



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 31st, 2021

Music: Gather Us In <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IbNXqjwh8is>

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!

Lighting the Candle - Jesus said 'I Am the Light of the World' (Sunny)

Call to Worship

We, this congregation, with our whole hearts, give thanks to the Lord.

Great are you works!

Your righteousness endures forever. You are gracious and merciful.

Great are you works!

You are mindful of your promises, justice and truth are your ways.

Great are you works!

You are Holy and Awesome. You save your people.

Great are you works!

Standing in awe of you, is the beginning of wisdom!

Praise the LORD!

We will praise you forever!

(Based on Psalm 111, by Cheryl Williams, January 2021)

Song: The Steadfast Love of the Lord Never Ceases

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

Opening Prayer

God of the universe,

We have so much for which to give you thanks.

For the teachers, writers, poets and songwriters who reveal your truth to us

For those who help us deal with our dis-ease

For those who embrace others on the margins

For those whose lives, inspire us to action

For those who have wrapped their arms around us and kept us safe

For those who take us seriously and listen to our dreams

For those who help us discern our next steps

For those who care for our environment

For those who work for justice for others

For those who care for the sick and vulnerable

Grant to us the humility to learn from them all.

Grant to us the courage to follow their example.

We pray in the name of Jesus who responded to those in need, welcomed the outsider, taught with authority and whose call is irresistible. Amen.

(Prayer by Cheryl Williams, January 2021)

Bible Reading: Mark 1: 21-28 (NRSV)

²¹They went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. ²²They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. ²³Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, ²⁴and he cried out, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God." ²⁵But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be silent, and come out of him!" ²⁶And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. ²⁷They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, "What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him." ²⁸At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

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 8:1-13 (NRSV)

Now concerning food sacrificed to idols: we know that "all of us possess knowledge." Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. ²Anyone who claims to know something does not yet have the necessary knowledge; ³but anyone who loves God is known by him. ⁴Hence, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that "no idol in the world really exists," and that "there is no God but one." ⁵Indeed, even though there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as in fact there are many gods and many lords—⁶yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist. ⁷It is not everyone, however, who has this knowledge. Since some have become so accustomed to idols until now, they still think of the food they eat as food offered to an idol; and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. ⁸"Food will not bring us close to God." We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. ⁹But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. ¹⁰For if others see you, who possess knowledge, eating in the temple of an idol, might they not, since their conscience is weak, be encouraged to the point of eating food sacrificed to idols? ¹¹So by your knowledge those weak believers for whom Christ died are destroyed. ¹²But when you thus sin against members of your family, and wound their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. ¹³Therefore, if food is a cause of their falling, I will never eat meat, so that I may not cause one of them to fall.

Children's Talk: Stumbling Blocks

Reflection: What have you to do with us Jesu? What is this? (Cheryl)

Prayers for the Church & World

Remembering:

- Those known to us who struggle with their health
- Today is Leprosy Sunday – praying for those who have leprosy throughout the world & those who work with them
- For those who wait to hear about their visas
- Teachers and students as they return to school
- 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, Chile, Ethiopia. Kachin State, Lebanon, Russia, Thailand & United States
- Global Interaction – ‘K’ people of the Silk Road Area – staff to learn local language and build friendships
- Baptist World Aid – as our children go back to school, for children overseas who cannot attend school
- 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)

God of the world,

We pray for your creation:

- For places where habitats are being destroyed
- For places which are doused in pollution
- For the oceans, streams and waters that are not flowing
- For animals, birds, reptiles, fish facing extinction.

Disturb and challenge us to make a difference

We pray for your people:

- For children beginning a year of learning and discovery
- For teachers providing a conducive environment in which they will grow and develop
- For people who hurt – in body, mind or soul
- For people who feel excluded
- For those who are looking for a chance – a job, an opportunity, acceptance

Disturb and challenge us to make a difference

Finally, we pray for ourselves:

Grant us courage, grant us strength, grant us a desire to follow in your way.

Amen.

(Prayer by Cheryl Williams, January 2021)

Song: Brother, Sister Let Me Serve You

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0JahFRDrSCs>

Offering

God of all generosity,

Take our offerings and our dreams and use them:

- to embrace those on the edges of society,
- use them to remove all stumbling blocks for those looking for your love.

Amen.

(Prayer by Cheryl Williams, January 2021)

- Offerings can be made by using our direct debit facility or placed in plate at back of church

Footscray Baptist Church

BSB: 083 437

Account No: 515383063

News & Notices

- Services will continue to be zoomed as well as face to face worship
- **February Quarterly Church Meeting** – February 21st immediately following church in the Hall to allow for social distancing
- **Food Donations for Sanctuary** – beans, lentils, rice, pasta, tuna. Please no cereal as they do not eat cereals.

Song: Jesus Christ is Waiting https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CSzEviUc_o

Blessing

Gracious God, as we now part,

Grant that we may walk in your presence:

Your love in our hearts

Your truth in our minds

Your strength in our wills;

Until, at the end of the journey,

We know the joy of our homecoming

And the welcome of your embrace,

Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(from Be Our Freedom Lord, p. 239)

Blessing Song: Thuma Mina <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jAcZsqH6NYw>