



Order of Service - May 31st, 2020

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.

Music: Veni Creator Spiritus <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=33XotuYs-io>

Welcome and Acknowledgement of Country

As we begin our worship, we acknowledge the Wurrundjeri people of the Kulin Nation, the traditional custodians of this land on which we gather to worship. We honour this history, their elders, past, present and emerging and commit ourselves to work together for reconciliation between all peoples, God and the land.

Welcome everybody to worship!

Today is **Pentecost**, the day we celebrate the birth of the church.

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

Call to Worship

The Spirit of faithfulness

Is the gift of the earth

The Spirit of imagination and variety

Comes to us from many countries

The Spirit of hope breathes

In the poor and the homeless in this city

The Spirit of freedom

Was announced by those who went before and we proclaim it again today

The Spirit of love

Is Christ's give to the church in every age

We see the flames of the Spirit of God.

Amen.

(from 'Liturgies for the Journey of Life' by Dorothy McRae McMahon, p. 106)

Song - Enemy of Apathy <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dwsiXzcyFis>

Creative Spirit

Bible Reading: Psalm 104:1-5 (NRSV)

Bless the LORD, O my soul.

O LORD my God, you are very great.

You are clothed with honour and majesty,

² wrapped in light as with a garment.

You stretch out the heavens like a tent,

³ you set the beams of your chambers on the waters,
you make the clouds your chariot,
you ride on the wings of the wind,
⁴ you make the winds your messengers,
fire and flame your ministers.
⁵ You set the earth on its foundations,
so that it shall never be shaken.

Opening Prayer

Great God,
How majestic are your works surrounding us!
The heavens in which we delight – sun, moon and stars guiding us
The waters by which we are calmed
The light overcoming darkness and bringing all into focus
The wind – gentle and ferocious – blowing where it will
Flames – warming and dangerous – refining us
Clouds – full of promise of gentle rain
The earth in its beauty, its fragility and its quirkiness
May our home, this earth, continue to reveal your love to us.
And may that love continue to enfold us.
Amen

(Prayer based on Psalm 104, by Cheryl Williams, May 2020)

Song: Pentecost Prayer https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6dcBXtPI_dc

Unifying Spirit

Bible Reading: 1 Corinthians 12:11-13 (NRSV)

¹¹ All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

¹² For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. ¹³ For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

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.

Song: Spirit of God, Unseen as the wind <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dy8AZ46GKqc>

Communicating Spirit

Bible Reading: Acts 2:1-8, 11b-13

2 When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. ²And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. ³Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. ⁴All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

⁵Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. ⁶And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. ⁷Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? ⁸And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? In our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power." ¹²All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" ¹³But others sneered and said, "They are filled with new wine."

Children's Talk - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OMQKy1Mx49M>

Reflection

Wind, wind - a reflection on the Spirit by Bill Loader

Wind, wind,
you come from nothingness and go to nothingness,
and when you are still,
there is nothing we see, nothing we hear,
and you surround us in our not seeing and not knowing.

Wild, wild wind,
you whip the seas, whirling great water spouts and fountains,
crashing on the foamed edges of the shore,
sweeping the unsuspecting fisherman from the slippery rocks,
terrifying force, uncontrollable, beyond our power.

O wind, piercing wind,
driving the blizzard, the sleet, the rain,
trampling earth with wild tempests and tantrums
that uproot trees, unroof houses and wreak devastation in your path.

Wind, wind, wondrous wind,
hovering at the birth of creation,
whisking secretly among the wonders of new life,
bearing the seed, lifting high the heads of mighty trees,
swirling among the grasses, celebrating life.

Wind, wind, we know your ways,
we trace your web on the map of highs and lows,
today's weather, tomorrow's predictions,

depressions and sea breezes,
we harness your power,
our weather vanes point to you,
a cross shows where you have been
and we do not know.

O wind, O silent wind,
where do you go?
Do you go away and play,
in outback gorges or bare mountains of the desert,
stirring small clouds of red dust among the bushes,
kissing the rippled smile of the billabong,
running down the slopes, exulting at the rock face,
passing by the mountain with none to see
and none to know your trail.

Wind, gentle wind,
wind of our breathing, our life, our hope,
renewing, refreshing,
sighing in our stress,
moaning in our pain,
still in our dying.

O wind, wind,
you breathed upon the clay and there was life,
you danced down to the forehead of a Galilean
and there was hope,
you shook the foundations of community
and there was Pentecost.

Wind of nothingness and awe,
wind of knowing and unknowing,
wind of bearing and begetting,
wind of secrets and mystery,
O wise, wise wind,
whisper to us your grace.

Song: Blow' in the Wind <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ld6fAO4idal>

Forgiving, Hopeful and Peaceful Spirit

Bible Reading: John 20:21-23 & Acts 2:17

Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." ²² When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

In the last days it will be, God declares,
that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh,
and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,
and your young men shall see visions,
and your old men shall dream dreams.

Prayers for the Church & World (Cheryl)

Silence

Remembering:

- Those struggling with ill health
- Global Interaction – pray for the work with the people of the Silk Road
- A cure, vaccine and treatment for Covid 19
- Kenya (we received an email from a pastor there after he had read our website)
- The tensions in Hong Kong
- The racial tensions in USA – Minnesota, Denver, New York

Prayer - 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,

We pray for this world you have entrusted to us.

Teach us to respect every part of it.

Renew us in our care for it as we notice the bumble bee, the wombat and the gum tree and begin to see the interconnectedness between it all.

Unifying God,

We pray for those separated or estranged from others.

May they be able to speak forgiveness to one another.

We pray for divisions in families, communities, in and between countries (Hong Kong & USA) – may we all turn our weapons into ploughshares.

God of all the world,

We are so thankful for this diverse world.

We pray that the places from which we have come might know your love.

We especially remember places where life is difficult – Hong Kong, Middle East, USA, Kachin State, Iran, Kenya – may all begin to understand and celebrate their differences.

God of all hope and all peace,

We pray for those who are distressed, confused and saddened – enfold them in your love and give them your peace.

We pray for those who are ill, especially those known to us. Grant them courage and shower them with hope.

Send us out we pray, offering consolation to others, to speak words of truth, to stand up for justice, to share all you have given us for the common good.

Spirit of Pentecost, renew us and draw us on to share your love in this your world.

Amen.

(Prayer by Cheryl Williams, May 2020)

Song: Comfort, Comfort <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B8DXPAYWr-c>

Gift of Spirit

Bible Reading: 1 Corinthians 12:4-7

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; ⁵ and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; ⁶ and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who

activates all of them in everyone. 7 To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

Offering Cheryl)

God of Pentecost,

Today we celebrate your gift of the Spirit to people like us. May we be touched by your spirit of generosity, may it inspire us to offer what we have – money, abilities, dreams and visions – to you and for the common good.

Amen.

(Prayer by Cheryl Williams, May 2020)

- 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 (Cheryl)

- **Annual General Meeting** – May 31st via zoom after this service.
- **Reflective Prayer** – Tuesday June 2nd at 12.15pm via zoom, contact Ros or Cheryl for more details
- **Baptcare Sanctuary** is very grateful for all the donations Footscray Baptist has provided in the last few weeks. They still need tinned tomatoes, tinned vegetables especially red kidney beans and chickpeas, tinned fruit and tinned tuna. If you are able to donate any of the following items please speak to Cheryl and we can arrange for them to be collected.

They also need:

Basmati rice	Red Lentils	Yellow dahl	Cooking oil
Red Kidney Beans	Butter Beans	Chickpeas	Tinned tomatoes
Onions & garlic	Black tea bags	Instant coffee	Milk UHT
Tumeric	Cumin	Coriander	Biscuits

Tinned fish – especially tuna
Fresh - bread, eggs, milk, yogurt, fresh fruit and vegetables.

Song: Spirit of God <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=09ZsGaW50Dg>

Sending Spirit

Bible Reading: John 20:21 (NRSV)

Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.”

Sending Out

Go in peace.

And may God be in your creating

May Christ be found in your midst

And the Spirit lead you to life. Amen.

(from ‘Liturgies for the Journey of Life’ by Dorothy McRae McMahon, p. 111)

Song: The Lord Bless You and Keep You <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=akT32E83zjl>