



**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 25 January, 2026

9:30am Summer Sundays Service

**Minister: Rev Peter Whitaker
Organ Scholar: Elizabeth Buttery**

**Are power and
love compatible?**

We begin today's liturgy by acknowledging the traditional owners of the land on which we gather, the land of the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung peoples of the Kulin nation, and we pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging.

Welcome & Greeting

***One thing we ask of the LORD, that we seek after:
to live worshipping the LORD all the days of our lives,
to reflect on the beauty of the LORD, and to uncover God's
true nature.***

***For God will protect us in the day of trouble;
God will cover us with a tent of love; God will lift our spirits
above the spirit of despair and anger.***

***Now our heads are lifted up above our enemies all around us,
and we will offer in our worship sacrifices of thankfulness
and joy;
and we will sing and make melody to the LORD.***

(Based on Psalm 27: 4-9)

Hymn 152 Joyful, joyful, we adore you

Prayers of Approach

Declaration of Forgiveness

Hear the Good News of grace:
In Christ, we are forgiven.

Amen. Thanks be to God.

THE SERVICE OF THE WORD

Your word is a lamp to our feet: ***and a light to our path.***

1 Corinthians 1: 10-18

Karen Brown

Now I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you be in agreement and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same purpose. For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there are quarrels among you, my brothers and sisters. What I mean is that each of you says, "I belong to Paul," or "I belong to Apollos," or "I belong to Cephas," or "I belong to Christ." Has Christ been divided?

Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, so that no one can say that you were baptized in my name. (I did baptize also the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else.) For Christ did not send me to baptize but to proclaim the gospel, and not with eloquent wisdom, so that the cross of Christ might not be emptied of its power. For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

Matthew 4: 1-11

Chris Begg

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." But he answered, "It is written,

‘One does not live by bread alone,
but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’”

Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written,

‘He will command his angels concerning you,’
and ‘On their hands they will bear you up,
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’”

Jesus said to him, "Again it is written,

‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’”

Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour; and he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! for it is written,

‘Worship the Lord your God,
and serve only him.’”

Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

Lord may your word live in us: ***and bear much fruit to your glory.***

Hymn 398 Come down, O Love divine

Sermon Are power and love compatible?

Hymn 699 A new commandment I give unto you

Notices and Offering

Our Prayers for Others

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 for ever. Amen.*

Hymn 687 God gives us a future

Benediction

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.

Prayer Request

We have been asked by Kirsty, a young mother suffering from SMAS, a chronic illness, to bring her name before God in our prayers.

Thank you, Peter Whitaker (Rev.)

Kinross Café is open!

Kinross Café is back after a break over the holidays and operating to the usual hours of **Monday - Friday, 7.30am - 2.30pm.**

We will be closed for the public holiday on Monday, 26 January.

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 Laughler

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.