



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

*Music: It is well with my soul*

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qmo4qG26\\_iU&list=RDQmo4qG26\\_iU&start\\_radio=1](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qmo4qG26_iU&list=RDQmo4qG26_iU&start_radio=1)

### *Welcome and Acknowledgement of Country (Cheryl)*

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*

Give thanks to the Lord;  
call on His name;  
make His deeds known to all the people!  
**For He is the Lord, our God,  
Faithful to a thousand generations!**

Sing His praises;  
tell of His wonderful works,  
and glory in His holy name!  
Let those who seek the Lord rejoice!  
**For He is the Lord, our God,  
Faithful to a thousand generations!**

Search for God, and for His strength.  
Never stop looking for Him.  
**For He is the Lord, our God,  
Faithful to a thousand generations!**

(Prayer is (based on Psalm 105:1-4,7), found at <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2011/07/call-to-worship-litany-psalm-105.html>)

*Song - God of Grace and God of Glory* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u9rWrw3XB08>

#### *Opening Prayer - A Creed*

**We believe in the love-kingdom of God, through Christ upon us, within us, beyond us.**

**We believe the love-kingdom is like a mustard seed; sown in apparent insignificance, growing into magnificence for the greening of the world.**

**We believe the love-kingdom is like yeast; inserted in humble insignificance**

**into the dough of life, expanding into enough bread for the world.**

**We believe the love-kingdom of God is like a treasure; lost and rendered insignificant under the ground, now found with joy and thanksgiving.**

**We believe the love-kingdom of God is like pearls; all others become in insignificant when the largest, most beautiful pearl of all is found.**

**We believe the love-kingdom of God is like a net full of fish; where even insignificant sardines are saved but worm-ridden barracouta are thrown away.**

**We believe in the love-kingdom of God, through Christ upon us, within us, beyond us; where the meek and the poor, the merciful and the hungry, rejoice with the angels of God.**

**Loving God, we believe; scatter our unbelief.**

*(Prayer by Bruce Prewer)*

*Bible Reading: Romans 8:26-39 (NRSV)*

<sup>26</sup> Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. <sup>27</sup> And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit<sup>g</sup> intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

<sup>28</sup> We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. <sup>29</sup> For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. <sup>30</sup> And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

<sup>31</sup> What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? <sup>32</sup> He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? <sup>33</sup> Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. <sup>34</sup> Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. <sup>35</sup> Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? <sup>36</sup> As it is written,

“For your sake we are being killed all day long;  
we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.”

<sup>37</sup> No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. <sup>38</sup> For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, <sup>39</sup> nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

*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: 31-33, 44-53 (NRSV)*

<sup>31</sup> He put before them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; <sup>32</sup> it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.”

<sup>33</sup> He told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.”

<sup>44</sup> “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

<sup>45</sup> “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; <sup>46</sup> on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

<sup>47</sup> “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; <sup>48</sup> when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. <sup>49</sup> So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous <sup>50</sup> and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

<sup>51</sup> “Have you understood all this?” They answered, “Yes.” <sup>52</sup> And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”

<sup>53</sup> When Jesus had finished these parables, he left that place.

*Children's Talk* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eCZggO5qbjA>

*Children's Song* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9grg-MLyoag>

*Reflection: The Kingdom of Heaven is like ...*

*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
- Chief Medical Officer and Premier fronting the public day after day, often with bad news
- Health Workers tracing cases, testing people, caring for those who are ill
- Residents in Aged Care facilities, prisons and public housing estates
- Tensions in Hong Kong, between China & USA
- Covid 19 – those working on cures, vaccines, treatments
- That we all would play our part in helping to stop the spread of Covid in Victoria and beyond
- Global Interaction – that websites, apps and online communication will be accessible to millions of people in South Asia and for the workers preparing that information
- 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 Victoria, 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)*

We continue to pray for:

- the homeless
- the refugee
- the asylum seeker
- those incarcerated
- those in aged care facilities
- those living in housing estates
- those living with conflict
- those living with abuse

May we be like a mustard seed – growing and growing in order to shelter all, to be a home for others.

We pray for:

- those who are fearful
- those who are anxious
- those who are dependent on others
- those who are depressed
- those who are ashamed
- those who are confused
- those who are defiant
- those who are losing hope

May we be like yeast in dough, working through and through until that which seems lifeless grows to life, to abundant life.

We pray for:

- those who are sick
- those who are grieving
- those who are lonely
- those who are teaching others
- those who are nursing others
- those who are caring for the elderly
- those who need rest

May we show them they are like pearls and treasure, invaluable in our sight.

O God, shelter us all with your love, remind us that, we together, are indeed the apple of your eye.

Amen.

*(Prayer by Cheryl Williams, July 2020 based on Matthew 13:31-46)*

*Song: Lord hear my Prayer* [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z-2WZFF\\_uAc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z-2WZFF_uAc)

*Offering (Cheryl)*

Jesus, our great treasure,

Take our lives, our dreams our gifts and all that is precious to us. Use them and us to grow your kingdom, sheltering all who need your love. 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**

**Account No: 515383063**

### Community Time & Notices

- **Reflective Prayer** – Tuesday July 28<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
- **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: Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9-D\\_aT8CXyc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9-D_aT8CXyc)

### Sending Out

Go now into the world to face its challenges

And

May God shelter you in love;

May Jesus remind you of just how precious you are;

May the Spirit enliven you to share her love;

May all three bless you and shine their countenance upon you and give you peace.

Amen.

*(Blessing by Cheryl Williams, July 2020)*