

Order of Service - May 7th, 2023

Music

- *Halle Halle, Halle* [Halle, Halle, Hallelujah \[with lyrics for congregations\] - YouTube](#)
- *We are Pilgrims* www.rosslangmead.com/Downloads/SongsMP3/WeArePilgrims.mp3

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

We are God's household, crafted by the Architect of creation:

Our hearts a shelter for the outcast; our hands open to the stranger.

We are God's people, created in the divine image:

To tell others of God's love, to offer mercy as freely as we have received it.

We are God's children, called to give of ourselves:

Chosen to serve the lost and lonely, gifted to minister to a hurting world.

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Song: *By Gracious Powers* [Gracious Powers - YouTube](#) or [By Gracious Powers - YouTube](#)

Opening Prayer

Our Way, you call us:

to celebrate your peace in a world which worships war;

to celebrate your freedom in the face of oppression;

to celebrate the seed of faith planted in the doubts of our hearts.

Our Life, you would have us:

celebrate the safe ground of hope emerging from the flood of our tears;

celebrate those who love us in the midst of hurt and hatred;

celebrate our salvation as we struggle with sin.

Our Truth, you teach us:

to celebrate our new life in the gift of the Risen Lord;

to celebrate the grace of your heart which melts our fears;

to celebrate that all our moments are cradled in your hands.

Our Way, our Truth, our Life – **we praise you!**

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Bible Reading - John 14:1-14(NRSVA)

14 'Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. **2** In my Father's house there are many dwelling-places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? **3** And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. **4** And you know the way to the place where I am going.' **5** Thomas said to him, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?' **6** Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. **7** If you know me, you will know^[d] my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.'

8 Philip said to him, 'Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.' **9** Jesus said to him, 'Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, "Show us the Father"? **10** Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. **11** Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. **12** Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. **13** I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. **14** If in my name you ask me^[e] for anything, I will do it.

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 2:2-10

Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation— **3** if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

4 Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and **5** like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. **6** For it stands in scripture:

'See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious; and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.'

7 To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe,

'The stone that the builders rejected has become the very head of the corner',

8 and 'A stone that makes them stumble, and a rock that makes them fall.'

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

9 But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvellous light.

¹⁰ Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

Children's Talk: Living Stones

Reflection: At Home with God

Communion Song: Come As You Are [Come As You Are - YouTube](#)

Communion

Invitation

Come to the table where Jesus has prepared a place for you.
Come with your questions and your doubts
Come if this is your first time or you have been here many times before
Come and join with each other in this holy meal.

(Prayer by Cheryl Williams, May 2023)

Prayer of Preparation

God, your love flows from the mountaintops through the valleys.
It reaches to the stars and to us, your people,
whom you feed with grace and hope.
Sometimes we drifted away and yet you always call us home.
Imaginative God, you have always shaped a safe place for us.

You sent Jesus, so that
in knowing and believing in him, we would know and believe in you.
He has shown us how to grow into your people.
The cornerstone of your kingdom, he uses us to build a spiritual home for all.

Once, we were nobodies, alone and hopeless,
but by your mercy, Living God, we are now a family,
gathered in your love around this Table.

Your Spirit blesses the bread, the cup, us.
Here we are enveloped in your grace
so we might go to be your people.
You offer to us the bread of life and the cup of hope,
which heals our troubled hearts ,
and strengthens us to serve our world.

And when the Way leads us home to you,
when your Life gathers us with our sisters and brothers
around the Table which is prepared by your Truth,
we will sing glad songs of praise to you forever,
God in Community, Holy in One. Amen.

(Prayer adapted from one by © 2014 Thom M. Shuman)

Words of Institution: Matthew 24:26-30 (NRSVA)

²⁶ While they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to the disciples, and said, 'Take, eat; this is my body.' ²⁷ Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, saying, 'Drink from it, all of you; ²⁸ for this is my

blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. ²⁹ I tell you, I will never again drink of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom.' ³⁰ When they had sung the hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

Sharing Bread & Wine

The gifts of God for the people of God. The bread of life and the cup of blessing.

Prayer for Iran

Prayers for the church and world:

Remembering:

- Those known to us struggling with their health.
- Those currently travelling overseas.
- 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 especially **Iran, Myanmar, Sudan, Ukraine**
- **Baptist Mission Australia:** greater awareness of their work overseas by us here in Australia
- **Baptist World Aid:** Pray for children who are malnourished – that they'd have enough to eat, grown and develop healthy bodies.

*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,

In Jesus you have promised to prepare a safe place for us, so we pray now for those in this world who do not have a safe place to call home.

- For this planet we call earth our fragile home, which is so vulnerable.
- For those whose home is not safe due to abuse and violence
- For those who have no home because they have been forced to flee
- For those whose home is on the dark, cold streets and park benches.
- For those whose home is a refugee camp – especially on the borders of Myanmar.
- For those whose home is the four walls of a prison cell
- For those whose home is threatened by climate change, especially our Pacific neighbours
- For those whose home is filled with sadness
- For those who don't know how long they will have a roof over their heads to call home
- For those whose home is with strangers
- For those whose home is no longer the place they loved, but now an aged care facility
- For those whose home has an empty pantry
- For those whose home is devoid of love
- For those who find their home a lonely place

Do not let their hearts be troubled, shelter them in your love.

We are called to be your people, your household. By your Spirit enable us to do all we can to help others feel at home with themselves and with you. 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

We offer our gifts so that others may not feel alone, eat alone, live alone, be alone, but that they may be surrounded by your grace and love through us and the lives we offer to them. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

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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 14th at 5pm on zoom. Please speak to Ros or Cheryl for an invite.
- **Bible Study** – a short meeting after the service to discuss when this will begin.
- **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.
- **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: We Are Called to be God's People [We are Called to Be God's People - YouTube](#)

Benediction

May the blessings of the One who is the Way be with you in the days to come.

May God guide our feet wherever we go.

May the blessings of Jesus who is our Life be with you in the days to come.

May Jesus lead us by the hand to those who are our sisters and brothers in need.

May the blessings of the Spirit of Truth be with you in the days to come.

May we journey with the Spirit to that way which is everlasting.

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Go in Peace