



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 - June 21st, 2020
Remembering World Refugee Day - 'Every Action Counts'*

Music: Into My Arms by Gelareh Pour (in Farsi)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4vVbzcvlues>

Welcome and Acknowledgement of Country (

Welcome to our friends from Sanctuary joining us today as we mark World Refugee Day. Every minute 20 people leave everything behind to escape war, persecution or terror. There are several types of forcibly displaced persons: World Refugee Day, declared by the United Nations to be marked on June 20, is a call for communities around the world to work toward peace and security for all, remembering especially the millions of people who are displaced or forcibly uprooted from their homes. The theme for 2020 is Every Action Counts

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

Call to Worship:

This is a time to celebrate and worship God who loves us!

We are grateful and thankful for all God's blessings in our lives.

We gather to remember that Christ gave his life for us.

We humbly praise God for such a gift!

Come, friends! Come and worship the God of love and hope.

Praise be to God at all times and in all places! AMEN.

God of hospitality and refuge,
come to us here in this place of security and safety.
Remind us that you are the God Almighty;
large enough for all people, all nations, all tongues.
Help us, with the presence of your Holy Spirit,
to be able to create space for those who seek asylum and refuge.
In the name of Jesus, your Son. Amen.

(Source: UCA 2016 resource)

Song - Gather Us in <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lbNXqjwh8is>

Opening Prayer of Affirmation

We believe
That this ancient land,
With all its unique creatures, is a precious gift is a precious gift
From a loving God,
Who's mercy is over all his works.

**We believe
In God's care
For aboriginal people who treasure it
Through unnumbered generations:
The one who grieves in their suffering
And rejoices in every noble aspiration.**

We believe
In God's compassion
For the patchwork of refugees
Who for two hundred years
Have come to this continent
Looking for a place to call their home.

**We believe
In God's steadfast love
this notion and all its children,
That God is creating a new people
From many races, colours and gifts,
To fulfil a high destiny.**

We believe
That the best way forward
If the way revealed by Jesus,
Of faith, hope and love,
Where no needy person is neglected
And no bidding of the spirit ignored.

(Prayer by Bruce Prewer)

Bible Reading: Genesis 21:8-21 (NRSV)

⁸The child (Isaac) grew, and was weaned; and Abraham made a great feast on the day that Isaac was weaned. ⁹But Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, whom she had borne to Abraham, playing with her son Isaac. ¹⁰So she said to Abraham, "Cast out this slave woman with her son; for the son of this slave woman shall not inherit along with my son Isaac." ¹¹The matter was very distressing to Abraham on account of his son. ¹²But God said to Abraham, "Do not be distressed because of the boy and because of your slave woman; whatever Sarah says to you, do as she tells you, for it is through Isaac that offspring shall be named for you. ¹³As for the son of the slave woman, I will make a nation of him also, because he is your offspring." ¹⁴So Abraham rose early in the morning, and took bread and a skin of water, and gave it to Hagar, putting it on her shoulder, along with the child, and sent her away. And she departed, and wandered about in the wilderness of Beer-sheba.

¹⁵When the water in the skin was gone, she cast the child under one of the bushes. ¹⁶Then she went and sat down opposite him a good way off, about the distance of a bowshot; for she said, "Do not let me look on the death of the child." And as she sat opposite him, she lifted up her voice and wept. ¹⁷And God heard the voice of the boy; and the angel of God called to Hagar from heaven, and said to her, "What troubles you,

Hagar? Do not be afraid; for God has heard the voice of the boy where he is. ¹⁸ Come, lift up the boy and hold him fast with your hand, for I will make a great nation of him.” ¹⁹ Then God opened her eyes and she saw a well of water. She went, and filled the skin with water, and gave the boy a drink.

²⁰ God was with the boy, and he grew up; he lived in the wilderness, and became an expert with the bow. ²¹ He lived in the wilderness of Paran; and his mother got a wife for him from the land of Egypt.

Prayer of Confession

Compassionate One, our society has failed you.

You were a refugee, seeking safety and freedom, and we did not welcome you.

You were naked and exposed, with inadequate shelter and insufficient pay, and we did not fight with you for equal rights.

You were fearful of being detained or deported without a just trial, and we did not provide you sanctuary.

We seek forgiveness for the ways we have forsaken you, and offer our thanks for the communities, people, and organizations who have extended welcome, advocated for justice; and provided sanctuary to people seeking refuge despite opposition.

Teacher, your instructions are clear:

We shall not oppress migrant people, nor deprive them of justice, nor practice extortion against them;

We shall love strangers as ourselves, for we have all been strangers

We shall share our harvest, our homes, and our lives with others, thus extending the same hospitality that you have selflessly shared.

We shall advocate for the human rights of all people.

Give us the steadfast persistence needed to follow your commandments in these challenging times, remembering that the love and respect that we show to each other is the love that we show to you, our Compassionate Teacher.

Amen

(from United Church in Canada for World Refugee Day 2020)

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 10:24-39 (NRSV)

²⁴“A disciple is not above the teacher, nor a slave above the master; ²⁵it is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher, and the slave like the master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household! ²⁶“So have no fear of them; for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered, and nothing secret that will not become known. ²⁷What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light; and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops. ²⁸Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. ²⁹Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. ³⁰And even the hairs of your head are all counted. ³¹So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows. ³²“Everyone therefore who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven; ³³but whoever denies me before others, I also will deny before my Father in heaven. ³⁴“Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace, but a sword. ³⁵For I have come to set a man against his father, and a

daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law; ³⁶and one's foes will be members of one's own household. ³⁷Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; ³⁸and whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me. ³⁹Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.

Children's Talk - Jesus was a Refuge (Lost Sheep)

Reflection: Stories from Sanctuary (Rev Martin Reilly)

Song: Come to the Banquet <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=czRLWLOoqj8>

Communion

Invitation

We gather together around the table of Christ.
There is a place for all.
In God's eyes, no one is more worthy than another.

Prayer of Preparation

We thank you God,
Who created us all in our diversity
Who gathers us into your arms
Who provides for all in need
Who makes the rain fall on the good and the bad
Who answers our cries

Who sent Jesus
Who broke down barriers that divide
Who taught us humility and respect
Who showed us how to be kind
Who challenged us to seek justice
Who offered welcome to all no matter their confusion or doubt

Pour out your Spirit on us all
Make us bread ready to be broken for others
Make us wine to be shared with all

(based on prayer from p 132-4 'Liturgies for High Days' by Dorothy McRae-McMahon)

And we would remind ourselves now of the time you shared a meal, shared hospitality with our friends ...

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." ²⁷ Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. ²⁸ This is my blood of the ^[b]covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. ²⁹ 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." ³⁰ When they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

The sharing (Cheryl)

The gifts of God for the people of God: The Bread of Life & the Cup of Blessing

Prayers for the Church & World (Cheryl)

Remembering: Those known to us who struggle with their health
The work of Sanctuary and all of its residents
CoVid 19 – for treatment and a cure, for countries experiencing increases in cases – Brazil, India and parts of Africa
Global Interaction – for 140 years of working overseas
Kenya, Mozambique, Sudan, Democratic Republic in Congo – where some in our congregation have family members
Race relations all around the world but especially Australia & USA

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:

- Those who are separated from loved ones
- Those crossing unknown borders
- Those without country or home
- Those who do not know where to turn

We pray for:

- Those in refugee camps around the world
- Those with us uprooted from their homelands
- Those who hunger or despair
- Those in crowds but feel emptiness
- Those in the rain but are thirsty

May all find a new home:

- Where their history is respected
- Where their gifts and graces are celebrated
- Where fear is gone

Open our hearts to be their place of welcome

Usher in your new world

- Where people do not need to flee war or oppression
- Where everyone has a home
- Where we celebrate each other in all our diversity

We pray in the name of Jesus who knew the life of a refugee. Amen.

(based on prayer from p 101-2 'Prayers for Life's Particular Moments' by Dorothy McRae-McMahon)

Song: God of the Poor/Beauty for Brokenness

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OaMPE53uP38>

Offering (Cheryl)

Money talks.

The money we give to you today speaks of our identity as your children, tells of our commitment to follow Jesus, proclaims your Spirit's generous presence here. God of all good gifts, hear our thankfulness in these offerings. Amen.

- 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 June 23rd at 12.15pm via zoom, contact Ros or Cheryl for more details
- **Donations to Baptist World Aid** – currently are being matched \$10 for \$1 by the government if you give before June 30. <https://baptistworldaid.org.au/appeals/matching-grant/> Remember we support two children through BWA (if making donations via our direct debit, please specify that it is for BWA)
- **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 still need tinned tomatoes, tinned vegetables especially red kidney beans and chickpeas, tinned fruit and tinned tuna. If you are able to donate any of the following items please speak to Cheryl and we can arrange for them to be collected.

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

Fresh - bread, eggs, milk, yogurt, fresh fruit and vegetables.

Song: Christ Be Our Light <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v= 8FUPltZ5Xs>

Sending Out

Go in peace and grace

May God lead us to new possibilities

May the face of Christ be seen in our neighbours

May the Spirit lead us to new community. Amen

(based on prayer from p 102 'Prayers for Life's Particular Moments' by Dorothy McRae-McMahon)