



**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

Sunday 15 February, 2026

10:15am Worship Service with Holy Communion

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

SPIRITUAL TRANSFORMATION

a glimpse of glory

Introit I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills
 Donals Joseph Cashmore 1926-2013

*I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help.
My help cometh from the Lord, which made heaven and earth.*

Welcome & Community Notices

Call to Worship

People of God, come as you are. Let us give thanks for life and for the gifts we are given, to live life with purpose and meaning.

May our hearts and minds be open to the presence of the sacred within us and amongst us. Amen.

Hymn 212 Christ, whose glory fills the skies

Reflective Prayer

Lord, make us realize that our Christianity is like a rice field: when it is newly planted the paddies are prominent, but as the plants take root and grow taller, these divided paddies gradually vanish, and soon there appears only one vast continuous field.

So, give us roots that love grows, and help us grow in Christian fellowship and service, that your will be done in our lives, through our Saviour, your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

(Prayer by Rev Professor John Flett)

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 forever, Amen.***

Reading Matthew 17: 1-9 Sue McDonald

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his

clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. Then Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three dwellings here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud a voice said, "This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!" When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Get up and do not be afraid." And when they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone. As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, "Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead."

For the words of Scripture that stretch our imaginations and transform our faith, ***we give thanks.***

Anthem	Jesu, the very thought of thee	
	Edward Cuthbert Bairstow	1874-1946

*Jesus, the very thought of Thee,
With sweetness fills my breast;
But sweeter far Thy face to see,
And in Thy presence rest.*

Reflection

Hymn 243 Christ upon the mountain peak

Offering	O Nata Lux de Lumine Thomas Tallis	1505-1585
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*O nata lux de lumine, Jesus redemptor saeculi,
Dignare clemens suplicum
Laudes preces que sumere.
Qui carne quondam contegi Dignatus es pro perditis.
Nos membra confer effici, tui beati corporis.*

*(Oh Light born of the Light, Jesu Redeemer of the world,
mercifully deign to accept the praises and prayers of the suppliant.
Thou who once deigned to be clothed in flesh for the ruined,
bring us together and make us members of Thy blessed body.)*

Prayer of Dedication

God of our faith, we give thanks for the gift of life, and your abundant provision of what we need for life. We offer our lives, our love and our gifts for the well-being of the world. Bless our giving and our living. Amen.

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

Hymn 401 O Spirit of life, O Spirit of God

Thanksgiving

We give thanks for the way Holy Communion represents the abundant love and hospitality of God for us all.

We commit ourselves to respecting, honouring and appreciating the presence of the sacredness of life in one another.

We are gifted with enough to live life in the best way we can, with what we have.

***We give thanks that:
in the working of faith;
in the living of hope;
in the actions of kindness;
the grace of God is alive in us,
strengthening us, guiding us,
and walking with us every step of the way.***

We celebrate the Jesus we follow, whose words and actions inform our living.

With Holy Communion, we reaffirm our commitment to living with Jesus each day.

Breaking of Bread

Distribution

Prayer after Communion

Living and loving God, in whom we live and move and have our being, thank you for the many ways that open us to understand and experience your presence.

We receive your generous hospitality with grateful hearts.

May your guiding wisdom in our faith experiences and imaginations continue to give us courage to be channels of peace, love, hope and grace wherever we are. Amen.

Hymn 548 Eternal light, shine in my heart

Blessing

We are blessed to be blessings. May God's love continue to be visible in our daily living as we act justly, love kindness and walk humbly with one another.

Embraced, counselled and loved by an unending love, ours are the arms, the hands, the voices and the smiles that make life worth living.

And the blessings of God be with us all today and always. ***Amen.***

Postlude

Toorak Uniting Church Newsletter

Update 15 February 2026

office@toorakuc.org.au
03 9829 0300

Sunday services:
9am & 10:15am

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



Supporting the Cost of Ministry at TUC

At the 2026 Budget setting meeting of the congregation last November, I indicated that there was an urgent need for congregation members to reconsider their contribution to the ministerial costs. Personally, it has been a number of years since I seriously looked at what I am giving on a regular basis. I found that I was certainly not keeping up with inflation nor was I making adjustments for my changed circumstance. As a result, I have made a significant adjustment to my giving. I share this story as I suspect that many of you, like me, have let time slip by ignoring the subject.

It has always been my belief and hope that congregational giving would substantially cover the cost of Ministry. In 2025, giving covered 71% of stipends for Ministry of the word and pastoral care, which were priorities 1 and 2 in the TUC Family survey of 2025. Ministry of music was also equal priority 2 in the survey. If we acknowledge Ministry to include the Ministry of music, it means that congregational giving only covers 44% of the cost of Ministry. In dollar terms for the 2025 year, giving was around \$85,000 and total ministerial costs were around \$188,000. In 2000, congregational giving covered over 80% of the cost of Ministry.

I would like each of you to consider this subject in the light of your personal circumstance. Bank transfer is the preferred method of giving.

- Chris Begg, Treasurer

15 February - Communion Sunday

Each month on the third Sunday we come together to celebrate Communion. It is these Sundays we have the opportunity to donate towards the four Outreach programs we support. These programs are all under the umbrella of the Uniting Church and greatly rely on and appreciate our support. They are The Homework Hub in Pakenham, The Cranbourne Food Truck, the Boroondara Community Outreach in Kew, and SOSK (Skills, Opportunity and Survival in Kenya).

You may either donate cash into the Outreach offering bowl at the rear of the Church or you may donate electronically at any time to Toorak Uniting Church, marking your donation as "Outreach."

BSB: 033 086

Account number: 911 892

Thank you for your heartfelt support!

Garden Working Bee at Argyle House this Sunday

There will be a short working bee to bring the garden at Argyle House back into shape on **Sunday, 15 February** following the services. Unfortunately, the watering system has failed, and the garden has suffered over summer. Volunteers to assist with watering would also be appreciated.

TUC Directory

Please contact the Office if you would like to have your details added to or updated in the Church Directory by **Thursday, 19 February**. The updated Directory will be distributed late next week to congregation members only.

Community Film Screening: Housing, Hope & Belonging **3pm, Sunday 22 February**

Stonnington Community Uniting Church, 59 Burke Rd Malvern East

Join us for an uplifting look at the stories and people behind community housing, and how we can make a difference together. After the film, we're delighted to welcome a short discussion on local housing needs, the challenges faced by marginalised people, and the practical steps communities like ours can take to support real solutions.

All are welcome and entry is free. Donations are welcome and light refreshments will be provided.

Next Sunday, 22 February, will be a whole church service followed by a special morning tea in celebration of pancake day. We hope that some of our generous volunteer cooks might bring a plate of pikelets or drop scones with butter or jam to the kitchen on that morning before church.

- Jenny Stewardson

23 February - TUC Sewing Circle

Whether you're new or a seasoned stitcher, TUC Sewing Circle is a place for sharing ideas, learning new skills or just having a chat. Come along and bring your latest project or just yourself!

Please arrive between 11-11:30am with a finish time of 2:30pm. BYO lunch, coffee and tea provided. To RSVP, contact either

**Margot 0409 361 877 or
Angela 0407 887 596**

February Diary Dates

Sun	15 Feb	9:00am	Worship in the Round (HC)	Rev Sylvia
Sun	15 Feb	10:15am	Worship Service (HC)	Rev Sylvia
Sun	15 Feb	11:15am	Morning Tea	Faichney Room
Mon	16 Feb	10:30am	Exploring the Bible	Kinross Café
Tue	17 Feb	7:30pm	Exploring the Bible Online	Zoom
Tue	17 Feb	7:30pm	Christian Meditation Group	Church Space
Wed	18 Feb	7:00pm	Handbells	Wettenhall Room
Sun	22 Feb	10:15am	Combined Worship Service	Rev Sylvia
Sun	22 Feb	11:15am	Special Morning Tea	Faichney Room
Mon	23 Feb	10:30am	Exploring the Bible	Kinross Café
Mon	23 Feb	11:00am	TUC Sewing Circle	Wettenhall Room
Tue	24 Feb	7:30pm	Exploring the Bible Online	Zoom
Tue	24 Feb	7:30pm	Christian Meditation Group	Online
Wed	25 Feb	7:00pm	Handbells	Wettenhall Room
Thu	26 Feb	10:30am	Prayers for Christian Unity	Swedish Church



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.