

# Order of Service - Lent 3: March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023



Songs: Guide Me O Thou Great Redeemer [\(54\) Guide Me, O Thou Great Redeemer - YouTube](#)

## 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

Let us sing to God the creator,

**Let us rejoice in the rock of our salvation.**

Your Spirit broods over the sea,

**Your hands mould the dry earth.**

Your love reaches so far, nothing and no one is beyond it.

**We are your people, crafted by the skill of your hand.**

We listen for your voice deep within us,

**And we find mercy, grace and love.**

We stand in awe of your presence and in the silence of your love.

**We renew our covenant with you. Amen**

(Based on a version of Psalm 95 found in 'Psalms for a Pilgrim People' by Jim Cotter)

Song: As the Deer Pants [\(54\) 🎵 As The Deer - Virtual Choir Worship Song - YouTube](#)

## Opening Prayer

God of great love and mercy,

We thank you for the myriad of ways you constantly reveal your love to us.

When we disappoint – you gently forgive.

When we don't understand – you are patient with us.

When barriers are put in our way – you smash them down.

When we are weak – you are our strength.

When we thirst for justice – you offer us living water.

When we feel like an outsider – you stretch out your hand in welcome.

God of abundant love, we can do nothing but worship you. Amen.

(Prayer by Cheryl Williams, March 2023)

### *Bible Reading - Exodus 17:1-7 (NRSVA)*

**17** From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. **2** The people quarrelled with Moses, and said, 'Give us water to drink.' Moses said to them, 'Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?' **3** But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, 'Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?' **4** So Moses cried out to the LORD, 'What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me.' **5** The LORD said to Moses, 'Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. **6** I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink.' Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. **7** He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarrelled and tested the LORD, saying, 'Is the LORD among us or not?'

### *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: John 4:5-42 (NRSVA)*

**5** So he came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. **6** Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon.

**7** A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, 'Give me a drink'. **8** (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) **9** The Samaritan woman said to him, 'How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?' (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) **10** Jesus answered her, 'If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, "Give me a drink", you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water.' **11** The woman said to him, 'Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water?' **12** Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?' **13** Jesus said to her, 'Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, **14** but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.' **15** The woman said to him, 'Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water.'

**16** Jesus said to her, 'Go, call your husband, and come back.' **17** The woman answered him, 'I have no husband.' Jesus said to her, 'You are right in saying, "I have no husband"; **18** for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!' **19** The woman said to him, 'Sir, I see that you are a prophet. **20** Our ancestors worshipped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem.' **21** Jesus said to her, 'Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. **22** You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. **23** But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. **24** God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit

and truth.’ <sup>25</sup> The woman said to him, ‘I know that Messiah is coming’ (who is called Christ). ‘When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us.’ <sup>26</sup> Jesus said to her, ‘I am he, the one who is speaking to you.’

<sup>27</sup> Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, ‘What do you want?’ or, ‘Why are you speaking with her?’ <sup>28</sup> Then the woman left her water-jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, <sup>29</sup> ‘Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?’ <sup>30</sup> They left the city and were on their way to him.

<sup>31</sup> Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, ‘Rabbi, eat something.’ <sup>32</sup> But he said to them, ‘I have food to eat that you do not know about.’ <sup>33</sup> So the disciples said to one another, ‘Surely no one has brought him something to eat?’ <sup>34</sup> Jesus said to them, ‘My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. <sup>35</sup> Do you not say, “Four months more, then comes the harvest”? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting. <sup>36</sup> The reaper is already receiving<sup>[e]</sup> wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. <sup>37</sup> For here the saying holds true, “One sows and another reaps.” <sup>38</sup> I sent you to reap that for which you did not labour. Others have laboured, and you have entered into their labour.’

<sup>39</sup> Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman’s testimony, ‘He told me everything I have ever done.’ <sup>40</sup> So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them; and he stayed there for two days. <sup>41</sup> And many more believed because of his word. <sup>42</sup> They said to the woman, ‘It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Saviour of the world.’

*[Song: Beauty for Brokenness \(54\) GOD OF THE POOR - YouTube](#)*

*[Children’s Talk: Water](#)*

*[Reflection: Questions at noon](#)*

*[Prayer for Iran](#)*

*[Prayers for the church and world:](#)*

Remembering:

- People in remote **Northern Territory & Queensland** affected by the floods.
- Those affected by shooting in church in **Germany**
- Thousands of those grieving the loss of loved ones and the millions displaced by the recent natural disasters in **Brazil, New Zealand, Syria, Turkiye & Vanuatu**
- Those known to us struggling with their health
- The **‘Left Write Hook’ program and survivors who participate**
- Those in our community travelling in Feb/Mar
- For those who wait to hear about their visas
- **Women throughout the world** as we have celebrated International Women’s Day but for those in the world who do not have the same rights as others.
- Our friends at **Sanctuary and the Houses of Hope** in Footscray and our neighbours at **Westhaven**
- Families attending the **‘Come & Try’ Playgroup**, they can have up to 15 children and their parents each week.

- Places of tension, unrest & conflict especially **Iran, Israel, Myanmar, Peru, Syria, Ukraine**
- The peoples of **Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States of America, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Vatican City, Venezuela, Vietnam**
- **Baptist Mission Australia** – people of Kalkarindji, Daguragu and Pigeon Hole affected by floods in NT who have been displaced and have lost everything and for funds to enable those communities to recover. Also for the work and workers in South East Asia, Papua New Guinea & Cambodia.
- **Baptist World Aid** – Pray that everyone would have clean water to drink, and for the provision of filters, wells, and catch basins where they are needed most.

*Silence - in the silence and through our minds and imaginations we bring prayers which words cannot contain (p. 56-7 A Wee Worship Book)*

### [Prayers for our community and world](#)

Abundant God,

You offer life in all its abundance to everyone and yet many do not experience it and it is for them especially we pray.

For those who hunger and thirst for life in all its fullness, may they find abundant pastures.

**God of the living water, bring life, bring love.**

For those who find themselves excluded by barriers others have built, may they find inclusion.

**God of the living water, bring life, bring love.**

For those left without dignity or whose human rights have been stripped away, may they find justice.

**God of the living water, bring life, bring love.**

For women so often left on the outer – from jobs, from education, from having opinions, may they find new opportunities

**God of the living water, bring life, bring love.**

For those who live in places of conflict, where lives are lost and divisions rule, may they know peace.

**God of the living water, bring life, bring love.**

For those who are fearful, who find it hard to trust, may they find security and safety.

**God of the living water, bring life, bring love.**

For those for whom life is tenuous, for those who are dying and those who struggle day to day, may they know comfort.

**God of the living water, bring life, bring love.**

For those unwell in body, mind or spirit, may they know healing.

**God of the living water, bring life, bring love.**

For those of us who are weary, cranky and complaining – may we find rest and refreshing water from the rock.

**God of the living water, bring life, bring love.**

Grant to us all that which replenishes and your abundant love. Amen.

*(Based in part on prayers found on Church of Scotland website – Third Sunday in Lent – Year A)*

### [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.

[Song: Don't Be Afraid](#) [\(54\) Don't be Afraid - YouTube](#)

### [Offering & Prayer](#)

Loving God, giver of soothing water and abundant life. Accept these our gifts as part of our response to your love. Take them and us to bring abundant life to all in our neighbourhood and beyond. 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](#)

- **140<sup>th</sup> Birthday for Footscray Baptist** – this will be held on **May 28<sup>th</sup>**, which is also Pentecost Sunday. A working group to prepare the celebrations is being formed – if you would like to join our initial planning meeting it will be on Thursday March 16<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm via zoom.
- Congratulations to **Sirish, Grace, Paul & Sunny** on gaining their permanent residency.
- **Quarterly Church Meeting** – March 19<sup>th</sup> in church immediately following the service, papers will be sent out early this week.
- **NowRuz** – March 21<sup>st</sup>
- **Working Bee** – March 25<sup>th</sup>
- **Understanding 'The Voice'** - St Marks Anglican Church warmly welcomes our neighbours in Melbourne's Inner West to an evening with **Indigenous Christian Leader Garry Deverell**. The Rev Canon Dr Garry Deverell is a trawloolway man from lutruwita/Tasmania, and Lecturer and Research Fellow in the School of Indigenous Studies, University of Divinity. Please join us for this forum to listen, learn and be equipped to exercise our vote with integrity. **6:30-8:30pm, Wednesday 29th March at St Marks Anglican Church**, 616 Melbourne Road, Spotswood. Tickets \$10 per person (\$5 Concession), **Booking required** <https://www.trybooking.com/CGKKU>
- **Church Lunch** – April 2<sup>nd</sup>, please bring a plate of food to share. Help needed to set up prior to morning service.
- **Myanmar Sunday** – the BUV has set aside April 30<sup>th</sup> for churches to focus on Myanmar.
- **Bible Study** – Our Lenten series continues on March 26, immediately following the service in the office.
- **Excess Furniture** – we have many items that we are looking to get rid of, see Ros for a list and **if you like it, take it!**
- **Reflective Prayer** – please note that due to public holiday there is no Reflective Prayer this week. Next one Monday March 20<sup>th</sup> at 5pm on zoom. Please speak to Ros or Cheryl for an invite.
- **Baptist World Aid Appeal for Earthquake Victims** – see their website for details
- **Food Donations** for the Houses of Hope can be left in the container in the church.

*Song: Deeper River* [\(54\) The Deeper River - YouTube](#)

*Benediction*

When waters rage,  
God's peace.  
When waters still,  
God's awakening.  
When water is scarce,  
God's blessing.  
When water flows,  
God's grace. Amen.

(from *Pray Now: Word of Life*)

*Go in Peace*