



**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](mailto:office@toorakuc.org.au)

# Order of Service

**Sunday 5 July, 2026**

**10:15am Worship Service with Baptisms**

**Pentecost 6**

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



## Introit

Lead me, Lord  
Samuel Sebastian Wesley

1810-1876

*Lead me, Lord, lead me in thy righteousness, make thy way plain  
before my face.*

*For it is thou, Lord, only, that makest me dwell in safety.*

## Welcome

### Call to Worship

Come as you are, and let us gather in prayer with thanksgiving.

***Creator Spirit, our centre and friend,  
awaken our spirit to your presence.***

Eternal Spirit, in whom we live and move and have our being,

***well up within us that we may love and praise in deed  
and in truth.***

**Hymn 585** I heard the voice of Jesus say

## Prayer

### The Sacrament of Baptism

Amelia Julie Ann O'Connell and Alice Rose O'Connell

### Introduction

Words to the Parents

Parents Respond:

***We do and we will with God's help.***

Words to the Godparents, Extended Family and Friends

Godparents, Family and Friends Respond:

***We do and we will with God's help.***

Words to the Congregation

Congregation Responds:

***With God's help we will live out our baptism as a loving  
community in Christ: nurturing one another in prayer, and  
encouraging one another in service.***

(Water is poured into the font)

Christine Brown, Elder

## The Baptism

Let us pray for Amelia and Alice in the words of the Aaronic Blessing:

***The Lord bless you and keep you;***

***The Lord make his face to shine upon you,***

***and be gracious unto you;***

***the Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you Peace.***

With joy and thanksgiving, we receive and welcome Amelia and Alice as members of the universal Christian Church family.

(Amelia and Alice introduced to the Congregation) Elder & Parents

## Final Prayer

(Certificates of Baptism and Candles presented to parents) Elder

Claire and Nick, continue to enjoy raising Alice & Amelia with love.

**Hymn 599** Take my life and let it be  
vv. 1, 2, 5, 6

**Reading** Matthew 11: 16-19, 25-30 Adelle Merrall

“But to what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another, ‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not mourn.’ “For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon’; the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.”

At that time Jesus said, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

“Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

For the stories that nourish our faith, ***we give thanks.***

**Anthem**      God be in my head  
                    John Rutter

1765-1831

*God be in my head and in my understanding,  
God be in mine eyes and in my looking,  
God be in my mouth and in my speaking,  
God be in my heart and in my thinking,  
God be at my end and in my departing.*

**Reflection**    The yoke of partnership

**Offering**      Hear my prayer  
                    Arr. Moses Hogan

1957-2003

*O Lord, please hear my prayer  
In the morning when I rise.  
It's your servant bound for glory.  
O dear Lord, please hear my prayer.  
O Lord, please hear my prayer.  
Keep me safe within your arms.  
It's your servant bound for glory.  
O dear Lord, please hear my prayer.  
When my work on earth is done,  
And you come to take me home.  
Just to know I'm bound for glory  
And to hear You say, "Well done!"  
Done with sin and sorrow.  
Have mercy, mercy. Amen.*

### **Prayer of Dedication**

***Generous God, we give thanks for the gift of life, and your abundant provision of what we need for life. We offer our lives and our gifts to be channels of your love and grace in the communities we are part of. Bless our giving and our living. Amen.***

### **Community Notices**

### **Prayers of the People**

## 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.*

Hymn 100    All creatures of our God  
vv. 1, 4, 5, 7

## Blessing

Go forth in brave faith and hope, knowing that we are loved and blessed with enough to live life at our best.

*May we go with passion for living and loving;  
courage for daring and hoping;  
freedom for growing and changing;  
and the strength for enduring. Amen.*

## Postlude

Toorak Uniting Church Newsletter

# Update 5 July 2026

office@toorakuc.org.au  
03 9829 0300

Sunday services:  
9am & 10:15am

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



## Spire Update

The urgent need to repair the spire has led to some important decisions with significant consequences for the financial position of TUC.

The estimated costs of the project are \$2.75M, which exceeds TUC reserves. To address these exceptional circumstances, Synod and Presbytery have supported the immediate establishment of the National Trust Tax-Deductible fund to collect donations to the works, and proposed that TUC commit \$2M from reserves, with any shortfall to be covered by Synod Property Trust and repaid by TUC on terms to be negotiated. The consequences of this can be mitigated by a successful fundraising campaign, however we need to prepare ourselves for all eventualities. It is truly wonderful that, since opening the account on Friday, more than \$40,000 has been received.

Church Council met last Thursday to consider recommendations proposed by the Finance Committee in response to a paper from the Synod Property and Operations Committee on the logistics of managing the spire works, a number of which will need to be considered at a meeting of the Congregation on Sunday, 12 July, because of the potential effect on the life and witness of TUC. In the meantime, Church Council has agreed that it is essential that the expected operating deficit for this year be reduced as much as possible and that the budget going forward in 2027 be balanced or in surplus. This means that the Campus Manager position will not be filled. Instead, the congregation will need to take on some operational and administrative tasks, so that the Office Administrator position is manageable. In particular, a large saving could be achieved if there were two to three people willing to take on the production of the weekly Update. The time saved by the Office Administrator could instead be invested in supporting hire of our facilities, increasing income.

While these are challenging times, it also an opportunity to demonstrate the strength of our community as we work together to address the circumstances in which we find ourselves.

*Barbara McKinnon, Chair, Church Council*

## **First Aid Course & CPR Refresher - 3:30pm on Saturday, 25 July**

Life Saving First Aid is running a Provide First Aid and Provide Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) course at TUC to give members of the congregation and staff the opportunity to acquire new skills or update their training.

### **Provide Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) Refresher Course**

*Involves 1-hour online coursework, 45 minutes training & assessment*

This comprehensive training will equip individuals with vital know-how to recognise and assist someone who is unconscious and not breathing.

### **Provide First Aid (includes CPR)**

*Involves 3 hours online coursework, 2 hours training and assessment*

Dive into comprehensive training experience to give you crucial skills to respond swiftly and effectively during emergencies. This course is your gateway to making a tangible difference in critical situations.

### **Cost and Bookings**

Provide Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) is \$90 and Provide First Aid (includes CPR) is \$125. **TUC will cover 50% of the cost for members of the congregation who wish to attend either course.**

**Please email the Office by Friday 10 July to book your place.**

## **TUC Family Conversations: 14 June – 26 July**

Over the next month, we will be holding intentional conversation sessions during morning tea after the 10:15am services. These gatherings will provide an opportunity for fostering our relationships, clarifying our identity, refocusing our purpose, and discerning where to go from here.

Upcoming Dates and Topics:

- **12 July** – Pathways & Potholes: Celebrating signs of life and identifying challenges + What is God calling us to? Exploring our purpose and mission
- **26 July** – Sharing insights and discerning the future direction of our Church Family

Your voice is important and everyone is warmly invited to join the conversations for thoughtful discussion, fellowship and food.

## **Christian Meditation**

Please note that Christian Meditation will be held in the church when there is a fifth Tuesday in the month. All are welcome to join.

## **Digital Essentials: Smart Devices Class | 10am-12:30pm on Fridays during Term 3 at TUC**

This is a beginner friendly class designed to help improve confidence in using your own smart phone or device in a supportive classroom environment. Topics covered will include communicating with others via SMS and What's App, navigating the internet, using email and social media including apps such as PTV and MyGov, and staying safe online.

Classes will run for 10 weeks from 17 July-18 September in the Faichney Room and fees start at \$87. To register your interest or find out more, please call **03 9510 7052** or visit **[socialplanet.com.au/activity/view?id=49580](https://socialplanet.com.au/activity/view?id=49580)**.

## **Liferoad Singers Mission Concert | 6pm Tue, 11 August at TUC**

TUC is excited to welcome the Korean Liferoad Singers' Living Hope concert to the church as part of Life Road Mission's Victorian tour. Life Road Mission is an interdenominational and multinational missionary organisation that was founded to reach people in the Silk Road region of China, Central Asia and the Middle East. The Singers are a self-supporting choir composed of classical music professionals, spreading the gospel through praise concerts and overseas touring ministries.

Please join us in welcoming the Singers as a continuation of TUC's longstanding missional connection with the Korean churches from the early days of the Australian mission to Korea. Entry to the concert is FREE, so feel free to share this invitation and bring others along for an enjoyable evening!

## **Christmas in July Dinner | 6pm on Saturday, 25 July at SCUC**

Stonnington Community Uniting Church is hosting a Christmas in July dinner in support of the Avalon Centre who provide material and social support to homeless and other vulnerable people. The evening will include a traditional dinner, lively original entertainment, raffles, music and wonderful welcoming company. The dinner is free, but a donation of \$40 is suggested. For more information and bookings, please visit

**<https://www.stonningtonchurch.org.au/event/christmas-in-july-dinner/>**.

## **Celebrating Volunteers Party | 5-7pm on Thurs, 23 July at St John's**

The Toorak Ecumenical Movement is hosting a volunteer party in Buxton Hall at St John's for all who volunteer in any capacity at each of the churches - whether it be reading, morning tea etc. Please RSVP on the sheet at the back of the church or via email to the Office by 18 July.

## Richard De Vere Retirement

Richard's retirement was marked by a special morning tea attended by friends, family and TUC staff, at which gratitude was expressed for his service to TUC, in particular the way in which he has brought a modern, professional understanding of operations to our campus.

His compassion, competence and commitment have stood out and we look forward to honouring his vision for TUC in which people and community are at the centre of all that we do. Thank you to all who contributed to Richard's farewell gift – a contribution to a new coffee machine that will enable him to fully indulge his love of the beverage.



### A thank you from Richard

As I retire, I've been reflecting on what a privilege it's been to serve at Toorak Uniting Church. My connection with TUC stretches back 65 years. My family started attending when I was six months old, I went to Sunday School here, was confirmed here, taught Sunday School here, worshipped here, went to youth groups here, and Bernadette and I were married here. I first joined the staff in 2015, disappeared when COVID arrived, then returned as Campus Manager in 2023. It's been a genuine privilege to help care for this place and the people who make it such a special community.

Although my role included everything from facilities management and compliance to technology issues, weddings, funerals, the work was never really about buildings, budgets or computers. It was about people. Thank you to everyone who has shared their time, wisdom, friendship and support over the years. Together we've navigated challenges, celebrated milestones and cared for one another. I leave with deep gratitude for the opportunities I've had and great confidence that TUC will continue to grow and serve the community with generosity, compassion and faith.

I'd also like to sincerely thank everyone who so generously contributed to my retirement gift. I am completely overwhelmed by your generosity. Thanks to you, I'm now enthusiastically researching dual boiler, PID-controlled espresso machines with pre-infusion! Somehow that feels like a very appropriate way to begin retirement!

Thank you for your kindness, your friendship. It has been an honour and a privilege to be part of this remarkable community.

## July Diary Dates

Sun	05 Jul	9:00am	Worship with Conversation	Rev Sylvia
Sun	05 Jul	10:15am	Worship Service with Baptisms	Rev Sylvia
Sun	05 Jul	11:15am	Morning Tea	Faichney
Mon	06 Jul	10:30am	Exploring the Bible	Argyle House
Tue	07 Jul	4:00pm	Renew.603 meeting	Faichney
Tue	07 Jul	7:30pm	Exploring the Bible online	Zoom
Tue	07 Jul	7:30pm	Christian Meditation group	Church
Wed	08 Jul	7:00pm	Handbells	Wettenhall
Sun	12 Jul	9:00am	Worship with Conversation	Rev Sylvia
Sun	12 Jul	10:15am	Worship Service	Rev Sylvia
Sun	12 Jul	11:15am	Morning Tea & Family Conversation	Faichney





*Artwork: Angela Abbott*

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 continues to be 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.