

# Order of Service - October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2022

## Opening Music

## Welcome

## 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.

Welcome everybody to worship!

## Lighting the Candles: Jesus said: 'I Am the Light of the World'.

## Call to Worship

The voice of the Lord is over the waters,

**And in the God's gathered people say: Glory!**

The heavens opened, the Spirit descended,

**And a voice sounded: This is my Beloved Son.**

Do not fear, for the Lord has spoken:

**I have called you by name, you are mine.**

*(Adapted from prayer by Austin D. Hill based on Psalm 29, Mark 1, Isaiah 43)*

## Song: Gather Us In [\(223\) Gather Us In - YouTube](#)

## Opening Prayer - Affirmation of Faith

**We believe in God,**

**creator of all that is and shall be,**

**redeemer of all that is less than it could be,**

**sustainer of our living, our loving, our being.**

**We believe in the cross of Christ,**

**drenched in hatred and cruelty,**

**yet overflowing with God's unquenchable love.**

**We believe in the bread of life:**

**broken and shared it opens our eyes to the presence of Christ**

**and strengthens us for the journey.**

**We believe in the pain suffered by Christ:**

**all our hurts, torments and betrayals magnified in the purity of love,**

**and embraced that we might be free.**

**We believe in the joy of the Holy Spirit,**

**poured into the hearts of those who with courage and resolve**

**refuse to trade integrity for popularity.**

**We believe in the gospel,  
good news offered to us in Jesus,  
despised by the world but leading us in the way of life.**

**We believe in love:  
the nature of God, a gift unsurpassed,  
but a mystery entered only when all else is relinquished.**

**We believe in light shining from darkness.  
in mercy vanquishing bitterness,  
in life bursting free where death reigned.**

*(Creed by Nathan Nettleton, used with permission. Used at the Renewal of Baptismal Vow Service of Cheryl Williams in 1999)*

### *Scripture Reading: Matthew 3:13-17 (CEV)*

<sup>13</sup> Jesus left Galilee and went to the Jordan River to be baptized by John. <sup>14</sup> But John kept objecting and said, "I ought to be baptized by you. Why have you come to me?" <sup>15</sup> Jesus answered, "For now this is how it should be, because we must do all God wants us to do." Then John agreed. <sup>16</sup> So Jesus was baptized. And as soon as he came out of the water, the sky opened, and he saw the Spirit of God coming down on him like a dove. <sup>17</sup> Then a voice from heaven said, "This is my own dear Son, and I am pleased with him."

### *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.

### *Scripture Reading: John 3:1-8, 16-18 (CEV)*

#### John 3:1-8

There was a man named Nicodemus who was a Pharisee and a Jewish leader. <sup>2</sup> One night he went to Jesus and said, "Rabbi, we know that God has sent you to teach us. You could not work these miracles, unless God were with you." <sup>3</sup> Jesus replied, "I tell you for certain that you must be born from above<sup>[a]</sup> before you can see God's kingdom!" <sup>4</sup> Nicodemus asked, "How can a grown man ever be born a second time?" <sup>5</sup> Jesus answered: I tell you for certain that before you can get into God's kingdom, you must be born not only by water, but by the Spirit. <sup>6</sup> Humans give life to their children. Yet only God's Spirit can change you into a child of God. <sup>7</sup> Don't be surprised when I say that you must be born from above. <sup>8</sup> Only God's Spirit gives new life. The Spirit is like the wind that blows wherever it wants to. You can hear the wind, but you don't know where it comes from or where it is going.

#### John 3:16-18

<sup>16</sup> God loved the people of this world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who has faith in him will have eternal life and never really die. <sup>17</sup> God did not send his Son into the world to condemn its people. He sent him to save them! <sup>18</sup> No one who has faith in God's Son will be condemned. But everyone who doesn't have faith in him has already been condemned for not having faith in God's only Son.

## Children's Talk

Song: *Deeper River* [\(223\) The Deeper River - YouTube](#)

## Baptism of Saeed & Vahid

- *Prayer*

Creator of heaven and earth,

As your Spirit hovered over the waters at the beginning of time, hover over us now.

Reminds us of the way people were cleansed and saved by the waters – the slaves fleeing Egypt, Naaman.

Jesus came to the river Jordan and was baptized by John.

Surround Saeed and Vahid with your love as they enter these baptismal waters as a symbol of their commitment to Christ who lived and died and rose again for us all.

Pour your Holy Spirit out on them and us so that we may remain firm in faith, joyous in hope and reconciled to each other. Amen.

- *Promises*

Do you believe in one God who created the world in which we live?

**I do**

Do you believe in Jesus, God's own Son who lived amongst us and showed us a new way to live?

**I do**

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit who lives in our hearts and guides and encourages us?

**I do**

Do you turn from your old life towards the new life to which Jesus calls you?

I do

- *Baptism*

**Saeed/Vahid, we baptize you in the name of God our Creator, Jesus, God's own Son and the Holy Spirit.**

## Music

## Reflections

- *Statements from Candidates Saeed & Vahid*
- *Reflection by Cheryl*

## Welcome to Membership - Mohsen, Saeed, Saied, Saied & Vahid

### Promises

Mohsen, Saeed, Saied, Saied and Vahid,

Will you as a members of the Footscray Baptist Church join with us in seeking to be:

Accepting of the love of God

Ready to follow the way of Jesus

Open to the encouragement of the Spirit in our lives?  
Will you share our laughter, sadness and joy?  
Will you join us as we hope together, struggle together, dream together?  
Will you help us be a welcoming, supportive community where all are loved and shown dignity?  
Will you, with all of us, join hands with God in God's mission for the world: a mission of grace, forgiveness, justice, freedom, peace, love and hope?

*Response: **We will***

### Laying on of hands prayer      **(Deacons)**

Mohsen, Saeed, Saied, Saied and Vahid,

We now welcome you into our church family.

Take your place in this community who seeks to follow Jesus in this place.

And may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
the peace of God, and the presence of the Spirit  
go with you and be with you always.

*Communion Song: Come to the Banquet* [\(223\) Come to the banquet song](#)  
[by Fay White - YouTube](#)

## *Communion*

### *Invitation*

Let us gather around this table, the table of Christ. We are all equal in the eyes of God, we are all worthy to share in this feast.

### *Prayer of Preparation*

Lord God,

In Jesus, you came in the body:

Flesh of our flesh, bone of our bone ...

We thank you that you did not remain an idea, even a religious idea,

But walked, wept, and washed feet among us,

By your love,

Change our ideas, especially our religious ideas, into living signs of your work and will.

Through our lives and by our prayers, your kingdom come.

Lord God, in Jesus your body was broken by the cowardly and the powerful.

The judgement hall of Pilate knew your silence as surely as your critics knew your voice.

In world and silence, take on the powerful of the world today: those whose word sentences some cruelty or unmerited redundancy;

Those whose word transfers wealth or weapons for the sake of profit or prejudice;

Those whose silence condones the injustice they have the power to change.

O savior of the poor, liberate your people.

Through our lives and by our prayers, your kingdom come.

*(Prayer by Wild Goose Working group in 'A Wee Worship Book' – Iona Community)*

### *Words of Institution - Luke 22:14-20*

When the hour came, he took his place at the table, and the apostles with him. He said to them, 'I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer; for I tell you,

I will not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God.’ Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he said, ‘Take this and divide it among yourselves; for I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes.’ Then he took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, ‘This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.’ And he did the same with the cup after supper, saying, ‘This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood.’

## *Sharing the Bread & Wine*

This is the bread of life and the wine of compassion, the gifts of God for the people of God.

## *Prayers for the church and world*

Remembering:

- **Vahid & Saeed** they are baptised today
- Those known to us struggling with their health – **Al, Bruna, Forouzan, Hania, Jacob, Maxine, Ros, Roselinda, Vin, Zeny**
- **Al** who is struggling after the death of two family members and the breakdown of his marriage
- **The people of Iran**, many who have been killed or arrested after protesting in the streets
- Countries affected by cyclones, floods, hurricanes and typhoons – especially **Canada, Philippines & United States**
- For those who wait to hear about their visas – **Nia & family, Persian friends**
- Our friends at **Sanctuary and the Houses of Hope** in Footscray
- Families attending the **‘Come & Try’ Playgroup**
- Members of our community – **Selesa, Sirish, Suhas, Sunny**
- Peace in **Ukraine**
- Places of tension, unrest & conflict – **Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Gaza, Myanmar, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Syria, Taiwan & Ukraine**
- Places and people affected by Covid – especially those known to us & those grieving the loss of loved ones
- The peoples of **Saint Kitts & Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent & the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome & Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, South Korea, South Sudan, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland and Syria**
- For our neighbours at **Westhaven**
- **Baptist Mission Australia** – prayer for work and workers in the Silk Road Area, India, Mozambique and Cambodia
- **Baptist World Aid** – countries that are affected by natural disasters

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

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

Creating God, who hovered over the waters, hover now over your creation.

- Those facing the effects of climate change
- Those experiencing flood, typhoons and hurricanes
- Those who depend on good yields to feed themselves
- All of us interconnected in the web of life

Liberating God, who led the people to freedom, free your people now.

- Those who are held captive unjustly
- Those imprisoned by fear and doubt
- Those bound by decisions of the past
- Those living in modern day slavery

Healing God, who healed Naaman as he plunged into the Jordon, heal your people.

- Those who struggle with their physical health
- Those who struggle with addiction of all kinds
- Those who feel discouraged or depressed
- Those whose pain – physical, mental, emotional is intolerable

Uniting God, you call us to be one family as you adopt us as your heirs. Remind us again that in Christ, there is no Jew or Gentile, male or female, slave or free, we are all equal, we are all now brothers and sisters.

We ask that by your Spirit you will continue to guide each of us, encourage each of us in our faith journey, build community amongst us and send us out to be your hands and feet in this local community.

We pray in the name of Jesus, whom we follow through the waters of baptism and in all of our lives. Amen.

*(Prayer by Cheryl Williams, October 2022)*

## *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*

God of all,  
On this day when we rejoice with those who are baptized, we commit ourselves again to your service. Take these our offerings of money as a symbol of that commitment to bring healing, dignity and love to all. Amen.

Offerings can be made by using our direct debit facility or placed in plates at entrances and exits of the church

**Footscray Baptist Church**  
**BSB: 083 437**  
**Account No: 515383063**

## *News & Notices*

- **Baptism and Church Lunch TODAY** – join us for the baptisms of Saeed and Vahid followed by lunch today.
- **Reflective Prayer:** continues this Thursday, October 6<sup>th</sup> at 5pm on zoom. See Ros or Cheryl for an invite.
- **Westhaven Project Group** – Tuesday from 11am - 2.30pm In Green Room on the 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays in the month. Come when you can and leave when you

must. Bring lunch and ideas. All materials provided. We will also have a session on Saturdays once per month. October dates – October 4<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup>

- **Office Hours** – Grace will be in office on Tue & Wed from 10.15.am – 2.00pm. Cheryl will be there on Tuesdays and Thu/Fri mornings.
- **Food Donations for Sanctuary** – canned chickpeas, red lentils, tuna in oil, oil, kidney beans. Please no cereal as they do not eat cereals.
- Copies of the service and sermon can be found on our **website**.

October Birthdays – Alice, Boy & Emil

*Song: Brother, Sister Let Me Serve You* [\(223\) Brother Sister let me serve you song lyrics - YouTube](#)

### *Benediction*

Crucified one; risen one,

You have chosen us, and we have chosen you;

May this way of choosing, become a way of

Knowing, loving and living that knows no end. Amen. (Be Our Freedom Lord p. 239)