

# SCOTS' *weekly*

## NEWSLETTER OF THE SCOTS' CHURCH MELBOURNE

Friday 26 April 2024

From the Next Generations Minister's Desk

The most notable and recent change in Melbourne that everyone will recognize is that it's autumn. The dead and dying leaves, the relative chill, the sun hanging lower in the sky – it all feels like nature is closing down for temporary restoration. That's no theological point; it's just the way of times and seasons, and also the first time I've personally been in Australia when it's not hot.

Justin's sermon series – Dark Clouds, Deep Mercy – is a theological and meteorological event for our church. That prayer within pain can be called a gift of God may not sound all that natural to some ears, but it is the heart of lament and one of the many responses that God has endorsed for his creatures. Last Sunday I was struck by the inviting simplicity of praying in need and am looking forward to this week's sermon. It's also Cantata Sunday, when we'll be treated by The Scots' Church Choir and Melbourne Baroque Orchestra as they present Cantata No 4, 'Christ Lay in Death's Dark Prison' by J.S. Bach. This is a good reminder that it is still the season of Easter and time to remember the resurrection. All are welcome at the 11 a.m. service.

On Wednesday, there was a nice turnout for the Scots' Church Fellowship Lunch. I spoke about my own background and experiences while trying to tell a story about the evidences of God's grace in my life. There were several tangents about French Huguenots and American geography, which I hope facilitated fellowship for those in attendance. In a similar spirit, the ScotsCity congregation has (re)started a book club, as we meet fortnightly on Sunday at 3:30 p.m. to discuss D.A. Carson's *Praying with Paul*. Anyone is also welcome to ScotsCity, our 5 p.m. service, where I've just started a sermon series on Luke's Gospel.

So we celebrate the high festival  
with joy of heart and delight,  
which the Lord radiates upon us,  
he himself is the sun,  
that through the splendor of his grace  
illuminates our hearts completely,  
the night of sin has disappeared  
Hallelujah!

'Christ Lay in Death's Dark Prison' §6

Arthur Keefer



### **NEW APPOINTMENTS – PRESBYTERY OF MELBOURNE WEST**

We offer our warm congratulations to Phil Campbell on his appointment as the new Moderator of the Presbytery of Melbourne West, and to Phil Court who has taken on the position of Clerk of the Presbytery. Phil Court previously served over many years as the Moderator.

Our good wishes go with Phil and Phil as they take on these leadership positions within the Presbyterian Church of Victoria.

Rosalie Strother

Session Clerk



Our 11am service will be streamed live on YouTube.

Please join <https://youtu.be/Fj8nWO6UDtQ>  
or visit [scotschurch.com/service-info](https://scotschurch.com/service-info) for details

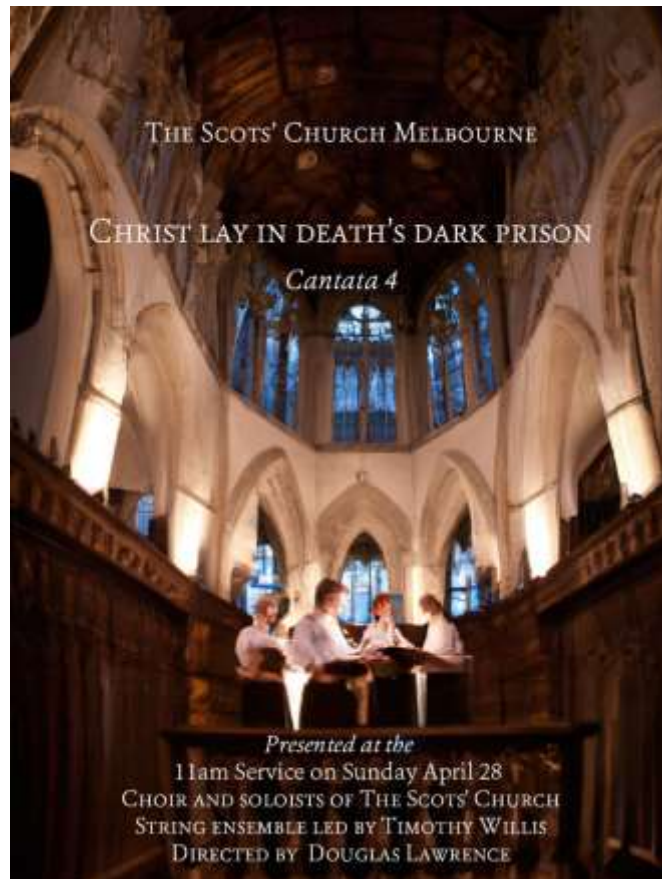
## CANTATA SUNDAY

During this week's Sunday 11am Service, The Scots' Church Choir and the Melbourne Baroque Orchestra will present Cantata No 4, 'Christ Lay in Death's Dark Prison' by J.S. Bach.

Bach composed Cantata 4 when he was 24 years old; about 200 cantatas followed.

Cantata 4 - Christ lay in death's dark prison is in fact, a joyous celebration of the resurrection, full of joy and Hallelujahs.

We look forward to seeing you and your friends on Sunday.



## PRAYER NOTES

Psalms 10:16-18

The Lord is king for ever and ever;  
the nations shall perish from his land.

<sup>17</sup> O Lord, thou wilt hear the desire of the meek;  
thou wilt strengthen their heart, thou wilt incline thy ear

<sup>18</sup> to do justice to the fatherless and the oppressed,  
so that man who is of the earth may strike terror no more.

Give thanks that:

- The Lord is King forever and ever; He will hear and answer the prayers of the humble.
- The Psalmist expresses his confidence in the Lord.
- Give thanks that God sent Jesus on earth to be the King of kings and Lord of lords.
- Pray that as people come each week to Scots', ScotsCity, and other churches in Melbourne, they will be taught from the Bible about the Good News of Jesus and that we will continue to see people come to faith in Him.

### ***Pray for Scots' and ScotsCity***

- Give thanks for Scots' Church, which meets each week at 11 a.m. and 5 p.m. for the ScotsCity Church.
- Give thanks as the Bible is taught through word and song at each of these services and that we are able to grow in our love and knowledge of Jesus.
- Give thanks for the growth in numbers at our ScotsCity 5 pm Church. Pray for Rev Dr Arthur Keefer and Johnson Wang as they coordinate ScotsCity.
- Pray for Scots' Small Groups program at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday and for the new people who have joined.
- Pray that those who attend will grow in their love of Jesus and in their encouragement of each other.
- During our Senior Minister's annual leave, please pray for Rev Justin Ang as he preaches the "Dark Clouds, Deep Mercy" series based on Psalms to those facing difficult times.

### ***Scots' Church Leaders:***

- Pray for our Elders to continue to lead our Church well.
- Pray for Rosalie Strother, our Session Clerk, and Rosemary Fethers, our Assistant Session Clerk, as they work hard to support our Elders.
- Pray for wise planning and management by the Board of Management for Scots' future gospel work, giving, and property maintenance.
- Pray for our small group leaders and Sunday school teachers as they share Jesus' Good News.
- Please keep Rev Phil and Louise Campbell in your prayers for a safe and enjoyable holiday time.

### ***Pray for ICC (International Christian Church) and St Stephen's Flemington***

- Pray for strength, encouragement, and wisdom for Dr. Sen Senjaya, the ICC elders, and the Congregation.
- Pray for Pastor Lindsay Kleindeinst, Elders and Church growth at St Stephen's Flemington.

### ***Newcomers and Senior Members at Scots'***

- Pray for those who have recently come to Church for the first time that they will hear the Good News of Jesus' love and forgiveness.
- Pray for our Senior members who can no longer make it to Church. May they be able to access the live streaming and continue their sense of connection with us and their relationship with the Lord and His Word.
- Give thanks to our Senior Church members who continue to persevere in their faith. Pray for those unable to attend church because of age related issues that we would continue to encourage them.
- Give thanks services can be streamed and pray we would keep aware of their needs of contact and care.

### ***Cantata Sunday***

- Pray for the Cantata this Sunday, where Melbourne Baroque Orchestra and Scots' Church Choir will perform Cantata No. 4, "Christ Lay in Death's Dark Prison" by J.S. Bach.
- Pray the Holy Spirit will touch all hearts.

### ***Pastoral Care***

- Give thanks for the Pastoral Care at Scots provided by the Ministry Team, the Pastoral Care Team, and the Elders. Pray for them as they encourage, visit, and pray with those in need.
- Pray for God's healing grace for those hospitalised or recently hospitalised, including Stewart Banks, Dennis Conradi, Robin Emmet, Wayne Truong, and seniors in aged care facilities.
- Give thanks for the caregivers who faithfully care for them. Pray for God's continued strength, wisdom, patience, and protection as they care for loved ones.

Shalom  
Louise and Litha

## DAILY BIBLE READINGS

April/May 2024	
Saturday 27 April	Rev 4-6
Sunday 28 April	Rev 7-8
Monday 29 April	Rev 9-12
Tuesday 30 April	Rev 13-16
Wednesday 1 May	Rev 17-19
Thursday 2 May	Rev 20-21
Friday 3 May	Rev 22

## DIARY DATES

**Cantata Sunday** – Sunday 28 April – during the 11am service

**Vespers** – commencing June 6 at 5.45pm – Scots' Church

## FOLLOW OUR SCOTS' CHURCH PODCAST

If you've missed a week of our teaching program, why not follow our new audio podcast? It's called ScotsCast, and it's available online through Spotify. (Access is free - you won't need an account.) Audio podcasts are excellent when you're driving, exercising, or just have a moment to sit and listen.



ScotsCast is now also available on more major podcast platforms, please search "ScotsCast" on Spotify, Apple Podcast, Google Podcast or Stitcher. Alternatively, visit the links below:

Spotify: <https://spoti.fi/3nOFHXP>

Apple Podcast: <https://apple.co/3Paztxa>

Google Podcast: <https://bit.ly/3astaWV>

Stitcher: <https://bit.ly/3FvLieQ>

## KIDSCHURCH

Our Kid's Ministry runs on Sundays during the 11am service.

If you need further information, please contact the office

[reception@scotschurch.com](mailto:reception@scotschurch.com) or 9650 9903.



## BIBLE STUDY AND PRAYER GROUPS

**SMALL GROUP** – Is held on Tuesday from 6.30-8.30pm.

We are currently working through material from the excellent Bible Project resource series.

Details can be found at [www.scotschurch.com](http://www.scotschurch.com) or call the office 03 9650 9903.

## SUNDAY PRAYER GROUP

Prayer Group meets on Sunday at 10am before the service in the Westpac Function Room (mezzanine level).

All welcome.

## SCOTSCITY – 5pm Sunday



The people of The Scots' Church started meeting together in 1838,  
and since 1874 have worshipped at the present building.  
All who share in the basis of our faith  
are encouraged to apply for membership.

How to contact us.

Telephone information and after-hours answering service: 9650 9903 (leave a message if unattended)

Email: [reception@scotchurch.com](mailto:reception@scotchurch.com)

Web: [www.scotchurch.com](http://www.scotchurch.com)

Web address for St. Stephens and the Mission: [www.scotchurch.com/flemington-mission](http://www.scotchurch.com/flemington-mission)

### Freewill Giving

- Planned giving, electronically or via envelopes arranged with Reception
- By electronic transfer to BSB **083 004**, Account number **630 327 585**
- By cheque made out to The Scots' Church Melbourne and posted to 1/156 Collins Street, Melbourne, VIC 3000
- By the tap and pay terminal in the foyer. (Note that you can make multiple taps if the preset amount is insufficient.)
- By credit card over the phone, Telephone the office on 9650 9903 (please leave a message and we will call you back.)

## **FROM THE SAFE CHURCH UNIT**

Dear fellow worker,

As you may be aware your Safe Church Representative at your church promotes the Safe Church Refresher Training each year to ensure Safe Church compliance is maintained by gospel and ministry workers in our church.

To further assist you in maintaining your Safe Church compliance in your role, and to fulfil our Church's obligation under the Victorian Child Safe Standards, the Safe Church Unit is sending you this email reminder to watch and/or read the Safe Church Refresher Training.

The Refresher video (~15 minutes) can be watched at:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UChFufkg1ruDmr4bnKO8yaQA>

Please make sure you watch/read the Safe Church Refresher Training at your earliest opportunity.

Kind regards,

The Safe Church Unit

### **Thought for the week**

But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen

2 Peter 3: 18