



*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 - October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2020*

Music: All Things Bright and Beautiful

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qY9G00WWUVI>

### Welcome and Acknowledgement of Country

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.

### Introduction

- *Seasons of Creation - today we come to the culmination of our series on the Season of Creation, where we have given thanks for creation, prayed for its preservation and committed ourselves to care for God's creation. This week we celebrate all of Creation and remember the work of St. Francis. We also are having a song service. The songs today are chosen by and introduced by six people in our congregation.*

### Lighting the Candle - Jesus said 'I Am the Light of the World'

#### Call to Worship (Psalm 148)

Praise God from the heavens!

**Praise Him from the skies above!**

Praise God, angels and all the hosts of heaven!

**Praise Him, sun and moon, and shining stars!**

Praise God, all creatures great and small,

**Praise Him, animals and birds, reptiles and fish!**

Praise God, kings of the earth and people everywhere,

**Praise Him, men and women, young and old!**

Let all the earth bring praise to the Lord,

at whose word creation came into being.

**We gather to praise and worship our God!**

<https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2013/04/call-to-worship-litany-psalm-148.html>

Song - My Soul will sing (Ps 103) (Al) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gkNkQleJ3K8>

### Opening Prayer

Loving Creator of all, we come to you today deeply grateful for your creation.

**As we look around us, we are amazed at the greatness and majesty of all that you have made.**

Nature around us speaks of your greatness – the vast expanse of the sky, the mountains, trees, lakes and streams speak of your great design.

**You have given us such beauty in the colours of the rainbow, the beauty of flowers and fields.**

Words cannot adequately express the magnificence of all you have created.

**We join in praise with the writer of the psalms when he says, “O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth.”**

May we show our love and reverence to you, our Lord, by caring for all that you have created.

**We humbly give you praise and thanks. Amen**

*(adapted from [https://thoughts-about-god.com/prayer\\_/prayer-praise-gods-creation](https://thoughts-about-god.com/prayer_/prayer-praise-gods-creation))*

### Bible Readings

#### Genesis 2:18-20a (NRSV)

<sup>18</sup> Then the LORD God said, “It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper as his partner.” <sup>19</sup> So out of the ground the LORD God formed every animal of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. <sup>20</sup> The man gave names to all cattle, and to the birds of the air, and to every animal of the field;

#### Matthew 6:25-29 (NRSV)

<sup>25</sup> “Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? <sup>26</sup> Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? <sup>27</sup> And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? <sup>28</sup> And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, <sup>29</sup> yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these.

Song: How Great Thou Art - Medley (Suhas) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-7Abn-aoEHs>

### 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.

Reading: Canticle of the Sun (Praise of the creatures) by St. Francis (part thereof)

Most High, all powerful, good Lord,  
Yours are the praises, the glory, the honour, and all blessing.

To You alone, Most High, do they belong,  
and no man is worthy to mention Your name.

Be praised, my Lord, through all your creatures,  
especially through my lord Brother Sun,  
who brings the day; and you give light through him.  
And he is beautiful and radiant in all his splendour!  
Of you, Most High, he bears the likeness.

Praised be You, my Lord, through Sister Moon and the stars,  
in heaven you formed them clear and precious and beautiful.

Praised be You, my Lord, through Brother Wind,  
and through the air, cloudy and serene,  
and every kind of weather through which  
You give sustenance to Your creatures.

Praised be You, my Lord, through Sister Water,  
which is very useful and humble and precious and chaste.

Praised be You, my Lord, through Brother Fire,  
through whom you light the night and he is beautiful  
and playful and robust and strong.

Praised be You, my Lord, through Sister Mother Earth,  
who sustains us and governs us and who produces  
varied fruits with coloured flowers and herbs.

Children's Song - Jazmin – Give thanks

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PYPrgB26rPls&feature=youtu.be>

Children's Talk / Reflection- St. Francis

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

Blessing of the Animals (pictures on the screen & animals on zoom)

We ask for your blessing, your *shalom*, on the creatures present here that we love, and  
all creatures celebrating in the wild.

In the name of God, who creates all life,  
In the name of Jesus Christ, who redeems all life,  
And the name of the Spirit, who renews all life,  
We cry with all in the circle of life.

*(Prayer from Liturgy Blessing of the Animals, Seasons of Creation Australia, 2020)*

Communion Song: - As Bread That Is Broken

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rg\\_1Nm-ZqqU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rg_1Nm-ZqqU)

## Communion

### Invitation

Come to the table and share with all in need,  
A place of healing for those in pain,  
A place of forgiveness for those who need it,  
A place of assurance for those in doubt,  
A place of hope for those in tears.  
Come let us share these gifts, symbols of Christ's love, with one another.

*(Prayer based on ones in Seasons of Creation 2020 – South Africa & Australia)*

### Prayer of Preparation

God of every place and every time,  
You laid the foundations of the world breathing life into all that is.  
We praise and give you thanks.

Jesus, you walked this earth,  
You reminded us of the splendour and beauty of the birds and lilies.  
You showed us a new way to live.  
We praise and give you thanks.

Spirit, renewer of creation,  
You call us to respond to its groaning,  
We praise and give you thanks.

Trinity – the divine community, unity in diversity,  
You call us to join the dance which is life.  
We praise and give you thanks.

As we take bread and wine,  
Make us bread broken for the world.  
Make us wind poured out for others.  
Amen.

*(Prayer by Cheryl Williams, September 2020)*

### Words of Institution from Matthew's Gospel

*While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body."*

*<sup>27</sup> Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. <sup>28</sup> This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>29</sup> I tell you, I will not, drink from this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom."*

*<sup>30</sup> When they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.*

### The Sharing

Bread from the wheat in the paddocks  
Wine from the grapes on the vines  
Let us eat and drink with thanksgiving

Song: In the Beginning (Hermie) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QIZpwnGZ6p8>

## Prayers for the Church & World

Remembering:

- Those known to us who have struggled with their health
- Those waiting to hear about their visas
- BUW as they hold online meetings in October
- Those living in aged care and those caring for them, 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. For places experiencing increase in Covid 19 cases – Europe, Indonesia, Israel
- Our Premier and health officials making decisions about moving out of lockdown
- Those affected by political unrest in Belarus, Hong Kong Philippines, Lebanon and the United States
- Our friends at Sanctuary and the Houses of Hope in Footscray
- Our friends in Kenya as they prepare to build a church building on recently acquired land

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 continue to pray for your world.

### **For the trees of the fields**

- **White ghost gums**
- **Tangle trees**
- **Red gums**
- **Acacias**
- **Bottle brushes**

May they get the sun, the rain and the care they need to flourish.

### **For the birds of the air**

- **Barn owls**
- **Kookaburras**
- **Rosellas**
- **Kingfishers**
- **Cassowaries**

May they find food, protection and the care they need to flourish.

### **For the fish of the waters**

- **Whales**
- **Dolphins**
- **Eels**
- **Frogs**
- **Platypie**

May they find safety in healthy waters as they roam and the care they need to flourish.

### **For the creatures of the land**

- **Kangaroo**
- **Emu**

- **Koala**
- **Quoll**
- **Goanna**

May they find good habitat, water sources and the care they need to flourish.

**For the flowers in the bush**

- **Banksia**
- **Kangaroo paw**
- **Sturt desert pea**
- **Boronia**
- **Waratah**

May they find the right soil, sun and water and the care in which to flower abundantly.

For the people – women and men, children, young and old

Bring:

- Peace in the midst of fear and anxiety
- Compassion in the midst of need
- Solace in the midst of grief
- Healing in the midst of sickness
- Understanding in the midst of confusion

May they find the right conditions in which to flourish and life in abundance.

**Show us how to care for each other and the earth.**

**Show us how to respect all.**

**Show us how to bring dignity to all.**

We pray in the name of and for the sake of Jesus. Amen.

*(Prayer by Cheryl Williams, September 2020)*

Song: How Great Thou Art (Elvis Presley) - John

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YkJVQN9pK1k&feature=youtu.be>

Offering

All good gifts come from you, dear God, and you reveal glimpses of your grace through them. Thank you for inviting us to be partners with you in caring for your creation. We offer these gifts now, knowing that they come first from you, then from other members of your family of creation, then from us. Bless these symbols of our awareness that we depend upon you and your creation for all that we call “ours.” Please accept these gifts and our desire to be your partners. In Your name, Amen.

*(By Tanya Marcovna Barnett)*

- Offering can be made in a couple of ways – put it aside and when we can gather again you could place it in our offering bowl in the normal manner. Or you could take the opportunity to use our direct debit facility –

**Footscray Baptist Church**

**BSB: 083 437**

**Account No: 515383063**

Community Time & Notices

- **Reflective Prayer** – Tuesday October 6<sup>th</sup> at 12.15pm via zoom, contact Ros or Cheryl for more details

- **Bible Study Groups** – Currently a number of groups are continuing their study into mission in Matthew. If we would like to join a group or start a group speak to Cheryl. Study questions will be posted on our Website
- **Baptcare Sanctuary** - is very grateful for all the donations Footscray Baptist has made. When stage 4 lockdown is over will begin delivering donations to them again.

Song: *Holy is God* (Above Him stood the Seraphim, and one cried to another: **Seraphim** Holy, holy, holy is God the Lord, the Lord Sabaoth! Now His glory has filled all the earth.)  
– Andrea <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nXPV6pJyTKw>

### Sending Out

Christ calls us to be his disciples,  
to serve him with love and compassion,  
to serve Earth by caring for her creatures.  
So, go out caring for creation  
Nurturing our animals  
Celebrating the circle of life with them! Amen.

*(Prayer from Liturgy Blessing of the Animals, Seasons of Creation Australia, 2020)*

Song: *For You Deep Stillness* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sI0i41fsPEg>