



**TOORAK  
UNITING  
CHURCH**

We are a people who seek  
to follow the way of Jesus of  
Nazareth. His words and  
actions inform our living today.

**03 9829 0300**  
**office@toorakuc.org.au**

**Please sign in using the QR code. If you do not have mobile phone access, the elder on duty can assist. Masks must be worn at all times, including while singing.**

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# Order of Service

**Saturday 25 December 2021**

**Worship Leader**

**Conductor**

**Organist**

**Christmas Worship Service**

**Rev. John Edwards**

**Ursula Paez**

**Tristan Sumarna**



To the end of the way of the wandering star, to the things that cannot be -  
and that are. To the place where God was homeless and we are all at home.

G K Chesterton

**Introit:** From heaven above to earth I come (TiS 296)

**Welcome and community news**

## **Christmas greeting**

The grace and peace of God shown to us in the birth of Jesus of Nazareth be with you.

***And also with you.***

Into our world Christ is born.

***Into our darkness light comes.***

Let us give thanks to God and rejoice.

***Glory to God in the highest heaven!***

## **Lighting the Christmas Candle**

Garry Brown

We have travelled the journey of Advent and arrived at this Christmas Day. The candles of hope, peace, joy and love have been lit. This morning we light the central candle as a sign that Jesus is the life in the dark places in our world and that we, through him, become bearers of that light to all people.

***May we share Christ's light to all around us.***

**Hymn 322**      The north wind is tossing the leaves

## **Prayer**

**Reading**      Isaiah 9: 2-7

Garry Brown

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light;  
on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned.  
You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy;  
they rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest,  
as warriors rejoice when dividing the plunder. For as in the day of  
Midian's defeat, you have shattered the yoke that burdens them, the  
bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor.  
Every warrior's boot used in battle and every garment rolled in blood  
will be destined for burning, will be fuel for the fire.  
For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will  
be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful  
Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.  
Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end.  
He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom,  
establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness  
from that time on and forever. The zeal of the Lord Almighty  
will accomplish this.

**Musical  
reflection**

Tollite hostias from Christmas Oratorio

*Camille Saint-Saens 1835-1921*

**Reading      Luke 2 :1-20**

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.)  
And everyone went to their own town to register.

So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

