

Order of Service - April 30th, 2023

Music

- *Halle, Halle, Hallelujah* [Halle, Halle, Hallelujah \[with lyrics for congregations\] - YouTube](#)
- *Weep for the World*

Let us weep for the world
being broken apart
by humans,
foolish humans.
Let us grieve the desecration
of forest and stream,
of glacier and ocean and humans,
like us.

Let us be mindful of the children,
being born today,
in a world torn apart
by humans.
Let us show our children
a more excellent way
to walk on the earth and be human,
truly human.

Let us love this world
we've been breaking apart
and let our love bring wholeness.
And let us love one another
with a compassionate heart
for it is love that makes us human, human.

Let us weep for the world
We are breaking apart,
so we can love it back
to wholeness.
Let our hearts be stretched
by great sorrow and love,
so they will never contract
to being less than human.

Brian McLaren, *Weep for the World*. Used with permission.

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

God,
You are enough for us;
you give us rest in soft fields
and beside whispering streams;
you restore and renew us,
and lead us into life-giving ways;

When death and evil come close to us,
you carry us through,
you protect and comfort us;
when others seek to do us harm,
your grace uplifts and provides for us
in public view;
you fill us with your strength
and we enjoy overflowing abundance;

We have confidence that your goodness and compassion
will fill our days,
**and we will stay immersed in your life and presence
forever. Amen.**

(Prayer from [God, You Are Enough – Sacredise](#))

Song: *The Lord's My Shepherd* [The Lord's my Shepherd - Stuart Townend \[with lyrics\] - YouTube](#)

Opening Prayer of Lament

God who hears the cries directed to you, we come now with cries of deep wounds in our search for peace.

We lament the tragedy and absurdity of human events in this world, especially in Myanmar.

We lament:

- the loss of safety and shelter as homes and towns are burnt to the ground.
- the displacement of people forced to flee to other villages, to other countries.
- that those seeking freedom and justice are imprisoned, disappeared or killed.
- the lack of medical care and supplies available to those who are ill.
- the hunger, the dispossession, the grief of ordinary people.
- the violence witnessed by little children.
- the fear felt by young and old alike.
- the anxiety experienced by loved ones here in Australia, so far away.
- the not knowing where families might be.
- the dispossession
- our silence in the face of such injustice.

Hear the cries of you people we pray. Amen.

Bible Reading - Psalm 23 (NRSVA)

The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.

² He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters;

³ he restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.

⁴ Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me;
your rod and your staff—they comfort me.

⁵ You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

⁶ Surely! goodness and mercy^[1] shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD my whole life long.

SHAKAWN KUNGDAWN 23

Dawi a mahkawn ga langai mi.

1 Yehowa ngai sagu hpe rem ai wa rai nga ai; Ngai hpa mung n ra nngai.

2 Tsit lali ai udat shara e shi ngai hpe hpum shangun nna,

Ngwi ai hka kau de woi sa wa nngai.

3 Nye a myit masin hpe shi shalan shabran ya nna, Shi amying nsang a matu mara, Dingman ai lam hta ngai hpe akawn wa nngai.

4 Si ai hkaraw a shingnip hta e ngai hkawm sa wa timung,

Nang ngai hte rau nga nga ai majaw, Ngai aru ara hpe n hkrit nngai:

Na a sumdoi hte na a dawhkrawng gaw, ngai hpe shapyaw ya nga ai.

5 Nye gumlau ni a man e, nye a matu sha ku nang lajang da ya nga ndai;

Nye a baw hpe namman hte nang chya ya ndai,

Nye a gawm a kabrat nga li ai.

6 Gaja wa, ngai ahkrung nga ai nhtoi nlang hte hta, Kaja ai hte

chyeju ngai kaw hkan nang nna, Yehowa a nta hta ngai prat dingnawng,

anga nga lu na ring ngai law.

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 10:1-10 (NRSVA)

10 'Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. **2** The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. **3** The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. **4** When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. **5** They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.' **6** Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

7 So again Jesus said to them, 'Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. **8** All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. **9** I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. **10** The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.

Children's Talk: Whoever You Are (Mem Fox)

Song: Beauty for Brokenness (God of the Poor)

[Beauty for Brokenness \(God of the Poor - 6vv\) \[with lyrics for congregations\] - YouTube](#)

Reflection: Standing With Myanmar - Q & A

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
- **Sudan** and other places of tension, unrest & conflict in the world
- Our friends at **Sanctuary and the Houses of Hope** in Footscray and our neighbours at **Westhaven**
- **Baptist World Aid:** Pray that people in modern slavery, such as young children would be released from this form of oppression.
- **Baptist Mission Australia:** work and workers in Outback, Regional and Urban Australia

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 Myanmar, our community and world

God of the world we now pray for all,

For those displaced, traumatised, hurt or grieving in Myanmar – may they know the comfort of you our God, may you restore their souls.

For those without food, clothing or shelter – may they find the provisions they need, may their cup overflow.

For the many different ethnic groups and faith communities – may they be united as they peacefully stand against injustice.

For leaders who minister in such a challenging context – may they know your guidance.

For all people of faith – may they not grow weary as they pursue justice.

For all who have been detained unjustly – may they find freedom.

For the government and military – change their hearts O God, so they may exercise compassion for all in Myanmar.

For us and all the world, may we not be silent, may we remember these people and do all we can to support the people of Myanmar both there and loved ones here.

We do believe that violence and injustice will never have the last word and we will work to ensure peace and plenty for these people. Amen.

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

Take these our offerings of money and prayers and use them and us to bring your love, your peace and your protection to all who need it. 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

- **Reflective Prayer** – resumes on 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.
- **Knitted Goods** – Forouzan is taking orders for knitted goods – hats, headbands, slippers. See Cheryl for samples.
- **Ecumenical Prayer Service for Myanmar** – tonight at 5pm 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: Brother, Sister Let Me Serve You [Brother, sister let me serve you - YouTube](#)

Benediction

May God bless you with Discomfort ...
at easy answers, half-truths, and superficial relationships,
so that you may live deep within your heart.

May God bless you with Anger ...
at Injustice, oppression, and exploitation of people,
so that you may work for justice, freedom, and peace.

May God bless you with Tears ...
to shed for those who suffer from pain, rejection, starvation, and war,
so that you may reach your hand to comfort them
and to turn their pain into joy.

And may God bless you with enough Foolishness ...
to believe that you can make a difference in this world,
so that you can do
what others claim cannot be done. **Amen.**

(FRANCISCAN BENEDICTION)

Go in Peace