to praise your holy name: *Blessed is he who was born that we might have life.*

Holy God, as the travellers with their treasures were overwhelmed with joy on finding Jesus, so we also are overwhelmed on finding out the depth of his love for us.

Send the power of your Holy Spirit upon these gifts of bread and wine, O God, that we may experience the presence of the Word-made-flesh – Jesus Christ.

Breathe your Spirit in us that we may be one body with him – living out his ministry in the world today and every day. This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

(Based on prayer written by Rev Moira B Laidlaw – moira@liturgiesonline)

Words of Institution: Mark 14:22-26

²² While they were eating, he took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to them, and said, "Take; this is my body." ²³ Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, and all of them drank from it. ²⁴ He said to them, "This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many. ²⁵ Truly I tell you, I will never again drink of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God." ²⁶ When they had sung the hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

Prayers for the Church & World

Remembering:

- Those known to us who struggle with their health
- For those who wait to hear about their visas
- Those affected by landslides in PNG and Norway
- 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 and Yemin
- Global Interaction – new ministry initiatives & partnerships, recruitment
- Baptist World Aid – people with whom BWA works
- 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)

And we continue to pray for all people and your world.

We pray for the light of God in Christ Jesus to drive back the darkness of human error, misery and evil.

Where people are lost and jaded – we pray for the hope of epiphany.

Where people rule without mercy or wisdom – we pray for the compassion of the epiphany.

Where refugees and asylum seekers are detained simply because they have fled oppression – we pray for the justice of epiphany.

Where people see no future and only hopelessness – we pray for the light of epiphany.

Where the church dodges its social and political responsibility – we pray for the truth of epiphany.

Where people are fearful and anxious – we pray for the love of epiphany.

Loving God, all are precious to you Take away our prejudice and indifference that we may share your love and light to all people. Amen.

(Based on a prayer by Bruce Prewer – <http://www.alphalink.com.au/~nigel/doc/060102.htm>)

Song: Light of the World <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gDSuYXdW63g>

Offering

Instead of gold, frankincense and myrrh, we bring to you. O God, the treasures you have first given to us – our hearts, minds, bodies, to be used in your service.

We offer these gifts – of money and our lives – as signs of our total giving, praying that they will be used to herald the coming of your kingdom. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

(Written by Rev Moira B Laidlaw – moira@liturgiesonline)

- Offerings can be made by using our direct debit facility

Footscray Baptist Church

BSB: 083 437

Account No: 515383063

News & Notices

- Return to **face-to-face worship** – Jan 17th, 2021, details will be forwarded to you. Looking for a COVID helper to monitor numbers, cleaning etc each week
- **2021 rosters** – these will be prepared soon so if you would like to provide music, lead the singing, read the bible, lead worship, help with cleaning the worship space after each service please see Cheryl today
- Thanks from Sanctuary for all the donations given in 2020
- **Food Donations** for Sanctuary – beans, lentils, rice, pasta, tuna. Please no cereal as they do not eat cereals.

Song: As With Gladness https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3oaaw_dUUig

Blessing

The light has pierced our darkness.

Go in the name of God – Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer, to follow that light.

May we all follow with our gifts and our lives. Amen.

(Written by Rev Moira B Laidlaw – moira@liturgiesonline)