

Order of Service - April 16th, 2023

Music

- *Halle, Halle, Hallelujah* [Halle, Halle, Hallelujah \[with lyrics for congregations\] - YouTube](#)
- *In Christ Alone* [In Christ Alone \(My Hope Is Found\) - Adrienne Liesching | LYRIC VIDEO - YouTube](#)

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

From the corners of our world
From the confusion in our lives
From the loneliness of our hearts

Gather us, O God.

To feed our minds
To fire our imaginations
To free our hearts

Gather us, O God.

(Invocation' in The Pattern of our Days, edited by Kathy Galloway, Wildgoose Publications, p.109)

Song: *Lord of all Hopefulness, Lord of All Joy* [lord of all hopefulness - YouTube](#)

Opening Prayer

God of bountiful blessing,

we thank You for the promise of Jesus Christ,

who is the Life by which we live,

and the perfection of Your holy glory.

We thank You for the faith to believe that which we have not seen,

and for Your mercy upon us as we clumsily grasp the significance of Your love.

We thank You for Your sustaining strength as we try to lead lives which reflect Your
glory,

and for Your ever-present Spirit as our guide, helper and advocate.

With thankful hearts we give You praise. Amen.

(Prayer from Church of Scotland [16-april-2-of-easter.pdf](#))

Bible Reading - John 20:19-31 (NRSVA)

⁹ When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' ²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹ 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.'

²⁴ But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the other disciples told him, 'We have seen the Lord.' But he said to them, 'Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.'

²⁶ A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' ²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, 'Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.' ²⁸ Thomas answered him, 'My Lord and my God!' ²⁹ Jesus said to him, 'Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.'

³⁰ Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. ³¹ But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah,^[c] the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

[Song: A New Commandment](#) [A New Commandment I Give Unto You \[with lyrics for congregations\]](#) - [YouTube](#)

[Passing the Peace](#)

God makes peace within us.

Let us claim it.

God makes peace between us.

Let us share it.

Let us greet one another with a sign of God's peace.

The peace of God is here!

Thanks be to God.

(Adapted from prayer by Rex A Hunt)

[Bible Reading: 1 Peter 1:3-9\(NRSVA\)](#)

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, ⁵ who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶ In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, ⁷ so that the genuineness of your faith—being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honour when Jesus Christ is revealed. ⁸ Although you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, ⁹ for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

[Children's Talk:](#)

[Reflection: Thomas Reflects](#)

[Song: Without Seeing You by David Haas - listening only](#) [Without Seeing You - YouTube](#)

Prayer for Iran

Prayers for the church and world:

Remembering:

- Those known to us struggling with their health
- For those who wait to hear about their visas
- Our friends at **Sanctuary and the Houses of Hope** in Footscray and our neighbours at **Westhaven**
- Places of tension, unrest & conflict in the world
- **Baptist Mission Australia:** work and workers in South East Asia
- **Baptist World Aid:** Amidst a global hunger crisis and rising food prices, pray that people in poverty would have enough to eat and feed their families.

*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

Loving God, we continue to pray for your world:

For those who are lonely,
Who feel forgotten,
Who are alone,
Who have cut themselves off,
Bring your peace.

For those who are afraid,
Who are confused,
Who are doubting,
Who look for someone to blame,
Bring your peace.

For those who live with the consequences of natural disasters,
Who are gripped by terror,
Who find themselves in the midst of war or conflict,
Who are at war with themselves,
Bring your peace.

Meet us all in the midst of our fear, our confusion, our wondering, our doubt, our very ordinary lives and speak to us of your forgiveness and peace. Amen.

(Prayer by Cheryl Williams, 2023)

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: Be Not Afraid [Be Not Afraid by Bob Dufford, sung by John Michael Talbot with lyrics - YouTube](#)

Offering & Prayer

The gifts we now offer, we do so in response to your great love for us.

They symbolise all that we are and all that we have – dreams and doubts, faith and fear, life and love.

Take them and us to be used to share your love in the world. Amen.

(Prayer by Cheryl Williams, 2020)

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

- **Reflective Prayer** – there will be on reflective prayer this week^h.
- **140th Birthday for Footscray Baptist** – save the date **May 28th**, which is also Pentecost Sunday. Guest Preacher will be Rev Chris Barnden who is our area minister and also the grandson of Rev Wright who served at this church twice.
- **Church Directory** – please update your details when Grace asks.
- **Knitted Goods** – Forouzan is taking orders for knitted goods – hats, headbands, slippers. See Cheryl for samples.
- **Pastor's leave** – I will be on leave from Friday April 21st – Monday May 1st.
- **Myanmar Sunday** – the BUV has set aside April 30th for churches to focus on Myanmar.
- **Food Donations** (non-perishable items – rice, pasta, beans, lentils, oil etc) for the Houses of Hope can be left in the container in the church.
- **Food for the homeless** (baked beans, snacks, vegemite, peanut butter, tinned tuna, spaghetti etc) can be left in the tub in the office.

Song: Lord You Stand Among Us

rosslangmead.50webs.com/ri/Downloads/SongsMP3/LordYouStandAmongUs.mp3

Benediction

Go now, seeking peace and pursuing it

Go, loving and serving the Lord

May the blessing of God – creator, redeemer and sustainer be with you

As it was in the beginning and ever shall be. Amen.

(Adapted from 'Acts of Witness and Dissent' in The Pattern of our Days, edited by Kathy Galloway, Wildgoose Publications, p.79)

Song: Halle, Halle, Hallelujah [Halle, Halle, Hallelujah \[with lyrics for congregations\] - YouTube](#)

Go in Peace