



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 7th, 2021

Lent 3

Music: Be still and know that I am God (John Bell)

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

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,

The great Southern Cross points to your creative wonders in our magnificent night sky,

The early colouring autumn leaves and gold-stubbed paddocks witness to the beauty of
your creation.

Your design is so visible in nature and revealed to us in your decrees.

Your law is perfect, reviving the soul, making wise the simple.

Your laws are right rejoicing the heart and enlightening the eyes.

Enduring God, your ways are true and righteous.

**They are desired more than gold, even fine gold, sweeter than honey, the drippings
of the honeycomb.**

May our lives reveal the fruitfulness of keeping your commandments.

May the words of our mouths and meditations of our hearts be acceptable to you,

O Lord, our rock and our redeemer. Amen.

(Based on a prayer by Moira Laidlaw)

Song: Morning Has Broken <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0BbsfiWViac>

Opening Prayer

Loving God,

**We thank you for all that you are, and the way in which you shake us up, surprise
us and turn us upside down and inside out.**

Your message to us and your life in Jesus is sometimes confounding.

We look for a mighty saviour and find a suffering crucified God who shatters all our images of what is and can be powerful.

We look for signs and find that you have revealed the good news to children, to the poor, to women and to the marginalised.

We look for wise and rational mentors in the faith and find:

- **an old woman laughing at the thought of childbirth in her old age**
- **a man building the largest boat ever seen during the dry season**
- **a young boy fighting a great army with a slingshot**
- **a teacher telling us to love our enemies, to turn the other cheek and give away our coat.**

Show us how to turn the wisdom of this world on its head so that we might see your love, compassion, grace and joy throughout all the earth.

In Jesus name, the one who was foolishness and a stumbling block we pray. Amen.

(Prayer by Cheryl Williams, 2003)

Bible Reading: Exodus 20:1-17 (NRSV)

Then God spoke all these words:

² I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; ³ you shall have no other gods before me.

⁴ You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. ⁵ You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me, ⁶ but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments.

⁷ You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.

⁸ Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. ⁹ Six days you shall labour and do all your work. ¹⁰ But the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. ¹¹ For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore, the LORD blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it.

¹² Honour your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.

¹³ You shall not murder.

¹⁴ You shall not commit adultery.

¹⁵ You shall not steal.

¹⁶ You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour.

¹⁷ You shall not covet your neighbour's house; you shall not covet your neighbour's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbour.

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 2:13-22 & 1 Corinthians 1:18-25 (NRSV)

John 2:13-22

¹³ The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. ¹⁴ In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. ¹⁵ Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. ¹⁶ He told those who were selling the doves, "Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a marketplace!" ¹⁷ His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me." ¹⁸ The Jews then said to him, "What sign can you show us for doing this?" ¹⁹ Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." ²⁰ The Jews then said, "This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?" ²¹ But he was speaking of the temple of his body. ²² After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

1 Corinthians 1:18-25

¹⁸ For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹ For it is written,

"I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart."

²⁰ Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹ For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. ²² For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, ²³ but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, ²⁴ but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵ For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

Children's Talk: The Ten Commandments

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L2hB5Gqo8Vo>

Reflection: Utter Foolishness

Communion Song: Gather Us In <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IbNXqjwh8is>

Communion

Invitation::

Come to the table of the Lord,
Come, those who love him and those who want to love him more.
Come, because it is the Lord who invites you.
Come, as He wants to meet you here.

(From 'A Wee Worship Book', p.92)

Prayer of Preparation:

God of the world,
As we gather here today,
around this table, we give you thanks and praise.

You made the world we inhabit.

You made us.
You made all that is spectacular and ordinary.
Everything has its origin in you.

We praise you for Jesus who entered our time and space.
His life informs our living, his compassion changes our hearts.
His disturbing presence continues to challenge us.

We give thanks for the promise of the Holy Spirit
Who confronts us and disturbs us daily,
Who encourages and enables us to follow your decrees.

As we eat and drink at the table,
Make us bread ready to be broken for others
Make us wine of compassion to be shared with all. Amen.

(Based on prayer in 'A Wee Worship Book', pp 86-87)

Words of Institution: Mark 14:22-26

22 While they were eating, he took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to them, and said, "Take; this is my body." **23** Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, and all of them drank from it. **24** He said to them, "This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many. **25** Truly I tell you, I will never again drink of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God." **26** When they had sung the hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

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, vaccines, treatments, testing and the vaccine rollout.
- Those affected by political unrest especially in Kachin State, Lebanon, Myanmar, Russia, Thailand, United States & Yemin
- The safe return of the children kidnapped in Nigeria
- Global Interaction – People and workers in Malawi & Mozambique and the worker's learning of language and culture
- Baptist World Aid – Pray for peace in Syria after 10 years of civil war, pray for an end to the conflict
- Our friends at Sanctuary and the Houses of Hope in Footscray
- Our friends in Kenya as they build a new church building

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

(p. 56-7 A Wee Worship Book)

Let us continue to pray for the world and her pain,

You have given us rules to live by, a way to live life to its fullness.

We pray for all who are exploited, grant them justice.

We pray for all who experience infidelity of one form or another, show them how to trust again.

We pray for our elders, grant them dignity.

We pray for those who have made idols of money and power, grant them new understandings.

We pray for those who desire what others have, grant us all the ability to share.

We pray for those who live with violence and injustice, especially those in Myanmar and Yemin, grant them peace.

Our God we are people of pain and fear, of anger and joy, of compassion and grace. Hear the prayers of our hearts.

In our waiting and uncertainty grant us the courage to believe that you are with us, sharing our humanity, feeling the pain.

In our fear grant us wisdom that take us out into the streets to stand for a peaceful way.

In our anger show us the way to prayer.

Help us all to bear responsibility for this your world – show us how to love justice, to walk humbly and love wastefully so that others may live. Show us how to be foolish in order to confound the wise and upset the powerful so that your peace may reign. In Jesus' name we pray and continue to pray. Amen.

(Parts from p.34 Liturgies for the Journey of Life, p.36-7 Lent & Easter Readings from Iona & by Cheryl Williams)

Song: *Lord Hear My Prayer*, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JVIdY8ECJyg>

Offering

Upside down God, you who asked the rich to give it up, revealed the profound things to children and confounded the wise. Take these gifts we offer, shake them and confound us by tossing all that we offer into the most unexpected places so that the wise and foolish alike might learn of your love. In Jesus name we pray. Amen.

(Prayer by Cheryl Williams, 2003)

- 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 12th, 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
- **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: Brother, Sister Let Me Serve You

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=07FBSrx5Oq4>

Blessing

Go now out into the world as fools for Christ, confounding the wicked and the wise and surrounded with the love of God and the peace of the Spirit. Amen.

(Prayer by Cheryl Williams, 2003)