

# Toorak Uniting Church

## Update: 1 May 2016

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### *Still Thinking: The Nicene Creed by Christopher Page*



The Nicene Creed (Greek: Σύμβολον τῆς Νικαίας or τῆς πίστεως,) is a foundational document of the Christian Church for many denominations in Eastern and Western Christianity and among both Catholic and Protestant traditions. It was regarded in its early stages as the standard of orthodoxy (right belief) and remains today the litmus test of Christian belief, widely used in worship and liturgy. Acceptance or rejection of the creed for 1,600 years has drawn the line between believers and non-believers.

*Oldest extant manuscript of the Nicene Creed, dated to the 5th Century*

The Nicene Creed was constructed by the bishops of the various fragmented Christian traditions in 325AD as a response to the perceived threat of Arianism. Arius, the theologian and church father, had accused another Bishop, Alexander of blurring the distinction between the Father and the Son by his emphasis on “eternal generation,” an important 4<sup>th</sup> century theological discourse that is almost impossible to follow in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

The Council was held in 325AD in the city of Nicaea (present day Iznik in Turkey) and is often referred to as the first Council of Nicaea. But by 381AD the Second Ecumenical Council had altered the text and shifted the boundary of heresy (wrong belief) by adding the section:

*“And [we believe] in the Holy Ghost, the Lord and Giver-of-Life, who proceedeth from the Father, who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified, who spake by the prophets. And [we believe] in one, holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church. We acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, [and] we look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.”*

This became known as the Niceno-Costantinopolitan Creed, but interestingly subsumed the name “the Nicene Creed” and these are the words that have come down to us in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. However, when historical documents are seen as

definitive and used to promote power and influence, humans have a tendency toward reinterpretation and “reconstruction” of the originals. So the Third Ecumenical Council in the city of Ephesus in 431AD, reaffirmed the original declaring:

*“it is unlawful for any man to bring forward, or to write, or to compose a different, “contradictory,” and not “another”...faith as a rival to that established by the holy Fathers assembled with the Holy Ghost in Nicaea” (i.e. the 325 creed)*

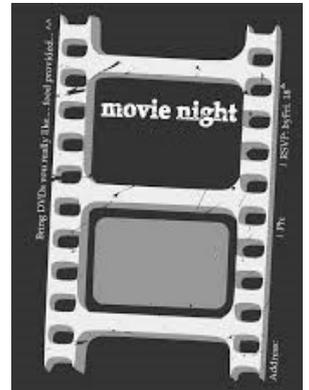
But we know there have been several changes in these words. Some have come about because of theological disputes, others are the problem faced by translators who must search for dynamic equivalents when taking a word from one language and bringing it into another language.

Our after-church discussion this morning will look at the Nicene Creed and consider its relevance for today.

### **TUC Film Night**

We warmly invite all congregation members (and friends of the congregation, as well as new friends) to TUC’s first youth-led movie night and discussion. We will be screening the film *Electrick Children* (written and directed by Rebecca Thomas, who was nominated for the Someone to Watch Award at the 2013 Independent Spirit Awards) in the Faichney Room on Sunday May 22, with tea and coffee being offered from 5pm and a 5:30 show time. There will be pizza served after the movie, followed by a group discussion about the film, how it resonated with you and how you see it as connected (or not connected) to your faith.

While this is a youth-led event, we hope that people of all ages and backgrounds will be keen to attend, to both experience the film and offer their thoughts and perspectives in the discussion afterwards. If you’re not sure whether the film or the event as a whole is for you, feel free to talk to Anna Field, Kristen Field, McKenzie Duncan, or Chris Page to get a better idea of what the film is like and what we’re hoping to achieve with this inaugural event. We’d also love to hear what you’d like to get out of the night and any suggestions you might have!



### **In our thoughts and prayers:**

Rev. John Edwards, after his gall bladder surgery.

The family of Anne Parratt, following her funeral on Tuesday.

Robin Stewardson recovering from surgery.

David Smith healing after a fall.

# Peter Collins Memorial Organ Recital

*Sunday 15 May 2016, 2pm*

Toorak Uniting Church

*Colin Andrews (USA)*

*Jennifer Chou (Melbourne)*

Works for 4 hands including Variations on an Easter Theme by John Rutter,  
works by Bach, Bonnet, Bruhns, Tomkins and others

Organ recital tickets available on [www.trybooking.com/KWIG](http://www.trybooking.com/KWIG)

## Diary Dates

Sun 01 May	11.45am	After-church discussion	Faichney Room
Mon 02 May	11.00am	Fellowship Coffee	Faichney Room
Wed 04 Apr	6.30/7.45	Hand Bell rehearsal	Wettenhall Room
Wed 04 Apr	8.00pm	Finance Committee	Minister's Annex
Fri 06 May	4.00pm	IT Committee	Office Annex
Mon 09 May	10.30am	Drop in Card Day	Faichney Room
Tue 10 May	12.00pm	Prayers for Christian Unity	Church
Wed 11 May	10.00pm	Elders Meeting	Wettenhall Room
Wed 11 May	12.00pm	Prayers for Christian Unity	Swedish Church
Wed 11 May	6.30/7.45	Hand Bell rehearsal	Wettenhall Room
Thu 12 May	12.00pm	Prayers for Christian Unity	St John's
Thu 12 May	7.45pm	Toorak Ecumenical Movement	St John's
Fri 13 May	12.00pm	Prayers for Christian Unity	St Peter's
Sun 15 May	2.00pm	Organ Concert—Peter Collins	Church
Sun 15 May	7.00pm	TEM Pentecost Service	

## Welcome to Toorak Uniting Church

We welcome all people irrespective of race, religion, political views, gender, marital status, sexual orientation, or age. Wherever you are on your faith journey, wherever you have come from and wherever you are going to; whatever you believe, whatever you do not believe, you are welcome here at Toorak Uniting Church.

Please come and join us after the service for fellowship and a cup of tea or coffee.

**Kinross Exhibitions:**  
*Tempering the Iconic*  
Organised by the Byzantine Art School of Melbourne the exhibition features icons made by the school's lead teacher, Anna Prifti



### Time for Fellowship

Due to public holidays, the next 2 Fellowship Morning Coffee dates are tomorrow, **May 02** and **May 30**, at 11:00 am. Everyone welcome.

Details from Lenore N. or Jean A.



**New Clinical exercise classes with a Physiotherapist** have begun at TUC.

Within each class, exercises are adapted to your specific medical and musculoskeletal needs.

Classes may be suitable as rehabilitation following illness or surgery.

Health fund rebates may apply as this program is delivered under the guidance of a Physiotherapist.

**Tuesday** mornings 9.30, 10.30 & 11.30am & **Thursday** afternoons 1.00, 2.00 & 3.00pm.

**Please call Nicole for more details: 0409 998 967.**

## "STAY FIT & WELL FOR A GREAT LIFE "

Strength Circuit // Complete Barre // Balance

Physiotherapy exercise | Small Groups | 45mins

### Strength Circuit:

Increase your strength and conditioning safely with a mix of body weight, free weights and band strengthening.

### Complete Barre:

Integrates elements of Pilates, dance, cardio and strength training to increase flexibility, stamina and dynamic stability.

### Balance:

Gain a more solid footing through a combination of leg strength, flexibility and balance challenge.

Within each class exercises are adapted to your specific medical and musculoskeletal needs. Classes may be suitable as rehabilitation following illness or surgery.

Health fund rebates apply as this program is delivered under the guidance of a Physiotherapist.

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### Location:

Classes run at Toorak Uniting Church (TUC)  
603 Toorak Road, Toorak 3142

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