



**TOORAK
UNITING
CHURCH**

We are a people who follow
the way of Jesus of Nazareth.
His words and actions
inform our living today.
03 9829 0300
office@toorakuc.org.au

Order of Service

Thursday 25 December, 2025

10:15am Christmas Day Service

Minister: Rev Sylvia Akauola-Tongotongo
Director of Music: Dylan Quinlan-Baskett

The Christ is here!



Introit

Sing to the Lord
Hal Harold Hopson

1933-

*Sing to the Lord, O sing all the earth. Declare God's glory.
Tell it to all people: Salvation has come. Hallelujah.*

Welcome

Lighting of the Candles

Call to Worship

On an ordinary night, among people like us; in an ordinary place,
with homes and streets for living and walking; in a moment in time
when the stars wheeled across the skies as they do now, and sheep
grazed in the grass as they did each day;

All the earth received its Christ.

Christ, the one who came in the silences amid the singing of the
angels, the one who would never leave us, nor forsake us, born of a
woman and offered to us all.

Let us celebrate Christmas, God with us.

(Words by Dorothy McRae-McMahon)

Hymn 304 O come, all ye faithful
vv 1-2, 6-7

Prayer of Awareness

Sacred Spirit, you have come to us.
You are one with us.

***Without our knowing, without our invitation, you are the God
with us who chooses to be in the midst of our everyday ordinary
life.***

On this Christmas Day, may we be more fully aware of your presence
with us.

***With grateful hearts, may our faith be strong and courageous to
proclaim your presence through our ways of being each day,
knowing that we are never alone. You are always with us. Amen.***

Words from Scripture

Reading

Isaiah 9: 2-7

Christine Brown & Family

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness - on them light has shined. You have multiplied exultation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders, and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Great will be his authority, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

For the prophetic words of hope,

We give thanks.

Anthem

On this day earth shall ring

H.C. Stewart

1868-1942

*On this day earth shall ring
With the songs children sing
To the Son, Christ the King.
Born on earth to save us,
Him the Father gave us,
Ideo. Gloria in excelsis Deo.*

*His the doom, ours the mirth
When he came down to earth,
Bethlehem saw His birth,
Ox and ass beside Him,
From the cold would hide Him.
Ideo. Gloria in excelsis Deo.*

(Words from an old Swedish Carol)

*God's bright star, o'er His head,
Wise men three to Him led,
Kneel they low by His bed,
Lay their gifts before Him.
Praise Him and adore Him.
Ideo. Gloria in excelsis Deo.*

*On this day angels sing,
With their song earth shall ring
Praising Christ, Heaven's King.
Born on earth to save us,
Peace and love he gave us.
Ideo. Gloria in excelsis Deo.*

Reading

John 1: 1-14

Christine Brown & Family

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it. There was a man sent from God whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him, yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

For the stories of Jesus, the Spirit of Christmas,
We give thanks.

Hymn 317 Love came down at Christmas

Reflection The Christ is here!

Offering My Lord has Come
Will Todd

1970-

*Shepherds, called by angels,
called by love and angels:
No place for them but a stable.
My Lord has come.*

*Sages, searching for stars,
searching for love in heaven;
No place for them but a stable.
My Lord has come.*

*His love will hold me, his love
will cherish me, love will cradle
me.*

*Lead me, lead me to see him,
sages and shepherds and
angels;
No place for me but a stable.
My Lord has come.*

Prayer of Dedication

In gratitude for the blessings in our lives, we offer our gifts, talents and resources to support the work of the church. May our living and our giving be channels of hope, joy and love to the world. Amen.

Community News

Prayers of the People

May the love that breathes life into all humanity and all of creation

Be born again in us today

May the love that brings healing

Be born again in us today

May the love that overcomes hatred and apathy

Be born again in us today

May the love that forgives and renews

Be born again in us today

May the love that brings the blessing of peace

Be born again in us today. Amen.

Hymn 268 Joy to the world! The Lord is come

Blessing

May the love of God unfold before our eyes,

The shining light of the Spirit guide our way,

and the Christ be met in those we meet and in ourselves.

Go in peace and live life according to your highest and best values.

We go confidently and boldly knowing that God is with us always. Amen.

Postlude

Toorak Uniting Church Newsletter

Summer Sundays Update

office@toorakuc.org.au
03 9829 0300

Sunday services:
9am & 10:15am

Deadline for Update submission is 3pm on the Wednesday prior.



Summer Service Times

Our Summer Sunday services from **28 December - 25 January** inclusive start at 9:30am and are Combined Worship Services. Services will return to normal on **1 February, 2026** with both the 9am and 10:15am services resuming, followed by morning tea in the Faichney Room.

Office Closure

The TUC Office will be closed from **Tuesday, 23 December - Monday, 12 January.** We will reopen on **Tuesday, 13 January** and operate to the usual hours of **Monday 12 - 4pm, Tuesday - Friday 9am - 4pm.**

Kinross Café Closure

Kinross Café is taking a break over the Christmas holidays and will reopen as usual on **Monday, 19 January at 7:30am.** We wish you a joyous Christmas and a wonderful 2026 and thank you for supporting us throughout 2025.

TUC Directory

It is time to update our Directory. Please contact Monique in the Office at **office@toorakuc.org.au** if you would like to have your contact details in the Church Directory. Please also contact them if you are not sure if your details are there or if any updates are required. The directory is only circulated to those who have their details in it and is for the use of congregation members only.

Fundraising for the Spire

We wish to form a working group focussed on fundraising for the spire. Latest estimates are that the cost of replacing the spire, work which will need to be undertaken in the relatively near future, will be in excess of \$3 million dollars, an amount that significantly exceeds our current reserves. The aesthetic of TUC is highly valued by the community and we need to harness that good will.

A tax-deductible fund has been established with the National Trust. Please contact **Barbara.McKinnon@bigpond.com** to let her know how you can assist.

Coffee Club

Our monthly Coffee Club is an informal gathering for the Congregation. This fellowship group is an opportunity for companionship and for each of us to share our stories. The next meeting is on **Friday 6 February 2026 at 10:30am** in Kinross Café. All are welcome.

Food for Friends: Our Support Makes a Difference

For some years TUC has been supporting the Carlton Church of All Nations (CAN) Community Care program. We have used funds from Food for Friends to stock up their Community Pantry.

This is how CAN Community Care has helped one family from Tibet.

Nadir and her family live in the Carlton public housing estate immediately adjacent to CAN. For Nadir and her family, the ways of Australia were daunting and unsettling - very different from their former life in Tibet. Since joining the CAN Multicultural Women's Group, Nadir has grown in confidence, and now she can make new friends, practise her English, and share her Tibetan cooking.

Her family participates in the CAN Homework program and are also regulars at their Community Lunches. "CAN has helped us so much. We found friends here. It feels like home." — *Nadir*

TUC thanks our supporters of the Food for Friends Appeal for their generosity.

Stan Laugher

Advanced Notice: 2026 Ecumenical Lenten Studies

The 2026 Ecumenical Lenten Studies will be a series of four sessions focused on "Reflections on the Meaning of the Cross". These discussions are on successive Tuesdays as follows, and all commence at 7:00pm.

March 3rd at St Peter's

March 10th at TUC

March 17th at the Swedish Church &

March 24th at St John's

Summer Sundays Diary Dates

Sun	28 Dec	9:30am	Summer Sundays Service	Rev Peter Whitaker
Sun	04 Jan	9:30am	Summer Sundays Service	Rev Gillian Crozier
Sun	11 Jan	9:30am	Summer Sundays Service	Rev Peter Whitaker
Tue	13 Jan	9:00am	TUC Office Reopens	
Sun	18 Jan	9:30am	Summer Sundays Service (HC)	Rev Gillian Crozier
Mon	19 Jan	7:30am	Kinross Café Reopens	
Sun	25 Jan	9:30am	Summer Sundays Service	Rev Peter Whitaker
Mon	26 Jan	All Day	TUC Office Closed	Public Holiday
Tue	27 Jan	All Day	TUC Office Closed	



Your offering will be gratefully received via direct deposit to
Account Name: Toorak Uniting Church
BSB: 033086 Account Number: 911892

Welcome to Toorak Uniting Church

Toorak Uniting Church acknowledges and respects the past and present Custodians and Elders of this nation and the continuation of cultural, spiritual and educational practices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island peoples.

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.

Toorak Uniting Church has been a proud member of the Toorak Ecumenical Movement since signing the Ecumenical Agreement in 1980. We pray for our partner churches: St Peter's Roman Catholic Church, St John's Anglican Church and the Swedish Church.