



**TOORAK  
UNITING  
CHURCH**

We are a people  
who follow Jesus.  
His words and actions  
inform our living.

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

To protect our community, if you have Covid or flu-like symptoms please wear a mask during worship, particularly when singing. Maintaining a distance of 1.5m from others is also recommended.

---

# Order of Service

**Sunday 5 January, 2025**  
**Summer Sundays Service**  
**9:30am**

**Ministers:**                      **Rev Sylvia Akauola-Tongotongo**  
   **Rev John Edwards**

**Celebrating**

**a New Beginning**

**and Transition**

## Processional

### Welcome

### Call to Worship

Embarking on a new chapter of new beginning and a time of transition. Come as you are, beloved people of God.

***We are loved as we are, not as we believe we should be.***

We are loved and forgiven beyond measure.

***Let us lift up our hearts in thanksgiving for all that has been and for all that is to come.***

Hymn 152 Joyful, joyful, we adore you

### Prayer of Awareness

***Sacred Spirit, we give thanks and celebrate your presence with us. You are one with us, the God who chooses to be in the midst of our everyday ordinary life. We pray on this first Sunday of the new year, that we become more fully aware of your presence and one-ness with us. We celebrate this new beginning knowing that we are never alone. You are always with us. We give thanks. Amen.***

Reading John 1: 10-18 Anna Field

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (John testified to him and cried out, 'This was he of whom I said, "He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me." ') From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

For the stories of Jesus speaking to our realities

***We give thanks.***

**Hymn**            Word of God in human language

*Word of God in human language  
For this time and in our tongue  
Tell anew the ageless story  
Ever ancient, ever young  
May our heart receive the message  
Of God's faithful, loving care  
May our lives respond in action  
Living deed and living prayer  
All around the world is hungry  
For the liberating Word  
Food for spirit as for body  
To be tasted, felt and heard  
It is thus the Word encounters  
At God's own appointed hour  
Bringing knowledge and perception  
Of true justice, peace and power  
So God's voice continues speaking  
In the words we can't deny  
Sounding out across the ages!  
Will we answer or defy?  
As the call becomes still clearer  
Witness that the word shall last  
May we follow with commitment  
In the present as the past*

Words by Jane Parker Huber  
Tune: Austria

**Reflection**       Celebrating a New Beginning and Transition

**Offering and Dedication**

***In gratitude for the blessings in our lives, we offer our gifts, talents and resources to support the work of the church. May our living and our giving bring hope to others. Amen.***

**Community News**

## Prayers of the People

*In our daily living, learning and loving,  
May we have the grace to do all the good we can  
to all people, in all places, at all times.  
May we continue to live each day with meaning and  
purpose, showing and sharing the abundant love and  
grace present in us and in all creation. Amen.*

**Hymn 687**      God gives us a future, daring us to go...

## Blessing

As we leave worship today, go confidently and in peace,  
knowing that you are loved and you are enough to live life in its  
fullness. And may you continue to be blessed with:  
the passion for living and loving;  
the courage for daring and hoping;  
the freedom for growing and changing; and  
the strength for enduring. Amen.

## Recessional



Your offering will be gratefully received via direct credit to  
Account Name: Toorak Church  
BSB: 033086 Account Number: 911892

### **Welcome to Toorak Uniting Church**

Toorak Uniting Church acknowledges and pays respect to the past, present and future Traditional Custodians and Elders of this nation and the continuation of cultural, spiritual and educational practices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander 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.