



*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 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020*

Music *Behind and Before Me* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r58lvy9M8IY>

### 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.

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

#### Call to Worship

Our God, there is no God beside you

**You care for all people**

You rule with righteousness

**You spare all**

You judge with mildness

**With forbearance you govern us**

You can do whatever you choose

**Your works teach us to be kind**

You feed us with good hope

**You are the God we come to worship now. Amen.**

*(Prayer by Cheryl Williams, July 2020, based on Wisdom of Solomon 12:13-19)*

Song - Be Thou My Vision <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ihJAJA4ibEs>

#### Opening Prayer

Ever creating God,

**You have loved us into being.**

Knitted together in our mother's womb.

Interwoven with the world

**You have loved us into being.**

Loved into being for communion

**You have loved us into being.**

How great is the depth of your love for creation!

**You have loved us into being.**

Love as vast as the sand – inestimable

**You have loved us into being.**

Wonderful are your works:

Waves crashing on rocks worn away through eons

**Gentle surf that sings its way onto the sand**

Sun lit sky, full of warmth

**Bewildering plants and animals**

Seeds of love planted, nurtured in the messiness of life

**God nearer than our breathing, accept our thanks and praise. Amen.**

(Prayer by Cheryl Williams, July 2020, based on one found at <https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk>)

*Bible Reading: Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43 (NRSV)*

<sup>24</sup>He put before them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; <sup>25</sup>but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. <sup>26</sup>So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. <sup>27</sup>And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, ‘Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?’ <sup>28</sup>He answered, ‘An enemy has done this.’ The slaves said to him, ‘Then do you want us to go and gather them?’ <sup>29</sup>But he replied, ‘No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. <sup>30</sup>Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.’”

<sup>36</sup>Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.” <sup>37</sup>He answered, “The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; <sup>38</sup>the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, <sup>39</sup>and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. <sup>40</sup>Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. <sup>41</sup>The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, <sup>42</sup>and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. <sup>43</sup>Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!

*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: Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24 (NRSV)*

<sup>1</sup>O LORD, you have searched me and known me.  
<sup>2</sup>You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from far away.  
<sup>3</sup>You search out my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways.  
<sup>4</sup>Even before a word is on my tongue, O LORD, you know it completely.  
<sup>5</sup>You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me.  
<sup>6</sup>Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is so high that I cannot attain it.  
<sup>7</sup>Where can I go from your spirit? Or where can I flee from your presence?  
<sup>8</sup>If I ascend to heaven, you are there; if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.  
<sup>9</sup>If I take the wings of the morning and settle at the farthest limits of the sea,  
<sup>10</sup>even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me fast.  
<sup>11</sup>If I say, “Surely the darkness shall cover me, and the light around me become night,”  
<sup>12</sup>even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is as bright as the day, for darkness is as light to you.  
<sup>23</sup>Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my thoughts.  
<sup>24</sup>See if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

*Children's Talk* [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y\\_2z4DnCo4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y_2z4DnCo4)

*Children's Song: God is Everywhere* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qz3J9TwAabE>

*Reflection: In the Midst of Messiness*

*Communion Song: Seed Scattered and Sown* [youtube.com/watch?v=b3wm1ZEXaiM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b3wm1ZEXaiM)

### Communion

#### Invitation

God calls us to the table to find a new way:  
a new grace, a new hope, a new faith, a new life

**God calls; we come.**

Come to the table and let go of the worn out:  
worn out habits, worn out pains, worn out angers, worn out burdens.

**God calls; we come.**

Come to the table and receive  
blessing, freedom, mercy, love.

**God calls; we praise.**

#### Preparation

Here is the company of heaven, seen and unseen.  
Here is the bread and wine to be broken and spilled.  
Here is Jesus the Christ, holy rebel and sacred friend.

**This is the belonging place.**

Here are the people of God, saint and sinner.  
Here is the congregation of heaven,  
Those ready and those not ready to receive.  
Here is the story of God, crucified and risen.

**This is the belonging place.**

Here is the table of life, open and free.  
Here is the grace of God, unconditional and without end.  
Here is the love of Jesus, given and given again.

**This is the belonging place.**

Whoever we are and aren't,  
Whatever we believe and don't,  
**We belong here – at this table.**

(Prayers from <http://pilgrimwr.unitingchurch.org.au/?p=294>)

### Words of Institution from Matthew's Gospel

While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body."

<sup>27</sup> Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. <sup>28</sup> This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>29</sup> I tell you, I will not, drink from this fruit of the vine from now on, until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom."

<sup>30</sup> When they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

### Prayers for the Church & World (Cheryl)

Remembering:

- Those known to us who struggle with their health

- Those who have Covid 19, those in hospital and families who have lost loved ones in the past week
- Our Chief Medical Officer and Premier who must front the public, day after day, often with bad news
- Politicians and Public Health officials making decisions about our welfare, tracing cases and preparing for all Victorians
- Tensions in Hong Kong
- Covid 19 – those working on cures, vaccines, treatments
- Global Interaction – teams serving H people of Central Asia & B people of South Asia
- Our friends at Sanctuary and the Houses of Hope in Footscray
- Our friends in Kenya
- Places around the globe with ever increasing Covid case numbers – especially South Africa, 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)*

Christ our teacher,  
 You reach into our lives not by instruction but by story.  
 You sow seeds of goodness in the midst of the messiness of life.

In the messiness of isolation sow understanding  
     In the midst of anxiety and fear sow calm  
 In the midst of frustration sow patience  
     In the midst of blaming others sow forgiveness  
 In the midst of grief sow solace  
     In the midst of conflict sow peace  
 In the midst of decision-making sow wisdom  
     In the midst of pain sow healing  
 In the midst of caregiving sow gratitude  
     In the midst of judgement sow understanding  
 In the midst of need sow compassion

In the midst of our lives, sow discernment, sow loving judgement, sow joy. Show us how to co-exist with your creation.

Open our hearts to be attentive; that in seeing we may perceive, and in hearing we may understand, and in understanding may we act upon your word, in your name. Amen.  
*(Prayer by Cheryl Williams July 2020, parts of which are based on prayer by Janet Morley in 'All Desires Known' p.9)*

Song: Don't Be Afraid <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LXCMv5IF-TM>

### Offering

Take our gifts of money and lives and scatter them into the world and grow compassion and understanding. Amen.

*(Prayer by Cheryl Williams, July 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**

Community Time & Notices

- **Reflective Prayer** – Tuesday July 21<sup>st</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 are posted on our Website
- **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: Sent Forth By God's Blessing <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nt2aU6ItXt0>

Sending Out

As we go:

God to enfold us
God to surround us
God in our speaking
God in our thinking
God in our sleeping
God in our waking
God in our watching
God in our hoping

*(Prayer by Carmina Gadelica III in 'Bread of Tomorrow' ed. Janet Morley)*