



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 28th, 2021

Palm Sunday

Music: Travelling the Road to Freedom

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dUEZPOP95-M>

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

Humble and riding on a donkey,

WE GREET YOU.

Acclaimed by crowds and carolled by children,

WE CHEER YOU.

Moving from the peace of the countryside to the corridors of power,

WE SALUTE YOU, CHRIST OUR LORD.

You are giving the beasts of burden a new dignity;

You are giving majesty a new face;

You are giving those who long for redemption a new song to sing,

WITH THEM, WITH HEART AND VOICE, WE SHOUT 'HOSANNA!'

(From "Stages on the Way", 1998 WGRG, Iona Community, Glasgow G51 3UU, Scotland. P.77 Used with permission)

Song: All Glory, Laud and Honour

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h3a8fTTrAdE>

Opening Prayer

Loving God,

On this day we give thanks for Jesus:

- **For all he did**
- **For all he said**
- **For the way he loved.**

As the crowds were amazed, we too are amazed:

- **That this king would wash dirty feet**
- **That this king would take on the pain of the world**
- **That this king would dine with the weak and the vulnerable**
- **That this king shared our lot.**

We thank you for the way Jesus:

- **Gave people dignity**
- **Freed people from that which binds**
- **Offered compassion to those in pain**
- **Stood up for the little people**
- **Showed us how to live,**

This day we welcome you into our hearts, just as the people welcomed Jesus into the city.

**Blessed is the one who comes
in the name of God. Hosanna in the highest.**

(Prayer based on one in 'Bread of Tomorrow', edited by Janet Morey, p. 80-81)

Bible Reading: Mark 11: 1-6 NRSV)

When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples ²and said to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately as you enter it, you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden; untie it and bring it. ³If anyone says to you, 'Why are you doing this?' just say this, 'The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately.'" ⁴They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, ⁵some of the bystanders said to them, "What are you doing, untying the colt?" ⁶They told them what Jesus had said; and they allowed them to take it.

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: Mark 11:7-11 (NRSV)

⁷Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it; and he sat on it. ⁸Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. ⁹Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting,

"Hosanna!
 Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!
¹⁰Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David!
 Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

¹¹Then he entered Jerusalem and went into the temple; and when he had looked around at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve.

Children's Talk: Dave the Donkey

Song: Make Way, Make Way <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a1CQ7fb0hEA>

Reflection: Who is this Jesus?

Prayers for the Church & World

Remembering:

- Those known to us who struggle with their health
- Asylum Seekers & Refugees in Australia waiting for a home

- For those who wait to hear about their visas
- The people of Papua New Guinea – as they struggle with ever increasing Covid cases
- The people of Myanmar – hundreds have now been killed
- People living in NSW & QLD in the aftermath of this week's floods
- For our senior citizens, that their lives and their care may characterised by dignity, especially our neighbours at Westhaven
- Those who have Covid 19 – 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 work amongst the 'H' people of Central Asia
- Baptist World Aid – give thanks for those who have supported Syrian refugees, that such support might continue whilst needed
- 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)

Jesus our King, you came bringing peace.

We pray for peace:

- Peace in Myanmar
- Peace between nations
- Peace in our nation, in our homes and in our lives

Jesus our King, you came bringing freedom

We pray for freedom:

- Freedom from all that which binds
- Freedom from unjust regimes
- Freedom for asylum seekers

Jesus our King, you came bringing healing

We pray for healing

- Healing for those unwell
- Healing for those disturbed in mind or spirit
- Healing for people in places where Covid 19 is rampant, especially in Papua New Guinea

Jesus our King, you came bringing love

We pray for love

- Love to those who are lonely
- Love to those who are homeless – especially those in Cox's Bazar in Bangladesh
- Love to those who struggle for acceptance

Finally, we pray for ourselves. We pray for the strength to continue to follow in the way of Jesus. Amen.

(Based on prayer in 'Let Us Pray' by Janet Nelson p. 124)

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: Ride On, Ride On <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4tkB1F9zLVo>

Offering

God of heaven and earth,

We thank you that Jesus came to Jerusalem not with a sword to challenge the power of this world, but with love. Accept the gifts we offer now as a sign of the offering of our whole selves. Use these gifts and our lives that all the world might know such love. Amen.

(Based on prayer in 'Touch Holiness' p. 74)

- 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

- **Easter Services**
 - Maundy Thursday, April 1st – 7.30pm via zoom
 - Good Friday, April 2nd – 10.30am via zoom
 - Easter Day, April 4th – 10.30am at church (no zoom this week)
- **Bible Studies** – if you are interested in joining a group please let Cheryl know.
- **BWA studies** – Jesus on the margins, check their website
- **Reflective Prayer** – Thursday April 1st, 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
- **Food Donations for Sanctuary** – beans, lentils, rice, pasta, tuna. Please no cereal as they do not eat cereals.

Song: Servant King <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zCAdWs-ZyEk>

Blessing

Jesus invites us to a way of celebration,
Meeting and feasting with the humble and poor.

LET US WALK HIS WAY WITH JOY.

Jesus beckons us to a way of risk,
Letting go of our security.

LET US WALK HIS WAY WITH JOY.

Jesus challenges us to listen to the voices
Of those who have nothing to lose.

LET US WALK HIS WAY WITH JOY.

Jesus points us to a way of self-giving
Where power and status are overturned.

LET US WALK HIS WAY WITH JOY.

Jesus calls us to follow the way of the Cross,
Where despair is transformed by the promise of new life.

Let us walk his way with joy.

(Jan Berry, Sheffield, 1990)

Blessing Song: Freedom is Coming

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G6F1omXtDz0>