



St Paul's Cathedral

Together transforming our City and Diocese

Choral Evening Prayer

St Phoebe, Deacon

30 August 2026, 4pm

WELCOME

Welcome to St Paul's Cathedral, home church for Anglicans in Melbourne and Victoria. We want to be a place of transformation for our city and church where all people can come to experience and know God's love in Christ Jesus. We are an international community and are delighted that you're here!

THE SERVICE LEADERS

Officiant: The Revd Lydia Thangadurai, Succentor.

Preacher: The Revd Dr Robyn Whitaker, Associate Professor, Pilgrim Theological College.

The Cathedral Choir, directed by Canon Philip Nicholls.

THE ORDER OF SERVICE

*Please join in singing the hymns and saying the responses printed in **bold type**.*

THE INTROIT HYMN

1 A **pro-phet-wo-man** broke a— jar, by Love's di-vine ap - poin-ting. With
rare per-fume she filled the— room, pre - si - ding and a - noin-ting. A
pro - phet-wo - man broke a jar, the sneers of scorn de - fy - ing. With
rare per-fume she filled the room, pre - pa - ring Christ for dy - ing.

²
A faithful woman left a tomb
by Love's divine commission.
She saw, she heard,
she preached the Word,
arising from submission.
A faithful woman left a tomb
with resurrection gospel.
She saw, she heard,
she preached the Word,
apostle to apostles.

³
Though woman-wisdom, woman-
truth,
for centuries were hidden,
unsung, unwritten, and unheard,
derided and forbidden,
the Spirit's breath, the Spirit's fire,
on free and slave descending,
can tumble our dividing walls,
our shame and sadness mending.

⁴
The Spirit knows, the Spirit calls,
by Love's divine ordaining,
the friends we need to serve and lead,
their powers and gifts unchaining.
The Spirit knows, the Spirit calls,
from women, men, and children,
the friends we need to serve and lead,
Rejoice, and make them welcome!

Brian Wren (b.1936)
Together in Song 696
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THE GREETING AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The officiant welcomes the people, and acknowledges the Country on which we meet

We meet on land that was taken, not ceded – the Sovereign Country of the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin nation. We give thanks for their ancestors, acknowledge the ongoing right and responsibility of their elders to care for this Country, and pay our respects to all First Peoples here today.

THE OPENING RESPONSES AND PRAYER

Open our lips, O Lord,
and we shall declare your praise.

This is the day that the Lord has made,
we will rejoice and be glad in it.

The day is now past and the night is at hand.
Let us pray with one heart and mind.

Father of lights, receive the prayer and praise we offer you as our evening sacrifice; make us a light for all the world, delivered by your goodness from all the works of darkness; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord. **Amen.**

Please be seated for the Bible readings

THE FIRST LESSON

Genesis 16.1-14a

A Reading from the Book Genesis.

Now Sarai, Abram's wife, bore him no children. She had an Egyptian slave whose name was Hagar, ²and Sarai said to Abram, "You see that the Lord has prevented me from bearing children; go in to my slave; it may be that I shall obtain children by her." And Abram listened to the voice of Sarai. ³So, after Abram had lived ten years in the land of Canaan, Sarai, Abram's wife, took Hagar the Egyptian, her slave, and gave her to her husband Abram as a wife. ⁴He went in to Hagar, and she conceived, and when she saw that she had conceived, she looked with contempt on her mistress. ⁵Then Sarai said to Abram, "May the wrong done to me be on you! I gave my slave to your embrace, and when she saw that she had conceived, she looked on me with contempt. May the Lord judge between you and me!" ⁶But Abram said to Sarai, "Your slave is in your power; do to her as you please." Then Sarai dealt harshly with her, and she ran away from her.

⁷The angel of the Lord found her by a spring of water in the wilderness, the spring on the way to Shur. ⁸And he said, "Hagar, slave of Sarai, where have you come from and where are you going?" She said, "I am running away from my mistress Sarai." ⁹The angel of the Lord said to her, "Return to your mistress, and submit to her." ¹⁰The angel of the Lord also said to her, "I will so greatly multiply your offspring that they cannot be counted for multitude." ¹¹And the angel of the Lord said to her,

"Now you have conceived and shall bear a son;
you shall call him Ishmael,
for the Lord has given heed to your affliction.

¹²He shall be a wild ass of a man,
with his hand against everyone,
and everyone's hand against him,
and he shall live at odds with all his kin."

¹³So she named the Lord who spoke to her, "You are El-roi," for she said, "Have I really seen God and remained alive after seeing him?" ¹⁴Therefore the well was called Beer-lahai-roi.

Hear the word of the Lord, **thanks be to God.**

Remain seated for the Psalm

PSALM 123

Please repeat the response after the cantor, then as indicated



Lord, make us turn to you, let us see your face and we shall be saved.

¹To you I lift up my eyes: you who are enthroned in the heavens.

Response

²As the eyes of servants look to the hand of their master:
or as the eyes of a maid toward the hand of her mistress,

³So our eyes look to the Lord our God: until he show us his mercy.

Response

⁴Have mercy upon us, O Lord, have mercy upon us:
for we have had our fill of derision.

⁵Our souls overflow with the mockery of those at ease:
and with the contempt of the proud.

Response

Music: Response – Katherine Boschetti (b.1936);
Chant – Henry Walford Davies (1869-1941)

THE SECOND LESSON

John 20.11-18

Read by Canon Emeritus Michael Shand KC AM

A Reading from the Gospel according to John.

But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb, ¹²and she saw two angels in white sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. ¹³They said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping?” She said to them, “They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.” ¹⁴When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus.

¹⁵Jesus said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?” Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.” ¹⁶Jesus said to her, “Mary!” She turned and said to him in Hebrew, “Rabbouni!” (which means Teacher). ¹⁷Jesus said to her, “Do not touch me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’” ¹⁸Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, “I have seen the Lord,” and she told them that he had said these things to her.

Hear the word of the Lord, **thanks be to God.**

Please stand as the Choir sings

THE MAGNIFICAT

Evening Service in E flat – Rosalie Bonighton (1946-2011)

The Song of Mary, based on St Luke 1.46-55

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord:
my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour;
for he has looked with favour on his lowly servant.
From this day all generations will call me blessed;
the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name.
He has mercy on those who fear him in every generation.
He has shown the strength of his arm;
he has scattered the proud in their conceit.
He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, and has lifted up the lowly.
He has filled the hungry with good things,
and the rich he has sent away empty.
He has come to the help of his servant Israel,
for he has remembered his promise of mercy,
the promise he made to our fathers, to Abraham and his children forever.

Glory to God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit;
as in the beginning, so now, and for ever. Amen.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God,
the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father;
from there he will come to judge
the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

Please sit or kneel as the Choir sings

THE PRAYERS AND COLLECTS

Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

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 for ever. Amen.

THE COLLECTS

Eternal God, who raised up your servant Phoebe as a deacon, to support and sustain your church by her deeds of generous love: Open our hearts to hear you, conform our will to love you, and strengthen our hands to serve you; for the sake of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Be present, merciful God, and protect us through the hours of this night: that we, who are wearied by the changes and chances of this fleeting world, may rest on your eternal changelessness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Remain seated as the choir sings

THE ANTHEM

St Teresa's Bookmark – Penelope Thwaites (b.1944)

Let nothing affright thee, nothing disturb thee, all things are passing.
God never changeth. Patient endurance attaineth to all things.
Who God possesseth in nothing is wanting. God alone sufficeth.

St Teresa of Avila (1515-82)

THE LITANY OF THANKSGIVING

Eternal God, who raised up Phoebe as a deacon in your church and minister of your Gospel, grant us that same grace that, assisted by her example, we too may serve you and your people in our local community and wherever you may lead us. Through Jesus Christ our lord who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Loving Creator, we pray for all women and girls who seek to learn and expand their horizons, especially in places where challenges seem insurmountable. We

ask for your strength and perseverance to help us break down barriers that hinder their access to education. May their dreams be nurtured, their potential recognized, and their voices amplified. Empower these girls to become leaders as was St Phoebe, change-makers, and beacons of hope in their communities.

We pray to you.

Holy Mystery of Life and Love, the gift of Your Incarnation in Jesus gave us the inexhaustible richness of the Gospels and their values to live by. Bless all who have heard the call to follow Your Way, as Christians and for those who search to know You. May we all honour and respect our historical, denominational traditions, as we work together to bring Your Good News to a world that thirsts for life and love.

We pray to You.

Holy Mystery of Life and Love, Your Spirit endlessly weaves Her way through the hearts and minds of all people, bringing harmony and peace to our world. Bless all those who work and pray for an end to the senseless violence and war that permeates our nations, streets, and homes. May all our efforts no matter how small, co-operate with Your Spirit to bring about a world where all Your creation flourishes in safety.

We pray to You.

Holy Mystery of Life and Love, You who created us all in your own image and likeness. Bless all those who strive for the dignity and equality of all people. May all refugees, asylum seekers, and those who have been trafficked find a home where their gifts and talents are welcomed without discrimination or fear.

We pray to you.

We give thanks for all the members of Women's Wisdom in the Church and those who have collaborated in the development of this liturgy. We especially remember those who cannot be with us today and all women whose voices are silenced or not heard.

We pray to you.

God of vision, discern our response with the Holy Spirit, and help us to reach out in ministry so that we share the Good News with all creation. May we proclaim your Reign, in which all are kin, welcomed with healing and hope. May we lead and serve in the spirit of Jesus, who raised up those bowed down.

We pray to you.

**Blessing and glory and wisdom, thanksgiving and honour and power,
be to our God for ever and ever. Amen.**

Stand to sing

THE HYMN BEFORE THE SERMON

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1 Now Wis-dom's feast con - tin - ues, her well-aged wine still flows, the—
bread of hea - ven— fills us, and love of learn-ing grows. When—
faith-ful peo - ple— lis - ten, when hope-ful peo - ple pray, when
lov-ing peo-ple flou - rish, they show us Wis-dom's way.

2
Through books and prayers
and silence,
in company, alone:
O Holy Wisdom feed us
and form us for your own.
And give us joy in learning,
and help us in our turn
to hand on what you give us,
so others, too, may learn.

3
For you are God our Teacher
and, drinking in your Word,
we take to heart true wisdom
and your whole church is stirred
to show that world your kindness,
to teach the world your grace,
to bring the world, rejoicing,
to greet you face to face.

Elizabeth J. Smith (b.1956)
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The people are seated at the invitation of the preacher.

THE SERMON

The Revd Dr Robyn Whitaker,
Associate Professor of New Testament Studies,
Pilgrim Theological College

Stand to sing

THE DISMISSAL HYMN



2
All creation waits for freedom,
still earth's children raise this cry,
groaning as in painful birthing,
longing with unending sigh,
all to be
equal, free,
one in full humanity.

3
For in Christ no walls divide us,
class or colour, nation's pride,
stigmas placed on genes or gender,
status given or denied,
but one mind
Christ-defined
welcomes all whom God designed.

4
Let the vision and the courage
lead us with unflinching will,
as the rising generations
sing a faith unshaken still:
through the Word,
truth be heard,
hearts and minds to hope be stirred!

Text: Shirley Erena Murray (1931-2020)
Music: MEINE HOFFNUNG 87.87.337 – Later form of a melody
from Joachim Neander (1650-80) his *Alpha and Omega* (1680); *Together in Song* 560(ii)
May be sung to MICHAEL – Herbert Howells (1892-1983); *Together in Song* 560(i)
Winner of Level 1 (newly composed text for existing music) of the 2015
St Paul's Cathedral Melbourne 125th Anniversary Hymn Competition
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THE BLESSING

May God, who kindled the fire of his love in the hearts of the saints,
pour upon you the riches of his grace. **Amen.**

May he give you joy in their fellowship
and a share in their praises. **Amen.**

May he strengthen you to follow them in the way of holiness
and to come to the full radiance of glory. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be
among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

THE ORGAN POSTLUDE

Joyful Recessional – Rosalie Bonighton (1946-2011)
Mr Siegfried Franke, Cathedral Organist

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Cathedral.

PRAY WITH US

FOR THE WORLD We give thanks that God calls all people to his friendship, and to faithful discipleship as his followers, and today we pray particularly for our own Cathedral community, as we each discern God's will for us in ministry. We pray for the Bishops Megan, Nigel and Ben to be consecrated on 19 September, and all those preparing for Baptism and Confirmation. We continue to pray for peace: in Ukraine and Russia, in the Middle East and South Sudan. We pray for those facing the aftermaths of earthquakes in Colombia, Venezuela and Indonesia; all those battling the Ebola virus in central Africa, and seeking to contain the bird-flu outbreak in our own country.

FOR THE ANGLICAN COMMUNION The Church in the Province of the West Indies (Abp Philip S. Wright).

FOR THE AUSTRALIAN ANGLICAN CHURCH Mission Agencies: Church Army; Mission to Seafarers; Anglican Overseas Aid Agency.

FOR THE DIOCESE OF MELBOURNE The Cathedral Chapter: Rhys Bezzant, Genieve Blackwell, Matthew Williams, Denise Nicholls, Bob Derrenbacker, Kate Drummond, Helen Dwyer, Paul Glass, Andreas Loewe, Naomi Nayagam, Philip Nicholls, Toni Meath, Nigel Pope, Brian Rosner, Neil Sigamoney, Ric Thorpe, Tim Watson; Relationship Matters.

FOR OUR CATHEDRAL Our Dean, the Very Revd Dr Andreas Loewe; the Cathedral Chapter and Sub-committees: Culture & Heritage, Finance & Risk Management, and Projects & Buildings.

FOR THOSE IN SICKNESS OR NEED Stephen Ames, Rowena Armstrong, Cynthia Balderstone, Chris Carolane, Cecilia Cheng, Ken and Robyn Dusting, Cecilia Francis, Glen Gersch, Noelene Horton, Greg Hurworth, Gaye Loughrey, Esme Mitchell, Selina Ong, Susan Ross, Skipper family, Vinson family, Lesley and Ray Way and all those struggling with mental health challenges, addictions, loneliness, and despair that they would find hope, support, and the healing love of Christ.

FOR THE RECENTLY DEPARTED Simon Carey Holt, Senior Minister of Collins Street Baptist Church

FOR THOSE WHOSE YEAR'S MIND OCCURS THIS WEEK

30 August	Colin Henry Duncan (Priest, Canon) 1981
31	Barbara June Henderson (Congregation) 2006
3 September	Jean Woods (Wife of Archbishop Frank Woods)
4	Robin Edwards (Congregation) 1980
	Joan Lorna Nesbit (Congregation) 2013
5	Burne Whittaker Brooker (Priest, Congregation) 2010

NOTICES

We are delighted you have joined our service If you have any questions and would like to speak to a staff member, please phone the Cathedral office 9653 4333. If you are worshipping with us for the first time, please fill out a Welcome Card available from the back of the Cathedral, so we can keep in touch with you.

Bible Studies Thank you to everyone who has attended the Genesis Bible studies and to the Cathedral clergy for their leadership (Tim, Andreas, Lydia and Peter). On Sep 6 the 11.45am study group will start a six-week series looking at parables in Matthew. The 9.15am group will continue its practice of discussing the morning sermon. Visitors and newcomers are always welcome. Any questions to Canon Peter MacPherson.

Vocations Sunday, 30 August Today is Vocations Sunday when we think about God's call on us: our Cathedral Curate, the Revd Simon Li preached at the 8am, 10am and 1pm services. At the 6pm service, Virginia McDonald, Theological Student and Disability Inclusion Consultant, Diocese of Melbourne will preach. If you are discerning what God is calling you to do next in your journeys of discipleship, please talk to a member of the Cathedral clergy team.

Lunchtime Concert, Wednesday 2 September, 1pm: Angela Deng (Violin) and Rhodri Clarke (Piano) Accomplished young violinist Angela Deng, 15, has won many awards and prizes both locally and internationally. She is delighted to present a captivating program with renowned pianist Rhodri Clarke, featuring Beethoven's Violin Sonata No. 7 and Sibelius's Violin Concerto, alongside the sparkling charm of Kreisler and the dramatic virtuosity of Ysaÿe.

Welcomers Training Date Welcomers training session will be held at 2pm on Saturday 12 September in the David Penman Room. This will be a wonderful opportunity to learn more about the role of a welcomer, as well as a meeting to prepare for our end-of-year services. Members of the congregation must RSVP to attend, so please contact the Succentor, the Revd Lydia Thangadurai, at succentor@stpaulscathedral.org.au if you are interested.

24/7 Prayer Week Next Sunday sees the beginning of 24/7 Prayer Week, when we will again be hosting a variety of prayer stations and events in the Cathedral, including a Prayer Youth Night on Friday, 11 September, commencing at 6pm, followed by a night of worship on Saturday, 12 September, commencing at 7pm. All are invited to join us in prayer.

TWO CATHEDRAL FUNDRAISING APPEALS

Farsi Ministers and ECC We are so pleased that Revds Pedram and Leili Shirmast have joined us on a shared full-time load. We need to raise funds for their stipend and to enable Pedram to lead our ECC program during Canon Chris Carolane's sick leave. The total cost of funding these ministries for the next twelve months will be roughly \$150,000. Tax deductible donations can be made via the Melbourne Anglican Foundation:

<https://melbourneanglicanfoundation.au/donate-migrants-refugees-settlement-fund/> choosing 'St Paul's Cathedral' or the Office. We much value your support!



Halo Heaters Isn't it lovely and warm in the front part of the nave thanks to our new Halo Heaters? We are now hoping to connect the next four heaters towards the entrance of the Cathedral and also place Halos into the Macartney and Ascension Chapels. We are raising a total of \$750,000 to upgrade our electrical infrastructure. Again, tax deductible donations can be made via the Melbourne Anglican Foundation: <https://melbourneanglicanfoundation.au/donate-melbourne-anglican-cultural-organisation/> choosing 'Light Up St Paul's Cathedral' or the Office. Thank you for your gifts!



OUR ADVOCACY FOR JUSTICE

First Nations Justice We want to see a more just settlement for all Indigenous People. Our Governing Body, the Cathedral Chapter, supports the path to reconciliation outlined in the Statement from the Heart through Voice, Treaty, Truth Telling and Makarrata (Justice). We provide resources so that we can educate ourselves and value respectful and informed debate on this important issue.

Refugee Justice We want to see a strong, supportive and diverse society. That's why we campaign for refugees and seek to build greater public awareness about asylum seekers. We provide free cultural and language classes, and work to be a safe place where migrants and refugees can make new friends and rebuild their lives.

Climate Justice We want to see greater and quicker action to mitigate the climate crisis we face. We're an inaugural member of Victoria's Climate Pledge, TAKE2, and work to reach net zero as soon as possible. That's why we use only energy from renewable sources and take continued action to reduce our waste and emissions.

Safe Kids and Families We strongly condemn any form of abuse - in church, at our workplace, or in the home - and are committed to safeguarding children and vulnerable people. Our staff and volunteers complete training and relevant checks. If you have any concerns about child safety, please ring 1800 135 246 (Kooyoora Professional Standards). If you face family violence and need help, please ring 1800 732 732 (1800 RESPECT) or 13 92 76 (13 YARN) for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Crisis Support.

READ THE BIBLE WITH US

You may like to use these readings, which the Cathedral Clergy and staff use for daily prayer, as part of your personal devotions throughout the week.

Mon: Ps 83.1-18; 1 John 1

Tues: Pss 1, 2; 1 John 2.1-11

Wed: Pss 5, 6; 1 John 2.12-17

Thurs: Ps 9; 1 John 2.18-29

Fri: Pss 11, 12; 1 John 3.1-10

Sat: Pss 15, 16; 1 John 3.11-24

Next Sunday: Exodus 12.1-14; Psalm 149.1-5; Romans 13.1-10; Matthew 18.10-20

THIS WEEK AT THE CATHEDRAL

Mon 31 August	12.15pm Holy Communion 2.30pm English Conversation Class 5.10pm Evening Prayer in Simple English
Tues 1 September	12.15pm Holy Communion 5.10pm Choral Evensong
Wed 2 September	12.15pm Holy Communion 1pm Lunchtime Concert: Angela Deng (Violin) and Rhodri Clarke (Piano) 5.10pm Choral Evensong
Thurs 3 September <i>St Gregory the Great</i>	12.15pm Holy Communion 5.10pm Choral Evensong
Fri 4 September	12.15pm Holy Communion 5.10pm Choral Evensong
Sat 5 September	Chinese Anglican Churches Conference
Sun 6 September	8am Holy Communion (<i>Book of Common Prayer</i>) <i>Preacher: The Revd Canon Dr Bob Derrenbacker</i> 10am Choral Eucharist <i>Preacher: The Revd Canon Dr Bob Derrenbacker</i> 1pm Mandarin Service 圣保罗大座堂有一个中文群体在每个星期日下午一点正崇拜 <i>Preacher: The Revd Canon Robert Vun</i> 4pm Choral Evensong <i>Preacher: The Revd Canon Peter MacPherson,</i> <i>Canon for Preaching and Teaching</i> 6pm Gather at St Paul's Sung Eucharist <i>Preacher: The Revd Canon Peter MacPherson,</i> <i>Canon for Preaching and Teaching</i>

CATHEDRAL OPENING HOURS

Monday to Friday 10am-6pm, Saturday 10am-5pm, Sundays during Services

LIVESTREAMED SERVICES

Sunday 8am & 10am

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