



*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 13<sup>th</sup>, 2022*

### *Harvest Festival*

#### *Welcome*

#### *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*

In the fading of the summer sun  
The shortening of days, cooling breeze  
Swallows flight and moonlight days

**We see the Creator's hand**

In the browning of leaves once green  
Morning mists, Autumn chill  
Fruit that falls, frosts first kiss

**We see the Creator's hand**

**Today and everyday**

**We see the Creator's hand**

**And for that we praise you. Amen.**

(Adapted from prayers from Copyright © John Birch, 2016)

*Song: Give Thanks* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5waffTnMH6g>

#### *Opening Prayer*

For creativity in its many forms  
we give you thanks

For the skill of weaver,  
potter, artist, sculptor,  
needle worker

all who take that which you have given  
and make with it something of beauty

For fruitfulness in its many forms  
we give you thanks

For selfless love,  
grace, wisdom, knowledge,

sacrifice  
all who take that which you have given  
and make with it something of beauty

We see signs of summer's passing in golden leaves,  
shortening days, misty mornings, autumn glow.  
We sense its passing in rain that dampens,  
winds that chill,  
Harvest's bounty placed on show.

Creator God, who brings forth  
both green shoot and severe frost,  
sunrise and sunset,  
we bring our thanks.  
For seeds that have grown,  
harvests gathered,  
storehouses filled,  
mouths fed.  
And, as your good earth rests  
through winter's cold embrace,  
we look forward to its re-awakening  
when kissed by Spring's first touch.

*(Adapted from prayers from Copyright © John Birch, 2016)*

### *Bible Reading: Deuteronomy 26:1-11 & 24:19 (NRSV)*

When you have come into the land that the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess, and you possess it, and settle in it, <sup>2</sup> you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the LORD your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the LORD your God will choose as a dwelling for his name. <sup>3</sup> You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time, and say to him, "Today I declare to the LORD your God that I have come into the land that the LORD swore to our ancestors to give us." <sup>4</sup> When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the LORD your God, <sup>5</sup> you shall make this response before the LORD your God: "A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous. <sup>6</sup> When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labour on us, <sup>7</sup> we cried to the LORD, the God of our ancestors; the LORD heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. <sup>8</sup> The LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders; <sup>9</sup> and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. <sup>10</sup> So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O LORD, have given me." You shall set it down before the LORD your God and bow down before the LORD your God. <sup>11</sup> Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the LORD your God has given to you and to your house.

**24:19** When you reap your harvest in your field and forget a sheaf in the field, you shall not go back to get it; it shall be left for the alien, the orphan, and the widow, so that the LORD your God may bless you in all your undertakings.

### *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: Luke 13: 31-35 (NRSV)*

At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to him, "Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you." He said to them, "Go and tell that fox for me, 'Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.' Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, 'Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.'"

*Song: All Creatures of Our God and King*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0d3gO6qDLNA>

*Children's Talk: Harvesting (Cheryl)*

*Song: We Plough the Fields and Scatter*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eAXXcYVcW8M>

*Offering*

Generous God,

We bring these gifts of food and give thanks to you, for the skill and perseverance of the farmer, the work of the labourer, the truck driver and the grocery assistant – all who join together to provide these items for us.

Use these items and us and our financial resources to feed the hungry and to bring life to all around. Amen.

*(Adapted from prayers from Copyright © John Birch, 2016)*

- Offerings can be made by using our direct debit facility

**Footscray Baptist Church**

**BSB: 083 437**

**Account No: 515383063**

*Reflection: Celebrating the Harvest (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
- **Orange Sky** – the volunteers and those who use the service
- Floods in **Queensland & New South Wales**
- Peace in **Eastern Europe &** those in **Ukraine** who are scared
- Places and people affected by the **Omicron** strain of Covid, those grieving the loss of loved ones
- The peoples of – **Gabon, Gambia. Georgia. Germany. Ghana. Greece, Grenada, Guatemala. Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana**
- Places of conflict – **Afghanistan, Myanmar, Syria & Ukraine**
- For our neighbours at **Westhaven**

- All working to provide assistance in this pandemic
- **Baptist Mission Australia** - Pray for God's hand of peace, justice and love to be at work in Ukraine. Pray for the Father's will to be done on Earth as it is in Heaven. Ask for safety and protection for displaced civilians and families. Pray that God enables Ukrainian churches and believers to be a beacon of hope in the midst of devastation. Pray for comfort for those in our Australian Baptist community who fear for family and friends in Ukraine.
- **Baptist World Aid** - Pray for the Australian church to lead the way as visionary, loving and innovative stewards of God's Earth
- Our friends at **Sanctuary and the Houses of Hope** in Footscray – especially those looking for new accommodation as the Preston Sanctuary closes.

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

*(p. 56-7 A Wee Worship Book)*

We pray now for your world,

- for those whose harvest is poor, whose crops have withered or are water tainted
- for the children who are starving or dispossessed of their childhood
- for those whose image of your creation is marred by pain and suffering
- for those who wake each morning to shellfire and destruction
- for refugees wandering lonely roads to an uncertain future
- for those who take without giving, reap without sowing
- for those who seek to bring relief and bestow generosity on others
- for peace on the killing fields
- for scorched earth to turn green so people might sow their seeds of the future
- for grace to see we are all part of God's creation with responsibility to each other, the earth and all who live here
- for wisdom to deal with climate change

Help us to care for each other and the world with the same nurturing care as a hen for her chicks, as Jesus for us. May your kingdom of love flourish. Amen.

*(Adapted from prayers from Copyright © John Birch, 2016)*

We continue to pray the prayer Jesus taught us to pray ...

### *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.

Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

### *News & Notices*

- **Our services are not** on zoom or live streamed, copies of the service and sermon can be found on our website.
- **Morning Tea today** – join us for morning tea in the Green Room after the service
- **Office Hours** – Grace will be in office on Tue, Wed & Thu from 10.30.am – 1.00pm. Cheryl will be there on Mon afternoons and Thu/Fri mornings.
- **Feast for Freedom** – join in the ASRC fundraising event from March 25-27<sup>th</sup>, see their website for details

- **Orange Sky** has started using the car park on Monday nights for their laundry service
- **Reflective Prayer** –continues on Thursday March 17<sup>th</sup> at 5pm on zoom. Please contact Ros or Chery for an invite.
- **Food Donations for Sanctuary** – canned chickpeas, red lentils, tuna in oil, oil, kidney beans. Please no cereal as they do not eat cereals.

*Song: Now Thank We All Our God*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y0dmfmwFLn0>

*Blessing*

May the road rise up to meet you.

May the wind be always at your back.

May the sun shine warm upon your face;

the rains fall soft upon your fields and until we meet again,

May God hold you in the palm of His hand. Amen.