



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 13th, 2020

Music: Solid Rock - Sacred Ground <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MDNeWmzPOZE>

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 - 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 Land.*

Lighting the Candle - *Jesus said 'I Am the Light of the World'* (Cheryl)

Call to Worship

Let us remember what our God has done!

God created the world out of a formless void.

Let us remember what our God has done!

God made every animal and plant, bird and fish.

Let us remember what our God has done!

God created people in the image of God.

Let us remember what our God has done!

God has made us caretakers of the earth.

Let us complete our task in faithfulness.

Song - The Great Southland of The Holy Spirit https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z-aH1_z4dpE

Opening Prayer

Creating God, we celebrate your vibrant presence

among us and in creation, in the soil, the paddocks and the land.

We celebrate the wildflowers, swirling grasses and golden wattle.

We celebrate the wheat fields, orchards and vineyards.

We celebrate the red gums, deserts and wetlands.

We celebrate the kangaroos, emus and bandicoots,

We celebrate the echidnas, eagles and magpies.

We celebrate the all the life-giving microbes restoring the soil,

We celebrate the beetles and worms preparing our food.

We remember with delight the gardens and paddocks of our childhood.

We remember with delight the smell of the eucalyptus leaf

We give thanks for the land, for soils that sustain our life!

We give thanks for this earth, a sanctuary, a sacred planet filled with the greatness of God.

We pledge as this day dawns in beauty to repair the web. Amen.

(Prayer based on several in Liturgy for the Celebration of Life – Creation 2A – Land Sunday by Rex A Hunt)

Bible Readings (NRSV)

Genesis 1:1-13

1 In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, ² the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. ³ Then God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light. ⁴ And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵ God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day. ⁶ And God said, “Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters.” ⁷ So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so. ⁸ God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day. ⁹ And God said, “Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear.” And it was so. ¹⁰ God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. ¹¹ Then God said, “Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it.” And it was so. ¹² The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind, and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good. ¹³ And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

Psalm 96:12

¹² Let the field exult, and everything in it. Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy

1 Corinthians 10:26

²⁶ for “the earth and its fullness are the Lord’s.”

Matthew 18:21-22

²¹ Then Peter came and said to him, “Lord, if another member of the church^[a] sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” ²² Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven^[b] times.

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: My Country by Dorothea MacKellar

The love of field and coppice,
Of green and shaded lanes.
Of ordered woods and gardens
Is running in your veins,
Strong love of grey-blue distance
Brown streams and soft, dim skies
I know but cannot share it,
My love is otherwise.

I love a sunburnt country,
A land of sweeping plains,
Of ragged mountain ranges,
Of drought and flooding rains.
I love her far horizons,
I love her jewel-sea,
Her beauty and her terror –
The wide brown land for me!

A stark white ring-barked forest
All tragic to the moon,
The sapphire-misted mountains,
The hot gold hush of noon.
Green tangle of the brushes,
Where lithe lianas coil,
And orchids deck the tree-tops
And ferns the warm dark soil.

Core of my heart, my country!
Her pitiless blue sky,
When sick at heart, around us
We see the cattle die –
But then the grey clouds gather,
And we can bless again
The drumming of an army,
The steady, soaking rain.

Core of my heart, my country!
Land of the Rainbow Gold,
For flood and fire and famine,
She pays us back threefold –
Over the thirsty paddocks,
Watch, after many days,
The filmy veil of greenness
That thickens as we gaze.

An opal-hearted country,
A wilful, lavish land –
All you who have not loved her,
You will not understand –
Though Earth holds many splendours,
Wherever I may die,
I know to what brown country
My homing thoughts will fly.

Children's Talk - A Secret in the Soil

Reflection: - *The Wide Brown Land For Me!*

Song: *I'll Stand By You (Royal Melbourne Hospital Scrub Choir)*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w1YtT0qLjDA>

Prayers for the Church & World

Remembering:

- Those known to us who struggle with their health
- Students completing exams and assignments
- Teachers who are marking and preparing for Term 4
- For those waiting to hear about their visas
- Those who have Covid 19, those in hospital and families who have lost loved ones
- Countries where Covid 19 cases are increasing – France, Indonesia, India, Israel
- For those living in aged care and those caring for them
- Our public health officers and Premier
- Health officials making decisions about our welfare, tracing cases and preparing for the next steps after Stage 4 lockdown
- Those affected by political unrest in Belarus, Hong Kong Philippines, Lebanon and the United States
- Covid 19 – those working on cures, vaccines, treatments
- Global Interaction – for the Cross-cultural team working amongst the Khmer
- Baptist World Aid – that God would help us use lessons learnt during the pandemic to strengthen churches in their faith and work for justice.
- 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)

Ever creating God, we continue to pray for your world,
We pray for your people everywhere,
For the people of the desert, of the forest, of the mountains and of the sea
We pray for those who are troubled by the continuing lockdown
We pray for those without jobs, with declining income
We pray for those who are ill, especially those close to us
Grant them compassion, justice and life in abundance.

We pray for the wellbeing of your planet:
That the oceans, air, mountains, plants and soil might have life pulsing through them
For those who suffer because of environmental damage
For those living where the air and water is polluted
For those trying to earn a living from depleted or salty ground

We pray we might begin to remedy the destruction we have done to your beautiful handiwork
Grant us passion and wisdom to work to restore your creation.
Bless the earth and all its life we pray. Amen.

Offering

Loving God,

All good gifts come from you and reveal glimpses of your grace.

We offer you these gifts with an awareness that we are dependent on you and your creation. Take our offerings and use them to build a world that is interconnected and respectful. Amen.

(Prayer adapted from one 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 September 15th 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: You Were In This Place <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R7798DInPAI>

Sending Out

Go from here now,

Remembering our responsibility to care for creation.

May God give us hope for the future

May Jesus show us new ways of living and loving

May the Spirit spark creativity with us and bring renewal and reconciliation in creation.

Amen.

2020)

(From prayers written for Seasons of Creation

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