



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 21st, 2021 Lent 5

Music: Create In Me <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=noUeQQ64Q1I>

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

O God,

You are faithful and tender in your care for us

You wipe away our guilt and shame

Shower us with gladness and joy

Create in us a clean heart

Renew our spirits

Do not take your presence from us

Open our hearts and minds

And we shall sing of your praises, today and always. Amen.

(Prayer by Cheryl Williams, March 2021, based on Psalm 51)

Song: In A Byre Near Bethlehem

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v1BAWo27U2I>



Opening Prayer

Autumn

We give thanks for the harvest of the heart's work:

Seeds of faith planted with faith;

Love nurtured by love;

Courage strengthened by courage.

We give thanks for the fruits of the struggling soul;

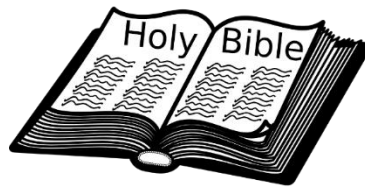
The bitter and the sweet;

For that which has grown in adversity.

And for that which has flourished in warmth and grace;

For the radiance of the spirit in autumn and for that which must now fade and die.
We are blessed and give thanks.
Amen.

(Prayer by Michael Leunig)



Bible Reading: Jeremiah 31: 31-34 (NRSV)

³¹ The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³² It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. ³³ But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴ No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the LORD,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

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: John 12:20-33 (NRSV)

Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. ²¹ They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.” ²² Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. ²³ Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. ²⁴ Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. ²⁵ Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. ²⁶ Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honour. ²⁷ “Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say ‘Father, save me from this hour’? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. ²⁸ Father, glorify your name.” Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.” ²⁹ The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, “An angel has spoken to him.” ³⁰ Jesus answered, “This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. ³¹ Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. ³² And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people^[a] to myself.” ³³ He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

Children's Talk: St. Patrick <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=800-bw9m6U4>

Song: St Patrick Song https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-TUpakGDvIM&list=RD-TUpakGDvIM&start_radio=1&t=90

Reflection: It's Time (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 –Nia & family, members of the Persian congregation
- The people of Papua New Guinea – as they struggle with ever increasing Covid cases
- The people of Myanmar
- For our senior citizens, that their lives and their care may characterised by dignity, especially our neighbours at Westhaven
- Our indigenous people as we mark Close the Gap Day last week
- 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 – the team working in Malawi & Mozambique
- Baptist World Aid – pray for the work of Merath (a local agency) working in Lebanon
- 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)

God of the world,

We pray now for all your people,

- Comfort those whose souls are troubled
- Forgive those needing forgiveness
- Comfort those preparing for death
- Provide understanding to those crippled by guilt and shame
- Show those wanting to see Jesus where to look
- Keep safe those fighting for democracy and freedom in Myanmar
- Feed the hungry in Yemin and other places

Write your law on our hearts and let it flow

Help us to bear fruit for the kingdom

Remind us we are all your people

Strengthen us to follow wherever you may go

We pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

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: Let There Be Light <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OGuUQjDkOA4>

Offering

Generous God,
With these gifts we offer our lives for your work in the world. Take them and our dreams and doubts, faith and plans and use them and us for your purposes. Amen.

(Based on prayer from 'Be Our Freedom Lord' p. 197)

- 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

- Until further notice the diaconate has decided to **stop streaming services on zoom** until further notice – they are looking for better ways to stream services. Transcripts of services and sermons will be available on the website.
- **Now Ruz** – today is Persian New Year
- **Bible Studies** – if you are interested in joining a group please let Cheryl know.
- **Last week of 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** – Thursday March 25th, 5pm via zoom. Speak to Ros or myself if you are interested and we can send you an invite
- **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
- **Palm Sunday Peace Rally** – ‘Time for a Home’, in the city
- **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: Here I Am Lord <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EcXOkht8w7c>

Blessing

Crucified one, Risen one,
You have chosen us and we have chosen you
May this way of choosing become a
Way of knowing, loving and living
That knows no end. Amen.

(From 'Be Our Freedom Lord, p. 239)