



The Footscray Baptist Church celebrates the God-given diversity of cultures. We welcome you to join us in the journey of faith, whatever your race, religion, capability, gender or sexuality.

Infant Dedication

“A Child is God’s opinion that the world must go on” Carl Sandberg

11th June 2023

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!

Call to Worship

O Lord, our God,

We come today to give you thanks and sing your praises.

We will declare your steadfast love in the mornings.

We will declare your faithfulness by night,

With music and singing we declare our praise to you

We look around and see the works of your hands and we sing for joy.

Those who live in your love will flourish like palm trees, like cedars in Lebanon,

We will dwell here in your house,

May we flourish in your world. Amen.

(Prayer by Cheryl Williams based on Psalm 92:1-4, 12-13)

Hymn: Gather Us In [Gather Us In - YouTube](#)

Opening Prayer

All-knowing God,

We gather together with praise and thanksgiving
for who You are,

and for all that You have done for us.

You know us better than we know ourselves—
all our thoughts and actions—
and yet You love us.

No matter where we go or what we do,
Your love encircles us—ahead and behind—

gently leading and guiding and blessing.
We praise You for Your love
and Your faithful presence in our lives.

May Your Spirit move in our hearts and minds as we worship together—
examine our attitudes and actions,
lay bare the things we need to confess,
challenge us with Your Word,
and guide us on to paths that lead to life.

For we are Your people, called by Your name.
Amen.

(Prayer based on Psalm 139 found at [re:Worship: Opening Prayer: Psalm 139 \(re-worship.blogspot.com\)](http://re:Worship: Opening Prayer: Psalm 139 (re-worship.blogspot.com)))

Bible Reading: Deuteronomy 6:4-7 (NRSVA) (English & Farsi)

⁴ Hear, O Israel: The LORD is our God, the LORD alone. ⁵ You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might. ⁶ Keep these words that I am commanding you today in your heart. ⁷ Recite them to your children and talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise.

Sharing the Peace

Shalom my friends, God's peace my friends,
Go with you now, And stay with you in all you do
Shalom, shalom.

Dedication of 'N'

Children's Talk/Reflection: Guess How Much I Love You

Hearts & Hopes - take the hearts given to you this morning and on them write your hope for 'N', we will then collect them and give them to her parents.

Song: We Bring You This Child

rosslangmead.50webs.com/rl/Downloads/SongsMP3/WeBringyouThisChild.mp3 ©

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Presentation of 'N'

When 'N' was born, many lives were changed and in her they all received gift upon gift.

She was named 'N' because –

Her parents introduce her to you now and in this service will offer God their thanks for her and along with their families, her chosen Godparents, and this congregation will make promises to nurture her and seek God's blessing on her life.

Bible Reading: Mathew 19:13-15 (NRSVA) (English & Tagalog)

¹³ Then little children were being brought to him in order that he might lay his hands on them and pray. The disciples spoke sternly to those who brought them; ¹⁴ but Jesus said, 'Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs.' ¹⁵ And he laid his hands on them and went on his way.

Prayer of Thanksgiving for 'N'

We thank you for the gift of 'N',
for her uniqueness
for the joy she has brought to our lives
for the hope she carries within herself
for the smiles that touch our soul
for the joy and laughter and tears that will be shed.

We thank you that she has been entrusted to our love and care,
We are grateful that we will participate in her future and all that it will bring.

Help us all to show 'N' and each other care and respect so that she and us all
know ourselves to be cherished. Amen.

Promises

Parents: Will you continue to care for 'N', wiping away tears, being there in times of need, sharing her laughter and giving her boundaries? Will you be open to all she will teach you and in return guide and forgive her? Will you foster her imagination, creativity and sense of humour and encourage her to care for those around her? In short will you love her to the moon and back?

Grandparents: Will you continue to welcome 'N' into your homes and lives, sharing her joys and sorrows, giving her the freedom to become whom she will and share your stories with her, so she knows the family from which she has come? Will you continue to support her parents as they continue this journey of raising 'N'?

Godparents: Will you all continue to delight in 'N's company, respect her individuality, encourage her in all she does and help her explore her questions about life and faith? Will you celebrate her achievements and be there in her times of need? Will you also support her parents as they raise her to womanhood?

Community: Will you be the community where 'N' is free to discover who she is, what her gifts are and encourage her to become all she can be? Will you support her parents and wider family as they seek to nurture and guide her? Will you commit yourselves to creating a safe and just place for 'N' and for all children?

Contemporary Reading: 'Children Learn What they Live' (by Dorothy Law Nolte, Ph.D, 1972)

If children live with criticism, they learn to condemn.
If children live with hostility, they learn to fight.
If children live with fear, they learn to be apprehensive.
If children live with pity, they learn to feel sorry for themselves.
If children live with ridicule, they learn to feel shy.

If children live with jealousy, they learn to feel envy.
If children live with shame, they learn to feel guilty.
If children live with encouragement, they learn confidence.
If children live with tolerance, they learn patience.
If children live with praise, they learn appreciation.
If children live with acceptance, they learn to love.
If children live with approval, they learn to like themselves.
If children live with recognition, they learn it is good to have a goal.
If children live with sharing, they learn generosity.
If children live with honesty, they learn truthfulness.
If children live with fairness, they learn justice.
If children live with kindness and consideration, they learn respect.
If children live with security, they learn to have faith in themselves and in those about them.
If children live with friendliness, they learn the world is a nice place in which to live.

[Blessing of 'N' Luke 2:22, 27-28 \(NRSVA\)](#)

... they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord. ... ²⁷ Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, ²⁸ Simeon took him in his arms and praised God. (Luke 2:22, 27-28)

'N', we pray God's blessing on you.

May you know God is always with you, no matter what you face. God is with you guiding and directing you and calling you to life in with joy.

The LORD bless you and keep you;

The LORD make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you.

The LORD lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace. (Numbers 6:24-26)

[Song: If I Were A Butterfly](#) [If I were a butterfly - Lyrics and music - YouTube](#)

[Prayers for the Church and the World](#)

Remembering:

- Those known to us struggling with their health.
- For those who wait to hear about their visas
- **Chin community in this region** – now that a person has been charged over the recent murder at Sunshine Station
- 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:** Pray for those working in Urban and regional Australia and in Cambodia. Especially pray for the work of the Therapy for Children with Disabilities in Cambodia.
- **Baptist World Aid:** Pray that children displaced from their homes would find spaces to play and grow.

*Silence - in the silence and through our minds and imaginations we
bring prayers which words cannot contain* (p. 56-7 A Wee Worship Book)

Let us pray,
for what shall we pray, O God?
where there is death,
let us offer life,
where there is brokenness,
let us be healers,
where there is loneliness,
let us offer a welcome.

for what shall we pray, O Jesus?
where there is cruelty,
let us seek justice,
where there is bitterness,
let us sow kindness,
where there is hatred,
let us offer hands of love.

for what shall we pray O Spirit?
where there is anger,
let us be the breath of hope,
where there is violence,
let us be peacemakers,
where neighbourhoods are in ruins,
let us rebuild communities.

for what shall we pray?
for more tenderness than tensions,
for more listening than lecturing,
for more forgiving than pointing fingers,
for more concern for the forgotten than the favoured,
for more humanity than hatred.
hear our prayers, God in Community, Holy in One,
hear our prayers, Amen.

(Source: © 2020 Thom M. Shuman)

The 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.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen

Offering

As we offer our gifts to you, our God, may we remember those who are forgotten by us too many times – the hungry, the lonely, the homeless, the child, the vulnerable – yet are important citizens in your kingdom of grace, justice, and hope. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

(Adapted from a prayer by Thom Shuman)

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

- Refugee Sunday – next week, our focus shall be on the plight of asylum seekers and refugees in Australia.
- **Thank you** to our retiring deacons
- **Congratulations and thank you** to our new deacons, Church Secretary and Treasurer for their willingness to serve
- **Reflective Prayer** –Monday June 12th at 5pm on zoom. Please speak to Ros or Cheryl for an invite.
- **Bible Study** – 6/6.30pm on Tuesday nights every fortnight. Next – June 13 & June 27
- **Food Donations** (non-perishable items – rice, pasta, beans, lentils, oil etc) for the Houses of Hope and for the homeless (baked beans, snacks, vegemite, peanut butter, tinned tuna, spaghetti etc) can be left in the tubs in the office.

Hymn: Now Thank We All Our God

[Now Thank We All Our God \(Hymn Charts with Lyrics, Contemporary\) - YouTube](#)

Blessing

The blessing of the God of Sarah, of Hagar, of Abraham and Naia

The blessing of the Son born of the woman Mary

The blessing of the Holy Spirit, who broods over us as a mother over her children.

Be with you all now and forever more. Amen.

(From Be Our Freedom Lord,)