St Paul's Cathedral

Together transforming our City and Diocese

Prayer Vigil for the State Election

Saturday 7 November 2026, 6pm

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!

This service is hosted in partnership with Melbourne City Churches In Action and the Victorian Council of Churches, using material developed by 24-7 Prayer International.

THE SERVICE LEADERS

Officiating clergy: The Revd Canon Dr Tim Watson, Precentor; The Revd Lydia Thangadurai, Succentor; The Revd Deacon Sandy Boyce, Executive Officer, Victorian Council of Churches; Pastor James Winderlich, St John's Lutheran Church Southgate; The Revd Fr Denis Stanley EV, Episcopal Vicar for Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations, Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne; The Very Revd Fr. Andriy Mykytyuk, Sts Peter and Paul Cathedral, Ukrainian Catholic Church.
Organist: Mrs Roslyn Carolane, Assistant Organist.

THE ORDER OF SERVICE

THE GREETING AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father,
and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you. **Amen.**

The Precentor introduces the service.

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.

OPENING SCRIPTURE

A reading from the Gospel according to Luke. Luke 4.16-21

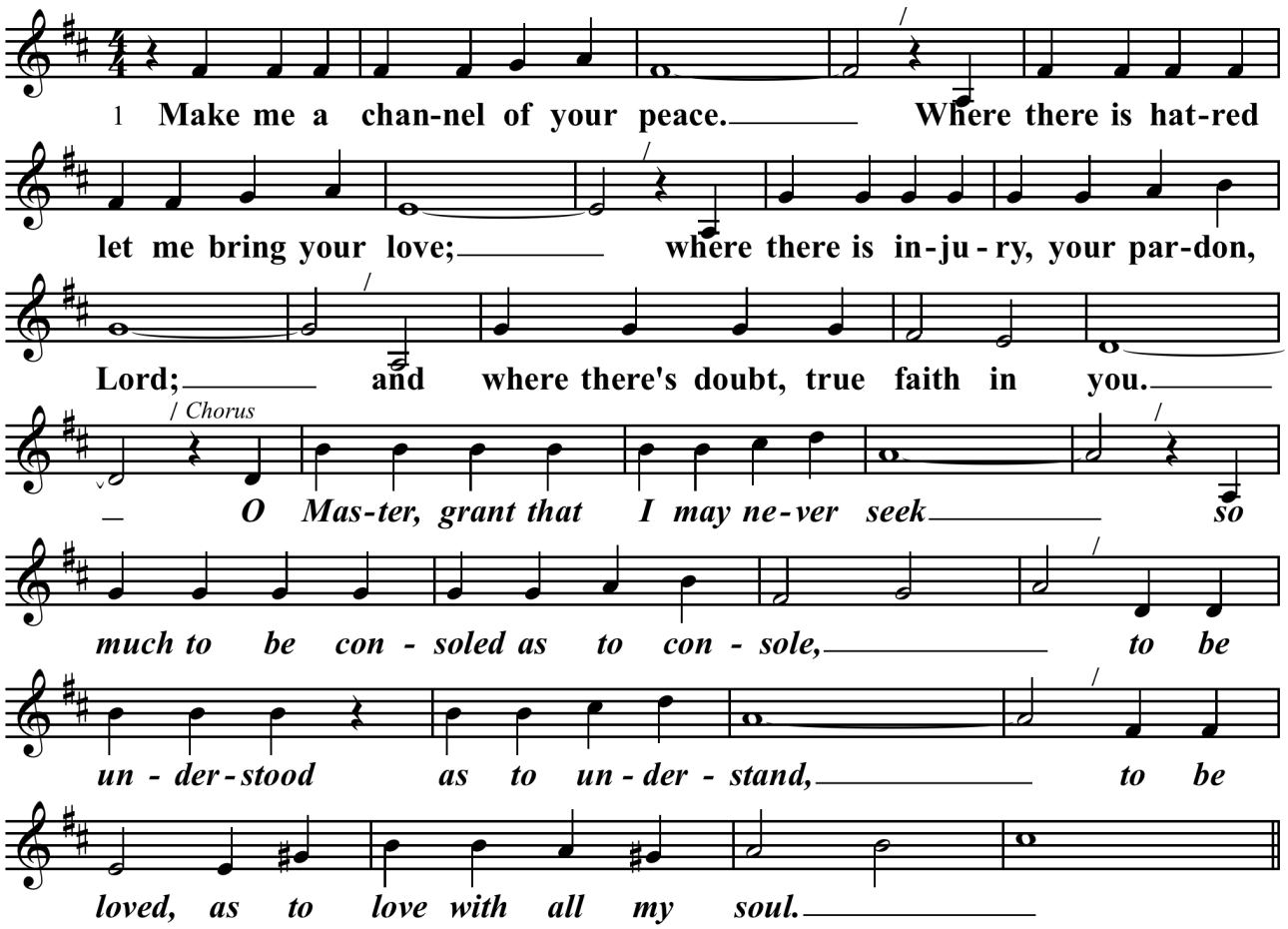
When Jesus came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, [17] and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

[18] "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives
and recovery of sight to the blind,
to set free those who are oppressed,
[19] to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

[20] And Jesus rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. [21] Then he began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."

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

Please stand to sing



2
Make me a channel of your peace.
Where there's despair in life, let me bring hope;
where there is darkness, let me bring your light;
and where there's sadness, ever joy.

Chorus
O Master, grant that I may never seek
so much to be consoled as to console,
to be understood as to understand,
to be loved, as to love with all my soul.

3
Make me a channel of your peace.
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
in giving of ourselves that we receive,
and in dying that we're born to eternal life.

'Sebastian Temple' (1928-97) alt.
Together in Song 607
Reproduced with permission

Prayers of Intercession

Please join in the response at the end of each petition.

Come, Holy Spirit, and renew the face of the earth.
Come, Holy Spirit, come.

For the polls and vote counting:

For lack of guidance a nation falls, but victory is won through many advisors.
Proverbs 11.14

Let us pray for the process of vote casting: That it would be safe, fair, and accessible to all. That God would protect polling stations and make them places of peace. That every vote would be counted and accurately reported. That election workers would be filled with peace, surrounded by safety, and able to work with efficiency and integrity.

Come, Holy Spirit, and renew the face of the earth.
Come, Holy Spirit, come.

For peace in our common life:

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace
Isaiah 9.6

Tensions can run high around elections, so let us pray for peace to cover every part of the process: That Jesus, the Prince of Peace, would reign over our state with his peace. That God would help any frustration to be channelled into productive action and conversation. That there would be no violence of any kind. That if there is to be an exchange of power, it should happen peacefully and with respect.

Come, Holy Spirit, and renew the face of the earth.
Come, Holy Spirit, come.

For voters:

But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere.

James 3.17

Let us pray for everyone voting in the upcoming election: That God would give voters 'wisdom from heaven' so that they can be 'impartial and sincere'. That young voters and first-time voters would feel empowered to make their voices heard. That the process of casting a vote is straightforward and safe for every voter. That voters make decisions with godly wisdom, led by the Holy Spirit.

Come, Holy Spirit, and renew the face of the earth.
Come, Holy Spirit, come.

For God's protection from all that is evil:

For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

Ephesians 6.12

Let us pray against the spiritual darkness that enflames fear, despair, and violence in people's hearts: That where there is division, God would bring unity and respect. That God may bless each political party and group with a heart for unity and cooperation. That where there are lies and false narratives, God would bring revelation and truth. That where there is despair, God would bring hope and vision.

Come, Holy Spirit, and renew the face of the earth.
Come, Holy Spirit, come.

For the media:

Get rid of all bitterness, rage, and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

Ephesians 4.31-32

Let us pray that the media contribute to these elections in helpful ways: That reporting will be accurate and true. That the media will promote conversation

rather than division. That there will be no 'brawling and slander' or malice, but rather words that speak the truth in love. That God will work among the media to shed light on what is hidden.

Come, Holy Spirit, and renew the face of the earth.
Come, Holy Spirit, come.

For the church:

For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Ephesians 2.10

Let us pray for the church to bear God's light during these elections: That all Christians would keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, not becoming overwhelmed by the circumstances or placing all our hope in human leadership. That the church would be a model of humility, truth, compassion and love throughout these elections – especially with those who we may disagree with. That God would give us wisdom to know, not just how to vote in a way that honours him, but also what 'good works' he is calling us into, to express his Kingdom during this time.

Come, Holy Spirit, and renew the face of the earth.
Come, Holy Spirit, come.

For all our leaders:

Pray for all who are in authority so that we can live peaceful and quiet lives marked by godliness and dignity.

1 Timothy 2.1-3

Let us pray for the leaders who are involved in this election: That God would bless each candidate, successful or not, with wisdom and grace. That God would give our political leaders a heart for unity and peace. That God would give us the leaders who will best serve God's vision for our state. That God will raise up righteous leaders who are trustworthy, ethical, and pure of heart.

Come, Holy Spirit, and renew the face of the earth.
Come, Holy Spirit, come.

For justice:

This is what the LORD Almighty says: "Administer true justice; show mercy and compassion to one another. Do not oppress the widow or the fatherless, the alien or the poor. In your hearts do not think evil of each other."

Zechariah 7.9-10

As we look to a future beyond these elections, let us pray: That God establishes a government of justice and righteousness in our nation. That all forms of injustice and corruption are exposed and destroyed. That those in power actively fight

against all forms of oppression and discrimination, allowing freedom to flourish. That mercy and compassion for all people are restored in laws, policies, and our hearts.

Come, Holy Spirit, and renew the face of the earth.
Come, Holy Spirit, come.

A TIME OF OPEN PRAYER

Please take time to walk around the Cathedral, spend time at each 24-7 Prayer Station, and offer your own prayers for God's blessing on the Election, all the candidates, and our State.

The time of open prayer concludes with

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered together from many cultures and nations, made one by the power of the Spirit, as our Saviour taught us, so we pray, each in our own language:

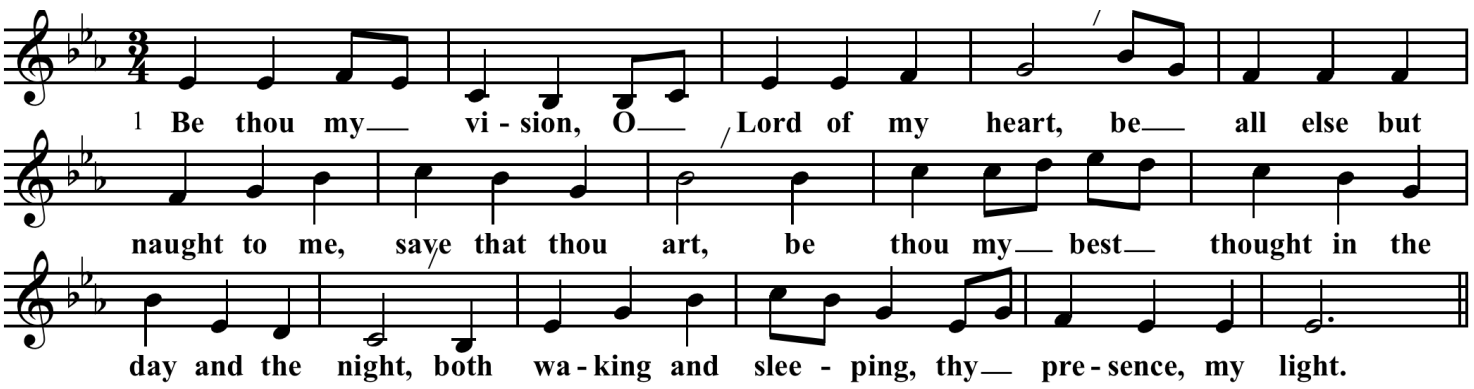
Notre Père..., Padre nuestro..., Vater unser..., 我們在天上的父 **..., Πάτερ ἡμῶν...** हे हमारे स्वरगिक पिता..., **Bapa kami..., E to matou Matua...,** 天の父よ **...,**
Ama namin..., Göklerdeki Babamız..., ‹...ہمارے اے ،...الَّذِي أَبَانَا ...ای پدر ما که در آسمانی،

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 GREETING OF PEACE

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

Please share a sign of peace with those around you. Remain standing to sing



Be thou my wisdom, be thou my true word,
be thou ever with me, and I with thee, Lord,
be thou my great Father, thy child let me be,
be thou in me dwelling, and I one with thee.

Riches I heed not, nor earthly vain praise,
be thou my inheritance now and always,
be thou and thou only the first in my heart,
O Sovereign of heaven, my treasure thou art.

High King of heaven, thou heaven's bright Sun,
O grant me its joys after vict'ry is won,
great Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be thou my vision, O Ruler of all.

Irish, 8th century, tr. Mary Byrne (1880-1931)
Versified by Eleanor Hull (1860-1935)
New English Hymnal 339

Please remain standing for

The Blessing and Dismissal

May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing, so that we may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

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THIS WEEK AT THE CATHEDRAL

Mon 9 November	12.15pm Holy Communion 2.30pm English Conversation Class 5.10pm Evening Prayer in Simple English
Tues 10 November *Saint Leo the Great*	12.15pm Holy Communion 5.10pm Choral Evensong
Wed 11 November *Saint Martin of Tours*	11am Act of Remembrance 12.15pm Holy Communion 1pm Lunchtime Concert: Elissa Goodrich (Vibraphone) 5.10pm Choral Evensong
Thurs 12 November	12.15pm Holy Communion 5.10pm Choral Evensong
Fri 13 November	12.15pm Holy Communion 5.10pm Choral Evensong
Sat 14 November	12.15pm Holy Communion 1pm Farsi Fellowship کلیسای جامع پولس رسول ملبورن پذیرای فارسی زبانان عزیز می باشد و جلسات پرستشی به زبان فارسی، هر هفته شنبه ها ساعت ۱۲:۱۵ ظهر برگزار می شود. 4pm Górecki Symphony No.3 'Sorrowful Songs'
Sun 15 November	8am Holy Communion (*Book of Common Prayer*) *Preacher: The Very Revd Dr Andreas Loewe, Dean of Melbourne* 10am Choral Eucharist with the Installation of the Revd Christine Croft as a Cathedral Canon and Holy Baptism *Preacher: The Very Revd Dr Andreas Loewe, Dean of Melbourne* 1pm Mandarin Service 下午1:00, 中文普通话崇拜 *Preacher: The Revd Canon Robert Vun* 4pm Choral Evensong *Preacher: The Revd Canon Robert Vun* 6pm Gather at St Paul's Sung Eucharist *Preacher: The Revd Canon Dr Tim Watson, Precentor*

CATHEDRAL OPENING HOURS

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

LIVESTREAMED SERVICES

Sunday 8am & 10am

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