



*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 - July 12<sup>th</sup>, 2020*

*Music: 'Gabriel's Oboe' from The Mission, music by Ennio Morricone*  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5Gvvp20\\_WXM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5Gvvp20_WXM)

### *Welcome and Acknowledgement of Country*

As we begin our worship, we acknowledge the Wurrundjeri people of the Kulin Nation, the traditional custodians of this land on which we gather to worship. We honour this history, their elders, past, present and emerging and commit ourselves to work together for reconciliation between all peoples, God and the land.

Welcome everybody to worship!

Early next week the service and sermon will be on the website

### *Lighting the Candle - Jesus said 'I Am the Light of the World'*

#### *Call to Worship: based on Psalm 65*

God, praise awaits you in all the world

**You hear our prayers, forgive our sins and call us to dwell with you!**

God of hope, you are the life of the entire world.

**Your faithfulness calls forth songs of joy from the ends of the earth.**

You form the mountains and still the roaring sea.

**You calm the uproar of the nations.**

You care for the land, bless it with water, and fill it with grain to feed the people.

**Let all creation shout and sing for joy.**

(Based on prayer found at <https://www.ucc.org/worship/worship-ways/year-c>)

### *Song - Morning Has Broken (Cat Stevens)* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e0TInLOJuUM>

#### *Opening Prayer*

**We believe in God, who when there was nothing**

**Planted the seeds of life in all creation,**

**Green in the desert, blossoms in the trees and breath in the clay of human life.**

**We believe in Jesus Christ, eternal seed of life,**

**Who entered the depths of our existence**

**Trod deeply into our earthliness, took into his body our painfulness, and lifted into the victory of love.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, who waters our grief with tears, nourishes in us the buds of life,**

**And tenderly cherishes our growings until they break forth into the fruits of hope and faith.**

(Prayer by Dorothy McRae-McMahon in 'Liturgies for the Journey of Life', pp.102-3)

*Bible Reading: Isaiah 55:10-13 (NRSV)*

<sup>10</sup> For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, <sup>11</sup> so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

<sup>12</sup> For you shall go out in joy, and be led back in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

<sup>13</sup> Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress; instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle; and it shall be to the LORD for a memorial, for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

*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: Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23 (NRSV)*

**13** That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. **2** Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. **3** And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. **4** And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. **5** Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. **6** But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. **7** Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. **8** Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. **9** Let anyone with ears listen!"

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**18** "Hear then the parable of the sower. **19** When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. **20** As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; **21** yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. **22** As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. **23** But as for what was sown on good soil,

this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.”

*Children's Talk* - [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IZEO\\_Ls2ERs](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IZEO_Ls2ERs)

*Children's Song: The Seed Song* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7lcsyVVHHYc>

*Reflection: Seeds, Soils and Sowing*

*Prayers for the Church & World*

Remembering:

- Those known to us who struggle with their health
- Neighbours in hard lockdown, communities on Victorian border
- Public Health officials making decisions about our welfare
- Essendon & West Melbourne Baptist churches providing food to people in the Housing Estates
- Tensions in Hong Kong
- Covid 19 – those working on cures, vaccines, treatments
- Global Interaction – for creativity in work with H people in Central Asia
- Our friends at Sanctuary and the Houses of Hope in Footscray
- Our friends in Kenya
- Places that are dealing with increasing numbers of Covid19– parts of Africa, USA, India

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, you sow love lavishly amongst all people and in all places.

Help us sow seeds of dignity amongst the vulnerable, especially those locked down in housing estates

Help us sow seeds of understanding where there is anxiety, fear and frustration

Help us sow seeds of compassion amongst the hungry and the needy

Help us sow seeds of peace where there is the possibility of conflict

Help us sow seeds of sensitivity amongst people of all cultures

Help us sow seeds of wisdom within our decision makers

Help us sow seeds of truth in all our hearts

Help us sow seeds of love amongst our neighbours

Help us sow seeds of life where people feel isolated, alone and forgotten

Help us sow seeds of respect for all people no matter where they live, the language they speak or their cultural background

Finally, we pray for ourselves – show us how to sow seeds of love lavishly, wastefully especially in dry and rocky places. Show us how to nurture others with compassion. Show us how to nourish both the body and soul.

We pray these prayers in the name of Jesus our companion on the path. Amen.

(Prayer by Cheryl Williams, July 12<sup>th</sup>, 2020)

*Song: Trees of the Field* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pmmiFJtyuiU>

### *Offering*

Take our gifts and our lives. Sow them wastefully into the community around us until all know your peace and compassion. Amen.

(Prayer by Cheryl Williams, July 12<sup>th</sup>, 2020)

- Offering can be made in a couple of ways – put it aside and when we can gather again you could place it in our offering bowl in the normal manner. Or you could take the opportunity to use our direct debit facility –

**Footscray Baptist Church**

**BSB: 083 437**

**Account No: 515383063**

### *Community Time & Notices*

- **Reflective Prayer** – Tuesday July 14<sup>th</sup> 12.15pm via zoom, contact Ros or Cheryl for more details
- **Bible Study Groups** – Currently a number of groups are studying mission in Matthew. If we would like to join a group or start a group speak to Cheryl. Study questions will be posted on our Website
- **Housing Towers in Flemington & North Melbourne** – repost our message on Facebook; contribute to People's Pantry a program of the Essendon Baptist Church run by Marcus Curnow; contribute to food program run by Hotham Mission in North Melbourne
- **Baptcare Sanctuary** is very grateful for all the donations Footscray Baptist has provided in the last few weeks.

They would be especially grateful for dates, nuts – almonds, pistachios

They also need:

Basmati rice

Red Lentils

Yellow dahl

Cooking oil

Red Kidney Beans

Butter Beans

Chickpeas

Tinned tomatoes

Onions & garlic	Black tea bags	Instant coffee	Milk UHT
Tumeric	Cumin	Coriander	Biscuits
Tinned fish – especially tuna		Tinned fruit	
Fresh - bread, eggs, milk, yogurt, fresh fruit and vegetables.			

*Song: We Plow the Fields and Scatter* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YQ8dEkjmEMg>

### *Sending Out*

Go now sowing seeds of compassion -  
May God nurture us as we go,  
May Jesus show us how to love,  
May the Spirit guide us on our way. Amen.