



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 27th, 2022

Welcome (Cheryl)

Covid Rules (Cheryl)

- Masks are no longer required in church, however if you feel more comfortable wearing one please continue to do so*
- Please maintain 1.5m distance from others not in your household*
- Please use the hand sanitiser provided*
- After the service, please help wipe down surfaces*

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

There is a place
shaped for the lost
a place that knows your name
and calls you home

Love's homecoming place

There is a place
shaped for the estranged
a place that reaches out
and welcomes you home

Love's homecoming place

There is a place
shaped for the lonely
a place that meets you
and knows your need

Love's homecoming place

There is a place
shaped for the refugee
a place that is empty without you
and knows your worth

Love's homecoming place

There is a place
shaped for the broken
a place that knows your brokenness
and promises healing

Love's homecoming place

There is a place
shaped for you who have never left
a place that waits and longs for each return

This is God's place and God's time

All are welcome here

Let us come home to Love

(Call to Worship Adapted slightly from a piece by Roddy Hamilton from Mucky Paws. (https://abbotsford.typepad.com/abbotsford/mucky_paws/, found at <https://craigmitchell.typepad.com/mountain>)

Song: Gather Us In

Opening Prayer

Loving God,

We thank you for this journey that we call life, full of ups and downs.

We are grateful for:

- those who picked us up when we stumbled
- those who lent a helping hand when we struggled
- those who offered peace when we were in turmoil
- those who did not turn away when we have returned tail between our legs
- those who welcomed us with open arms when we felt so alone

For the many who reveal to us the reality of your love, your forgiveness, your acceptance.
Amen.

(Prayer by Cheryl Williams, March 2022, based on Luke 15)

Bible Reading: Luke 15:3-10 (NRSV)

³ So he told them this parable: ⁴ “Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? ⁵ When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. ⁶ And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbours, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.’ ⁷ Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

⁸ “Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? ⁹ When she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbours, saying, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.’ ¹⁰ Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

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: Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32 (NRSV)

Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow, welcomes sinners and eats with them." So, he told them this parable:

"There was a man who had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.' So, he divided his property between them. A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and travelled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. So, he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself, he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands."' So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. Then the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe--the best one--and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate. "Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. He replied, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.' Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. But he answered his father, 'Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!' Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.'"

Song: Amazing Grace

Children's Talk - The Lost Coin

Reflection: Being Found

Song: Lord Let Me See

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
- Cleaning up after the 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 – **Jamacia, Japan & Jordan**
- 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 the work amongst the people of Central Asia
- **Baptist World Aid** - Give thanks to God for the opportunities we have to grow in our faith and that God continues to provide and care for our needs and those of our neighbours. And pray that God continues to help us create a better world for all of neighbours
- 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)

Loving God,
 may all be found and find a place called home,
 a place where faith holds them
 a place where grace renews them
 a place where all are accepted as they are
 a place where all are taken in and loved unconditionally
 a place where all belong
 a place where questions are allowed
 a place where anger is heard
 a place where needs are recognised
 a place where pain is held
 a place where our names are known
 a place where your place is our place
 a place where travellers, doubters and companions gather
 a place held together by love

May this place be such a home to all who seek your grace and welcome. Amen.

(Prayer adapted from 'A Place Called Home' by Roddy Hamiton **Mucky Paws**. <http://www.nkchurch.org.uk/index.php/mucky-paws>)

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.

Offering (.Cheryl)

God of extravagant mercy,
with hands outstretched you have poured out
wonder and pleasure and delight,
goodness and beauty and bounty
So take these offerings,
we pray, as our protest against all
that is evil and ugly and impoverished
trivial and wretched and tyrannical
in our world and ourselves –
And thus may we and others know
ourselves to be blessed. Amen.

(From Be Our Freedom Lord, p. 193)

- Offerings can be made by using our direct debit facility
Footscray Baptist Church
BSB: 083 437
Account No: 515383063

News & Notices (Cheryl)

- Please help at the end of the service by wiping clean surfaces.
- **Bible Study** – at office on Monday's at 5.30pm
- **Sharing a Meal with Orange Sky** come along on Monday night from 6.30pm to help serve and share a meal with those using the Orange Sky laundry service.
- **Our services are not** on zoom or live streamed, copies of the service and sermon can be found on our website.
- **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.
- **Reflective Prayer** – continues on Thursday March 31st at 5pm on zoom. Please contact Ros or Cheryl 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

Blessing

Gracious God, as now we part,
Grant that we may walk in your presence
Your love in our hearts,
Your strength in our wills;
Until, at the end of the journey,
We know the joy of our homecoming
And the welcome of your embrace
Through Jesus Christ Our Lord. Amen.

(From Be Our Freedom Lord, p. 239)