



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 - March 14th, 2021 Lent 4

Music: *I Love You Lord* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e5Hoy6RO8rY>

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 are called to bring a new understanding of God:
that God so loves the world.

We are the salt of the earth.

We are called to bring a new hope in God:
that God gives us new life.

We are the light of the world.

We are called to follow
the commandments and the law.

**The Law of God is to love God
and to love one another.**

Come, let us be the salt of the earth,
the light of the world.

**Come, let us love one another
with the love of God.**

**Let us join together in our love of God
to worship and follow Jesus.**

Amen.

(inspired by Matthew 5:13-20, Mark 12:30-31, Matthew 22:36-40, Luke 10:27)

Song: Glorify They Name <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FGAq45SFbEg>

Opening Prayer

Holy God,

You call us "beloved"

And you love us with a fierceness
that is at once unsettling and comforting.

**May your Divine love dwell within us
and be enacted through us so that:**

No matter what language we speak

Love will dance within each word we say;

**When you call us to stand up for justice,
Love will be the power that drives our actions;**

When we seek knowledge,
Love will compel us beyond idle curiosity all the way to truth;

**When we offer our prayers in faith,
Love for you will fill our hearts with peace;**

When we give of ourselves and our possessions,
Love for you and your people will shine above love for worldly things.

**Thank you, God, for the gift of love,
And empower us to walk the path love opens before us.
Amen**

Bible Reading: John 3:14-21 (NRSV)

¹⁴ And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵ that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. ¹⁶ **“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.”** ¹⁷ “Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. ¹⁸ Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. ¹⁹ And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. ²⁰ For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. ²¹ But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.”

Passing the Peace (Cheryl)

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 13: 1-13 (NRSV)

13 If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. **2** And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. **3** If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing. **4** Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant **5** or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; **6** it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. **7** It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. **8** Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. **9** For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; **10** but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. **11** When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. **12** For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. **13** And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

Children's Talk: Guess How Much I Love You
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ANuBMf2jDC0>

Song: Let There Be Love Shared Among Us
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vZYQZPHABY8>

Reflection: Love Makes Us Real (The Velveteen Rabbit) (Cheryl)

Prayers for the Church & World

Remembering:

- Those known to us who struggle with their health
- For those who wait to hear about their visas
- The people of Myanmar
- Those affected by the Eboli virus that has re-emerged in Africa, particularly Congo
- For our senior citizens after the handing down of the report of the Royal commission, that their lives and their care may characterised by dignity, especially our neighbours at Westhaven
- Those who have Covid 19, those in hospital and families who have lost loved ones, those working on cures, the vaccine roll out, treatments and testing.
- Those affected by political unrest in especially Kachin State, Lebanon, Myanmar, Russia, Thailand, United States & Yemin
- Global Interaction – For the people working in Malawi & Mozambique
- Baptist World Aid – Pray for those who have lost family and suffered trauma in Syria, may they know comfort and hope
- Our friends at Sanctuary and the Houses of Hope in Footscray
- Our friends in Kenya as they continue to grow their church

Silence – in the silence and through our minds and imaginations we bring prayers which words cannot contain:

(p. 56-7 A Wee Worship Book)

Come by here, Lord as we offer our prayers.

Someone's crying – crying in pain, crying from fear

Kumba Yah Lord, Come by there.

Someone's grieving – grieving a loved one, grieving lost opportunities

Kumba Yah Lord, Come by there

Someone's resisting – resisting coercion, resisting violence

Kumba Yah Lord, Come by there

Someone's dying – dying from hunger, dying from thirst

Kumba Yah Lord, Come by there

Someone's shouting – shouting for justice, shouting for peace

Kumba Yah Lord, Come by there

Someone's wrestling – wrestling with choice, wrestling with doubt

Kumba Yah Lord, Come by there

Someone's reaching – reaching for acceptance, reaching for understanding

Kumba Yah Lord – Come by there

Someone's fearing – fearing conflict, fearing life

Kumba Yah Lord, Come by there

Someone's loving – loving strangers, loving wastefully

Kumba Yah Lord, Come by there

Someone's praying – praying for peace, praying for reconciliation
Kumba Yah Lord, Come by there

Kumba Yah Lord,
Come by here.
Renew us to renew your world.
Bless us to be a blessing to others.
Amen.

(Prayer by Cheryl Williams March 2021, last stanza from 'Bread of Tomorrow' edited by Janet Morley, p. 75)

The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen**

Song: I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=74kyfROS4q8>

Offering

Gracious and loving God, receive our gifts of self and substance.
They have belonged to you since our very beginning.
We give them freely, joyfully, prayerfully.
With them we praise you.
With them we celebrate the great power that is love—
a love that abides always,
a love that radically transforms,
a love that makes us whole.

(Prayer based on Jeremiah 1, 1 Corinthians 13)

- 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
- **Bible Studies** – if you are interested in joining a group please let Cheryl know.
- **Free Lenten Studies online** – Tuesday nights in Lent 7pm-8pm by Yarra Theological Union & University of Divinity
<https://garratt1.wufoo.com/confirm/virtual-lent-series-registration-form/>
- **BWA studies** – Jesus on the margins, check their website
- **Reflective Prayer** – Friday March 19th, 5pm via zoom.
- **Deacon's Meeting** – March 21st, immediately follow the service

- **Westhaven** – looking for volunteers who speak Vietnamese
- **Houses of Hope in Footscray** – if you are interested in volunteering and happy to undertake some training, please speak to Cheryl
- **Feast for Freedom** – join in the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre ‘Feast for Freedom’ in March. For details and recipes see <https://feastforfreedom.org.au/>
- **Food Donations for Sanctuary** – beans, lentils, rice, pasta, tuna. Please no cereal as they do not eat cereals.

Song: Let Love Rule https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4TH_zlvxNIQ

Blessing

Go out in love
Knowing God so loved the world he sent Jesus.
May Jesus encourage you in your loving
And the Spirit lead you into new paths of loving.
Amen.

(Prayer by Cheryl Williams March 2021)