

Order of Service

Mother's Day - May 14th, 2023

Music

- *Halle Halle, Halle* [Halle, Halle, Hallelujah \[with lyrics for congregations\] - YouTube](#)
- *Gather Us In* [Gather Us In - 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

Come Father God,

Come as an enfolding presence.

Come as steadfast love to hold us.

Come Mother God,

Come as an enabling, strengthening force.

Come as tough love to let us go.

Come Loving God,

Come as friend and comforter.

Heal our wounds.

Walk our way.

Come as wounded healer.

And make us whole. Amen

(Prayer based on one in 'The Pattern of Our Day's by Kathy Galloway, p. 116)

Song: Bring Many Names [Bring Many Names - Brian Wren \(FCCB Virtual Choir\) - YouTube](#)

Opening Prayer

God with a mother's heart,

You gather us as your children.

You comfort and hold us in your warm embrace.

When we hurt, your arms enfold us.

When we are afraid, your wings protect us.

When we are hungry, you feed us with the bread of life. God with a mother's heart.

You love surrounds and supports us,

In good times and in tough, In the midst of joy and pain,
Always and everywhere.

You will never leave nor abandon us.

God eternal and loving one, God with a mother's heart,

We thank you this day for being part of your family.

(Written by Christine Sine, and posted on Godspace. <http://godspacemsa.com/2015/05/04/meditation-monday-connecting-to-the-mother-heart-of-god>)

Bible Reading - John 14:15-21 (NRSVA)

¹⁵ 'If you love me, you will keep my commandments. ¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you for ever. ¹⁷ This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you. ¹⁸ 'I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. ¹⁹ In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. ²⁰ On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. ²¹ They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.'

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: Acts 17:22-31 (NRSVA)

²² Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, 'Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. ²³ For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, "To an unknown god." What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. ²⁴ The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, ²⁵ nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals, life and breath and all things. ²⁶ From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, ²⁷ so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. ²⁸ For "In him we live and move and have our being"; as even some of your own poets have said, "For we too are his offspring." ²⁹ Since we are God's offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. ³⁰ While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, ³¹ because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.'

Children's Talk: Mother's Day

Reflection: Offspring not Orphans

Song: Comfort, Comfort [Comfort, Comfort All My People - 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
- **Democratic Republic of Congo** – those affected by landslides
- **New Zealand** – those affected by floods
- Our friends at **Sanctuary and the Houses of Hope** in Footscray and our neighbours at **Westhaven**
- Places of tension, unrest & conflict especially **Iran, Myanmar, Pakistan Sudan, Ukraine**
- Children facing starvation in **Afghanistan**.
- **Baptist Mission Australia:** pray for work and workers in South Asia, Indochina, India and Malawi
- **Baptist World Aid:** pray for safe births around the world, and that mothers everywhere would thrive.

*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, strong mothering God, you have promised that you will not leave us alone, that we shall not be orphans but are incorporated into a big new family.

We pray now for those who do feel abandoned:

- For those separated by their mothers or mother figures due to death, distance or estrangement,
- For children orphaned by war and conflict
- For all who find the celebrations and the focus of this day difficult
- For those who did not have a nurturing relationship with their mother and are traumatized by that
- For those who will never be mothers but would have liked to have been
- For adults who, even now, miss their parents
- For those who grew up in care because they were told the lie that their parents had died or no longer wanted them, and the pain that has caused all of their lives
- For those forced to flee their homeland and their parents
- For those who feel deeply the separation from parents by distance and circumstances

May they all know by your Spirit that they are loved, they are adopted into the love of God, with new brothers and sisters.

We also pray for those places in the world that are:

- Affected by natural disasters,
- Unsafe due to conflict and unjust regimes – Iran, Myanmar, Sudan
- Divided by race and culture,
- Facing the starving of their peoples
- Unable to celebrate difference,
- Struggling to make ends meet.

Finally, as we head toward reconciliation week, we pray for our indigenous brothers and sisters, that their voices may be heard, and they might be treated with compassion in the lead up to the referendum.

As you do not abandon us and leave us orphaned, may we be strengthened by your Spirit to offer nurture to all we meet.

We pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

(Prayer by Cheryl Williams, May 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: Don't Be Afraid [Don't be Afraid - YouTube](#)

Offering & Prayer

Living God

You have given us life and breath and all that we have. We have nothing to give to You except what we have received from You. So, with these offerings, given in this and other ways, help us to dedicate to You all that we have and are, so that You may have what is indeed Your own, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Prayer from [14 May, 6th Sunday of Easter | The Church of Scotland](#))

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** – Monday May 22nd at 5pm on zoom. Please speak to Ros or Cheryl for an invite.
- **Bible Study** – begins on Tuesday May 16th from 6/6.30-pm for a shared meal followed by bible study at about 7pm. Please bring some food to share.
- **140th Birthday for Footscray Baptist** – this will be held on **May 28th**, which is also Pentecost Sunday. Help still needed. Can you please indicate what food you are able to contribute and/or if you can help set up or clean up. Please ensure you have told Grace if you plan to attend.
- **Annual General Meeting** – June 4th immediately following the service, this is delayed due to the anniversary celebrations.
- **Knitted Goods** – Forouzan is taking orders for knitted goods – hats, headbands, slippers. See Cheryl for samples.
- **Stand With Myanmar** – envelopes are still available to make a contribution to the Myanmar appeal.
- **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: Now Thank We All Our God](#) [Now Thank We All Our God \(Hymn Charts with Lyrics, Contemporary\) - YouTube](#)

Benediction

Go from this place, speaking of what God has done.

We will remind everyone that, despite everything, God loves us.

Go from this place, singing of what God is doing.

We will rejoice that God has not left us orphaned, but makes us one with everyone around us.

Go from this place, imagining what God will do.

We will witness to that hope which seems so distant, yet is as close to us as our hearts.

(c) Thom M. Shuman

Go in Peace