



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 - September 27th, 2020

Music: By the Rivers of Babylon <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ta42xU2UXLA>

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.

Introduction

- *Seasons of Creation - throughout the month of September, we will follow the World Council of Churches program where we give thanks for part of creation, pray for its preservation and commit ourselves to care for God's creation. This week we celebrate the Rivers.*

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

Call to Worship

As many rivers merge together into the sea,

We have come together to worship our God, the fountain of living water.

As we worship God in spirit and in truth,

Let our hearts overflow with praise,

Let us be cleansed by the waters of God's grace and forgiveness.

Let us be refreshed and restored by Jesus Christ who promises us the waters of life through his resurrection.

(From – <https://atyourservice.arocha.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/Season-of-Creation-2013-Water>)

Song - Let's go down to the river to pray <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U8nBNbk9DRk>

Opening Prayer

We give thanks for:

the Murray, the Darling and all the streams that flow to the sea;

the country creeks and all they contain – perch, eel and platypus, trout;

the Maribyrnong flowing through our suburbs;

the fauna – ibis, heron and mountain duck who visit;

the dragonflies and sleepy tortoises;

the waterfalls singing upstream and waves dancing at the river mouth;

We celebrate the rivers!

We remember with thanksgiving:

the streams, ponds or wetlands we have enjoyed.

the rivers God created in Eden and across our planet,

rivers that are the lifeblood of Earth and vital for all that lives.

We remember the streams of our past, the pools and ponds where we played,

and the feeling of celebration as we splashed each other.

We remember and rejoice.

Thank you, God, for rivers, streams that flow with the water of life. Amen.

(Prayers based on ones in Fourth Sunday in the Season of Creation (Australian Version 1) River Sunday)

Bible Readings (NRSV)

Exodus 2:3-4

³ When she could hide him (Moses) no longer she got a papyrus basket for him, and plastered it with bitumen and pitch; she put the child in it and placed it among the reeds on the bank of the river. ⁴ His sister stood at a distance, to see what would happen to him.

Exodus 14:21

²¹ Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The LORD drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night, and turned the sea into dry land; and the waters were divided.

Psalms 137:1-4

¹ By the rivers of Babylon—there we sat down and there we wept when we remembered Zion. ² On the willows there we hung up our harps. ³ For there our captors asked us for songs, and our tormentors asked for mirth, saying, “Sing us one of the songs of Zion!” ⁴ How could we sing the LORD’s song in a foreign land?

Isaiah 66:12

¹² For thus says the LORD: I will extend prosperity to her like a river, and the wealth of the nations like an overflowing stream; and you shall nurse and be carried on her arm and dandled on her knees.

Amos 5:24

²⁴ But let justice roll down like waters,
and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

Matthew 3: 13-17

¹³ Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. ¹⁴ John would have prevented him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?” ¹⁵ But Jesus answered him, “Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness.” Then he consented. ¹⁶ And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. ¹⁷ And a voice from heaven said, “This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.”

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: Revelation 22:1-3 (NRSV)

Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb ² through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life, with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. ³ Nothing accursed will be found there anymore. But the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him.

Children's Talk - The Waters

Children's Song - Peace Like A River <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M8of9CQ9Fes>

Reflection: - Rivers of Faith

Prayers for the Church & World

Remembering:

- Those known to us who have struggled with their health
- Students as they complete exams and assignments
- Teachers who are marking and preparing for Term 4
- For those who are waiting to hear about their visas
- BUV as they hold online meetings in October
- People living with Dementia and their Carers, in Dementia Week
- People living with various levels of deafness in Deaf Week
- For 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 our lockdown
- Those affected by political unrest in Belarus, Hong Kong Philippines, Lebanon and the United States
- Global Interaction – those preparing teaching resources both digital and print to use in Cambodia and South East Asia
- Baptist World Aid – their supporters in Australia
- 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)

Giver of the waters of life,

You water the mountains, make springs gush in the valleys and provide drink for the animals and plants.

We pray for those who rely on rivers

- For those who do not have enough to drink
- For those who do not have easy access to water
- For those who do not have clean water and risk disease
- For those who find their waterways full of waste

We pray for the health of the rivers and all within them

- For the fish, the eels, the crocodiles
- For those who find themselves in trouble there – whales in Arnhem Land rivers
- For the reeds, mangroves and other plants providing cover

We confess we are often part of the problem

- Our carelessness leads to its pollution
- We take more than our share, meaning, others go without

Remind us to care for the rivers and all they contain.

We pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Song: Wade in the Water – Sweet Honey in the Rock

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RRpzEnq14Hs>

Offering (Cheryl)

God of the waters, take these gifts of our money and lives and use them to let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

Amen.

(Prayer based on Amos 5:24)

- 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 September 29th at 12.15pm via zoom, contact Ros or Cheryl for more details
- **Blessing of the animals** – Next week will be a song service and also when we conclude our services celebrating the Season of Creation. It is also St. Francis' Day. As part of the service we will give thanks for animals and fauna and pray for their ongoing survival and health. If you would like to send me a photo of either a pet, a favourite animal or flower/plant please do so and we will have them on the screen as we pray.
- **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.
- **Daylight Saving** – begins next weekend, put your clocks forward one hour on Saturday night/Sunday morning Oct3/4

Song: Let Justice roll like a river https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aOj_jLHPd2E

Sending Out

Deep peace of the running wave to you
Deep peace of the flowing air to you
Deep peace of the quiet earth to you
Deep peace of the shining stars to you
Deep peace of the Son of Peace to you.

(An Irish Blessing)

Song: For You Deep Stillness <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sl0i41fsPEg>