

Footscray Baptist Church - 140<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Service  
Order of Service - May 28<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Welcome

Music

- Give Thanks
- How Great Thou Art

Welcome, Greetings & Announcements

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

The Spirit of faithfulness

**Is the gift of the earth**

The Spirit of imagination and variety

**Comes to us from many countries**

The Spirit of hope breathes

**In the poor and the homeless in this city**

The Spirit of freedom

**Was announced by those who went before, and we proclaim it again today**

The Spirit of love

**Is Christ's gift to the church in every age**

We see the flames of the Spirit of God.

**Amen.**

(from 'Liturgies for the Journey of Life' by Dorothy McRae McMahon, p. 106)

Song: Gather Us In

Celebrating the Past

Prayer of Thanksgiving

God of Pentecost, we come to you today celebrating the birth of your church, the birth of this church 140 years ago and the community that gathers here today and week by week.

**Pour out your Spirit on us gathered here today.**

Envisioning God, we thank you for the eighteen people who formed Footscray Baptist Church in May 1883.

**Thank you for their vision.**

Energetic God, we thank you for the courage you gave those who grew up here and travelled throughout the country and beyond as ministers and missionaries.

***Thank you for their faithfulness.***

Faithful God, we thank you for those who moved out to the 'branch' churches at Gordon Street, Yarraville, Kingsville, St. Albans and Altona.

***Thank you for their courage.***

Loving God, we thank you for the compassion shown to the local community by those here who offered care and practical assistance, who were 'good samaritans'.

***Thank you for their care.***

Welcoming God, we thank you for all we have learnt from new settlers, refugees and asylum seekers who have lived and worked with us.

***Thank you for all they have taught us.***

Hospitable God, we thank you for the many meals shared and the way in which it has nourished both bodies and souls.

***Thank you their welcome and embrace we have found.***

Creating God, we thank you for the daring things this community has done over the decades and for the stories heard and lives shared.

***Thank you for their enthusiasm.***

Vulnerable God, we thank you for the opportunity to provide refuge for those fleeing oppression, for those who are homeless, and for all these people have taught us.

*Living God, we thank you for all those gone before who have simply sought to live out their faith in their time.*

***Grant to us the same measure of courage and perseverance, compassion and faithfulness, creativity and resilience – so that we might play our part in sharing your love in this your world. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ who calls us into his future. Amen.***

*(Prayer by Rev Cheryl Williams, May 2023)*

*Song: Lord for The Years*

*Bible Reading - Acts 2:1-12 (NRSVA)*

**2** When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. **2** And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. **3** Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. **4** All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

**5** Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. **6** And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. **7** Amazed and astonished, they asked, 'Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?' **8** And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? **9** Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, **10** Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, **11** Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about

God's deeds of power.' <sup>12</sup> All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, 'What does this mean?'

### *Passing the Peace*

*Musical Item - Kachin Baptist Church:* 'Prat Tup Shakawn Na', Eng. 'I will praise the LORD all my life'.

### *Bible Reading: Hebrews (NRSVA)*

**12** Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, <sup>2</sup> looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

<sup>3</sup> Consider him who endured such hostility against himself from sinners, so that you may not grow weary or lose heart.

### *Song: Breathe on Me Breath of God*

### *Children's Talk: Building a Time Capsule*

### *Reflection: 'Influential People' (Rev Chris Barnden)*

### *Naming the Present*

### *Song: From Around the World*

### *Prayers for the church and world: read in different languages*

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

Creating God,

We pray for this world you have entrusted to us.

Teach us to respect every part of it.

Renew us in our care for it as we notice the bumble bee, the wombat and the gum tree and begin to see the interconnectedness between us all.

Unifying God,

We pray for those separated or estranged from others.

May they be able to speak forgiveness to one another.

We pray for divisions in families, communities, in and between countries– may there be peace.

God of all the world,

We are so thankful for this diverse world.

We pray that the places from which we have come might know your love.

We especially remember places where life is difficult –Iran, Myanmar, Sudan, Pakistan – may there be understanding.

God of all hope and all peace,

We pray for those who are distressed, confused and saddened – enfold them in your love and give them your peace.

We pray for those who are ill, especially those known to us. Grant them courage and shower them with hope.

Consoling God,

We remember before you the Chin community out here in the Western suburbs as they mourn the loss of one of their teenagers, murdered at Sunshine Station. Bring them all comfort as they come to terms with this tragedy.

Send us out we pray, celebrating our differences, offering consolation to others, speaking words of truth, standing up for justice, sharing all you have given us.

Spirit of Pentecost, renew us and draw us on to share your love in this your world.

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.

### Embracing the Future

#### Offering & Prayer

God of Pentecost,

We celebrate your gift of the Spirit to people like us. May we be touched by your spirit of generosity, may it inspire us to offer what we have – money, abilities, dreams and visions – to you and for the common good. Amen.

*(Prayer by Cheryl Williams, May 2023)*

Offerings can be made by using our direct debit facility or placed in plates at entrances and exits of the church.

### Song: Christ Be Our Light

#### Benediction

Creating God, amaze and astonish us with Your presence in the world.

Jesus Christ, lead us to be Your hands and feet in the world.

Holy Spirit, send us filled with Your power into the world.

Go into the world –

take God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit with you,

bring justice, mercy, and unmerited love to all,

live the gospel where you are.

And the blessing of God,

Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer,

be within and without you

always and forever. Amen

*(Adapted from on prayer found at [28 May, Pentecost | The Church of Scotland](#))*

*Go in Peace*