

Order of Service - April 23rd, 2023

Music

- *Halle, Halle, Hallelujah* [Halle, Halle, Hallelujah \[with lyrics for congregations\] - YouTube](#)
- *Blessed Assurance* [Blessed Assurance Christian Worship Song Lyrics - 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

We have come from many places, following different roads.

We come hungering for greater understanding.

We have come to hear the wisdom of Scripture.

We come seeking companions in the faith.

We have come to discover the One revealed in the breaking of the bread.

We come to grow as disciples of Christ.

Come, let us worship God, made known in Christ Jesus.

(Prayers from Worship Planner 'The Presbyterian')

Song: *Be Now Our Vision* [Be Thou My Vision - Audrey Assad - YouTube](#)

Opening Prayer

Loving God,

we gather in your Son's name this day,

united by your Spirit to your followers throughout all time and space.

It is amazing to remember that the stories we hear about you today
have transformed so many other lives for so many centuries.

It is amazing to consider how lives not so very different from our own
carried your love from one generation to another,

from one church to another,

from one part of the world to another.

As we join together in worship,

open our eyes to new opportunities to express our love for you,

and share your love in the lives we touch;

for we are your people

and we praise God in your holy name. Amen.

(Prayers from Worship Planner 'The Presbyterian')

Bible Reading - *Luke 24:13-35 (NRSVA)*

13 Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles^[1] from Jerusalem, **14** and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. **15** While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, **16** but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. **17** And he said to them, 'What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?' They stood still, looking sad.^[2] **18** Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, 'Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?' **19** He asked them, 'What things?' They replied, 'The things about Jesus of Nazareth,^[3] who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, **20** and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. **21** But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. **22** Moreover, some of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, **23** and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. **24** Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him.' **25** Then he said to them, 'Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! **26** Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?' **27** Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

28 As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. **29** But they urged him strongly, saying, 'Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.' So he went in to stay with them. **30** When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. **31** Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. **32** They said to each other, 'Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?' **33** That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. **34** They were saying, 'The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!' **35** Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

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: 1 Peter 1:17-33(NRSVA)

17 If you invoke as Father the one who judges all people impartially according to their deeds, live in reverent fear during the time of your exile. **18** You know that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold, **19** but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish. **20** He was destined before the foundation of the world but was revealed at the end of the ages for your sake. **21** Through him you have come to trust in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are set on God. **22** Now that you have purified your souls by your obedience to the truth so that you have genuine mutual love, love one another deeply from the heart. **23** You have been born anew, not of perishable but of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God. **24** For

‘All flesh is like grass
and all its glory like the flower of grass.
The grass withers,
and the flower falls,
²⁵ but the word of the Lord endures for ever.’

That word is the good news that was announced to you.

Children's Talk:

Reflection: Questions on the Road

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 - Sudan
- **Baptist World Aid:** 25 April is ANZAC day. As we remember that let us pray to our God of peace for those impacted by conflicted around the world.

*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

God our Maker,

You have walked the Emmaus Road with your faithful people in many generations,
people facing challenge and uncertainty,
people seeking your purpose and promise.

Thank you for your faithfulness to us in all situations.

Walk with us and with those for whom we pray this day,
that your grace and mercy may sustain our faith and hope.

God in your mercy,

Hear our prayers.

We pray for children and young people

who must think about the future in these uncertain times.

Give them hope rooted in the knowledge that their lives matter to you.

Show them how to make a difference in the world,

whatever threats and challenges they face as they grow.

God in your mercy,

Hear our prayers.

We pray for those for whom age or experience, illness or disability
create barriers to full participation in your world.

Give each one a sense of dignity and purpose.

Show them where their gifts are needed and how much they matter to you.

God in your mercy,
Hear our prayers.

We pray for communities challenged by forces beyond their control:
economic uncertainty, environmental stress, natural disaster, political strife.
Give courage to those facing these crises day by day,
and wisdom to those who lead others through them,
so that wellbeing may be restored and hope for the future prevail.
God in your mercy,
Hear our prayers.

We pray for our congregation, for our life together and our future in mission.
That future feels so challenging.
It is hard to read the signs of our times and respond wisely.
Sustain our fellowship and give us courage to take new paths,
so that you will find us faithful on our journey into that future.
We pray for the wellbeing of those lives linked to ours
who bring us both joy and heartache
because they matter so much to us and to you:

(Silence)

God in your mercy,
hear our prayers.

God our Maker, hear our prayers, spoken and unspoken,
and use us in ways we may not yet even imagine, to respond to others,
with the love and mercy, we see in Jesus Christ who taught us to pray together:

(Prayers from Worship Planner 'The Presbyterian')

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 & Prayer

Our lives overflow with God's blessing and goodness in Christ and in creation. Out of the bounty of our lives, let us offer God our gifts with overflowing gratitude.

Generous God, you bless us with life, purpose, and opportunities to serve in the world you love. We offer you our gifts in Christ's name, not seeking greater gain, but desiring to enrich life around us with your love. Amen *(Prayers from Worship Planner 'The Presbyterian')*

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** – will be on tomorrow April 24th on zoom at 5pm, see Ros for an invite. After we shall have a break until May 15th.
- **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. Invitations have now been sent out, please forward it on to those you think might like to come. Help needed to set up, bring fruit and oversee serving the meal.
- **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. Our morning service will have that focus.
- **Ecumenical Prayer Service for Myanmar** – 5pm April 30th at Collins Street Baptist Church
- **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: Abide With Me [Abide With Me - Audrey Assad - YouTube](#)

Benediction

As resurrection people

We look for signs of the kingdom

As resurrection people

We walk by faith and not by sight

As resurrection people

We share the hope of the gospel

As resurrection people

We live in power of the Spirit.

May the companionship of Christ encourage you.

May the self-giving of Christ nourish you.

And may the joy of the resurrection
astound you and propel you into sharing with others
the good news of the gospel

Amen.

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

Go in Peace