



**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 8 February, 2026

10:15am Worship Service

**Ministers: Rev Sylvia Akauola-Tongotongo
Rev John Edwards
Director of Music: Dylan Quinlan-Baskett**

**PRESCRIPTION
FOR
DISCIPLESHIP**

Introit

Welcome & Community Notices

Call to Worship

The work of the Creator is visible

Let us respond with praise

The example of Jesus is apparent

Let us respond with obedience

The Spirit is blowing within us

Let us respond with joy

The word of God is calling

Let us worship in spirit and in truth.

Hymn 90 I'll praise my maker while I've breath

Prayer of Awareness

God of my integrity, in whom knowledge of truth and passion for justice are one;

my heart was sentimental and you cleansed it with your rigorous mercy;

my thoughts were rigid and you engaged them with your compassionate mind.

Heal my fragmented soul; teach my naivety; confront my laziness; and inflame my longing to know your loving discernment and live out your active love, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

Reading Matthew 12: 13-20

Ian Thomas

"You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything but is thrown out and trampled under foot. "You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. People do not light a lamp and put it under the bushel basket; rather, they put it on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

"Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. For truly I tell you, until heaven

and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

For the words that inspire and challenge our faith,
We give thanks.

Anthem

Reflection Prescription for Discipleship

Hymn 582 Lead, kindly light

Offering

Dedication of Offering

We give thanks for every opportunity to make a difference in our own lives and in the lives of others. May our gratitude for life be expressed in our generosity. May our faith be expressed in our commitment to justice. May our belief in goodness for now and the future find expression in simple acts of kindness lived out in our ordinary lives. Amen.

Prayers of the People

(Silent prayers)

Spirit of light,

let the fire of your wisdom burn brightly within us.

Spirit of courage,

dispel the fear that lingers in our hearts.

Spirit of love,

compel us to open ourselves to the needs of others.

Spirit of truth,

grant us your strength and guide us to walk in the way of Christ. Amen.

Hymn 571 Forth in your name, O lord, I go

Blessing

May the God who dances in creation and embraces us with human love, continue to drive us with strength to fill the world with justice and love.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all, evermore. Amen.

Postlude

Toorak Uniting Church Newsletter
Update 8 February 2026

office@toorakuc.org.au
03 9829 0300

Sunday services:
9am & 10:15am

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



Request for Annual Reports

It's that time of the year again! The Office is beginning to prepare the 2025 Annual Report and will need reports from all of the TUC Committees by **Friday, 27 February.**

If you are the chair or convenor of a Committee, please email your report to **office@toorakuc.org.au** by this date to ensure that we can complete the report in a timely manner.

Spire Fundraising Committee

We need a creative team to lead a campaign to raise funds to repair the spire - expected to cost more than \$3 million - so that TUC can continue to operate in the way that we all currently value.

Expressions of interest sought ASAP to **chair@toorakuc.org.au**

Bring out the Light: Creative Day at Cornish College 65 Riverend Rd, Bangholme on Saturday, 14 February

The Presbytery of Port Philip East invites you to our "Bring out the Light" Creative Day at Cornish College on Saturday, 14 February. We have now confirmed eight facilitators and are looking forward to a day of shared creativity, with interactive workshops running throughout the day in creative writing, craft, liturgy, music, and dance.

The day will begin at **9.30am** with worship and conclude at 2.30pm. A catered lunch will be shared midway through the day, during which we will also launch the first volume of the poetry anthology by Rev Dr Denham Grierson.

Attendance is limited to 70 people. A \$5 contribution per person is requested to help meet the cost of lunch. For tickets, visit **<https://events.humanitix.com/creative-day-workshops>**

Garden Working Bee at Argyle House Sunday, 15 February, following the service

There will be a short working bee to bring the garden at Argyle House back into shape on Sunday, February 15 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.

Report on Food for Friends 2025 Christmas Appeal

Thank you to all who contributed to our annual Christmas Food for Friends Appeal. In all we raised \$41,161. This included a one-off donation of \$30,000 which we have been asked to spread evenly over three years. So \$10,000 of this amount will be allocated to this year's spending and the balance carried forward to the next two years. We are extremely grateful for all these donations as are the agencies we assist. These funds will now be used to purchase food items for the nominated agencies of St Peter's, St. John's and Toorak Uniting Churches.

Last year TUC provided assistance to Burwood Heights Emergency Relief, and the Church of All Nations in Carlton. As these agencies continue to face increasing demand for their services, we would like to invite anyone who missed the opportunity to contribute before Christmas and would now like to do so, to donate directly to
The Toorak Ecumenical Fund account at

BSB: 063 177

Account Number: 1002 6147

Thank you again for your continued support.

- Deirdre Heffernan

Request for Photos of TUC People and Activities

TUC is compiling a 2000 - 2025 update to its last history publication, to bring us up to date in our sesquicentenary year. The editorial committee seeks photographs of the people of TUC, and the activities of the congregation over that period. Congregation members and families may have photos of both formal and informal events over the years, which will be of interest if included in our current publication. So we ask you to sift back through photograph albums, boxes and computer files for items which provide visual connection with TUC. Photographs can be shared with:

Michael Kenihan - michael@michaelkenihan.com.au

Chris Legge - chris.adella@gmail.com

or **Pamela Wilson** - wilsonpf@optusnet.com.au

Or please contact us to discuss your treasure trove! Many thanks.

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 our 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

Educate 10,000

The Jewish Community Council of Victoria has initiated a campaign to build awareness of Jewish culture and history in which it is aiming to increase attendance at museums, synagogues and other cultural events by 10,000 during 2026. If you are planning a visit to one of the Jewish museums and/or a synagogue, consider encouraging others to join you – maybe put a call out in Update - to help the Jewish community meet this important target.

Christian Meditation Group - Tuesdays at 7.30pm

A Christian Meditation Group is starting at Toorak Uniting Church which began in 2007 at Gardiner UCA, then transferred to Armadale UCA and now is moving to TUC. Our sessions begin at 7.30pm and go for approximately an hour and take in a short talk aimed at deepening our understanding of the way Christian meditation can work in relation to Christianity as a whole and prayer in particular. We then meditate for 25 minutes and finish with spoken prayer.

Christian meditation is a faith journey that aims to bring our minds and hearts together at a depth where we are enabled to better experience the presence of the Holy Spirit within, and in turn to better express this in the way we live our lives. The first, third, and fifth Tuesdays will be held in the Church and the second and fourth will be on Zoom.

We warmly welcome anyone who would like to join us. Please feel free to talk to me at church or you can contact me via email at lirpa@comcen.com.au or phone on **0419 807 892**.

- April Blackwell (Group Leader)

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.

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	08 Feb	9:00am	Worship in the Round	Rev Sylvia
Sun	08 Feb	10:15am	Worship Service	Rev Sylvia
Sun	08 Feb	11:15am	Morning Tea	Faichney Room
Mon	09 Feb	9:30am	Pastoral Care Group	Faichney Room
Tue	10 Feb	7:30pm	Christian Meditation Group	Online
Wed	11 Feb	7:00pm	Handbells	Wettenhall Room
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



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.