



**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 18 October 2026

Pentecost 21

10:15am Worship Service with Holy Communion

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



Introit The Lord hath heard my supplication - Psalm 6: 9
Richard C. Baker

*The Lord hath heard my supplication;
the Lord will receive my prayer.*

Welcome and Community Notices

Call to Worship

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God,
and God abides in them. (1 John 4: 16)

God's light and love meets us where we are.

God of all people, at all times,

We gather with grateful hearts to worship you.

Hymn 442 All praise to our redeeming Lord

Prayer of Approach

Loving God, may the presence of your Holy Spirit move among us and open our hearts and minds to You and to each other.

May we continue to grow stronger in faith, trusting You and appreciating all that You have blessed us with in life.

May our eyes be open to see the best in people.

May our ears be open to hear the truth.

May our hearts be open to forgive the worst; and our minds forget the bad; and may our souls never lose faith in You. Amen.

Reading Matthew 22: 15-22

Anne Binmore

Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap him in what he said. So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, 'Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality. Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?' But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, 'Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? Show me the coin used for the tax.' And they brought him a denarius. Then he said to them, 'Whose head is this, and whose title?' They answered, 'The emperor's.' Then he said to them, 'Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to God the things

that are God's.' When they heard this, they were amazed; and they left him and went away.

For the words of scripture that transform our perceptions,
we give thanks.

Anthem O Lord, increase my faith
Henry Loosemore 1607-1670

*O Lord, increase our faith,
strengthen me and confirm me in thy true faith;
endue me with wisdom, charity, chastity and patience,
in all my adversity.
Sweet Jesu, say Amen.*

Reflection Undivided Heart

Offering A Prayer from South Africa
James Philip Edwin Whitbourn 1963-2024

*Lord, help me to give myself when I am giving.
Teach me to give without thought of receiving and to receive without
thought of giving.
Teach me not to withhold or to withdraw myself, to hoard nothing:
love, money, time, possessions.
Make me ready to give even my life if it is required of me.
And while I have it, use it as an instrument of your peace. Amen.*

Prayer of Dedication

***Everyday offers us the opportunity to make a difference not just
in our own lives but in the lives of others. May our gratitude for
life be expressed in our generosity. May our faith be expressed
in commitment to justice. May our belief in the future find
expression in simple acts of kindness lived out each day. Amen.***

Prayers of the People

(In silence we pray for the world, for the church, for ourselves and our families)

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 523 Here, Lord, we take the broken bread

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

Friends and family, we are invited to the banquet of the hospitality of God. The invitation to the Lord's table is to 'come as you are'. At the Lord's table, there is room for all, where everyone is an honoured guest.

The peace of God be with you.

And God's peace be also with you.

Lift up your hearts!

We lift them up to God.

Let us give thanks to God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

We give thanks for the earth and its abundant provision for life.

We give thanks for Jesus Christ, who models love and compassion for us.

We give thanks for Jesus Christ who calls us into action – living life to the best, with our best, and for the best.

We give thanks for echoes in our journeys which make the gospel of Jesus Christ alive in the working of faith, in the living of hope and in the actions of love.

When Jesus shared a meal with his disciples. He took bread, blessed it, broke it and gave it to his disciples saying, "This is my body which is given for you." In the same way he took the cup, after giving thanks, poured it out and gave it to his disciples saying, "This cup is the new relationship with God sealed with my blood."

With Holy Communion, we reaffirm identity; our commitment to being fully human; and living out our covenantal relationship of love, with God, and with one another.

In Christ and through Christ we receive the bread of life; and the cup of compassion. The gifts of God, for the people of God.

Let us receive these gifts in faith with thanksgiving.

Distribution of Elements

The bread of life, given for you.

We are the body of Christ.

The cup of compassion poured out for you.

We receive God's grace with grateful hearts.

Prayer after Communion

Gracious God, thank you for your generous hospitality and love for us. May we live each day demonstrating your love, growing stronger in our love for one another, with courage and in peace. Amen.

Hymn 666 We are marching in the light of God

Blessing

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 18 October 2026

update@toorakuc.org.au
03 9829 0300

Sunday services:
9am & 10:15am

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



This Sunday – Communion Sunday

Each month on the third Sunday we come together to celebrate Communion. On these Sundays we have the opportunity to donate towards the 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 into the Outreach offering bowl at the rear of the Church or donate electronically at any time to Toorak Uniting Church, marking your donation as "Outreach".

BSB: 033 086 Account Number: 911 892

Thank you for your heartfelt support!

Music to Inspire Concert

On behalf of the spire fund-raising working group, a huge thank-you to all who contributed to the wonderful concert on Sunday: fabulous performers, behind the scenes, at the door and the outstanding refreshments afterwards.

A special thank-you to David Ross-Smith who proposed and directed all aspects of the concert: as David has said, there was a quietness in the full Church creating a sense of goodwill and community, and this was the most important aspect of the afternoon.

For the spire, concert donations amounted to just over \$9,000, an amazing result. The total donations for the spire are now just over \$148,000 - an excellent start to our long road of fund-raising to meet as much as possible of the \$2,750,000 estimated cost of the replacement.

Tim Brown

Afternoon tea thanks

On behalf of all members of TUC and concert-goers, my grateful thanks are made to each one of those who donated provisions for the wonderful spread of afternoon tea choices enjoyed following the Music to Inspire Concert last Sunday.

To those of you who worked at the tea and coffee stations, and especially to those few who washed dishes until 'dinner time', your help was invaluable service, exhausting for you and greatly appreciated.

An In-spir-ing effort and result! **Thank you all.**

Christine B.

25 October - Combined Worship Service and lunch

Next Sunday, 25 October, our 9 am and 10.15 am congregations will combine for a service at 10.15 am which will be followed by lunch.

If any member of the congregation is able to bring a plate (savoury or sweet) it would be most welcome. Rob Ahin is co-ordinating the arrangements so please speak to him so that he can make sure that we are all provided for. Contact via robinahin@optusnet.com.au.

Monday 26 October - 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. Come along and bring your latest project or just yourself!

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.

Progetto Corelli presents Voices of Serenissima

This spring, take a journey into the Grand Canal of Venice, the Most Serene Republic. This is a curated selection of vocal and instrumental gems from Baroque Venice, including Albinoni, Marini, Merula, Monteverdi, and Vivaldi. Our organist, Dylan, is one of the performers.

It's here, at TUC, on Sunday 25 October at 3:00 pm.

To book: www.trybooking.com/DPFTA

Mendelssohn's Elijah

Camberwell Chorale are presenting Felix Mendelssohn's choral masterpiece, *Elijah*, at Hawthorn Arts Centre, Burwood Road, this Sunday, 18 October at 2:30 pm. This performance will feature a number of leading Melbourne soloists, under conductor Douglas Heywood OAM.

"Elijah" is a large-scale sacred oratorio and tells the story of the biblical prophet Elijah. Our Congregation members Alison Legge and Rob Fisher will be two of the performers.

For more details and to book, see
www.camberwellchorale.org.au/mendelssohns-elijah-hawthorn-arts-centre-hawthorn-sunday-18-october-2026/.

Spire Appeal

Donations to the Spire Appeal are most welcome! If you wish, they can be tax deductible. All the details are on the TUC website:
www.toorakuc.org.au/spire-appeal.

Exploring the Bible

Our *Exploring the Bible* sessions continue each Monday at 10.30 am in Argyle House and each Tuesday at 7.30 pm by Zoom.

Further information from Rev Peter, on pcwhitaker@icloud.com.

Christian Meditation

Christian Meditation Group on 20 October will be at 7:30 pm in the Church. For more information, contact April at lirpanotes@icloud.com.

Men's Lunch

We intend to have another casual men's lunch later this month, on the 27th. If you're interested in joining us, please speak to Rob Ahin or Ian Thomas or email Rob at robinahin@optusnet.com.au.

Breakfast Group

A number of us have been having a monthly catch-up over breakfast at a local cafe for some time. We'd welcome anyone who would like to join us at our next breakfast on Friday, 30 October.

We started as a men's group in our Armadale days, but this invitation is to anyone at all. For details, please speak to or email Graeme H via **graeme.harris02@gmail.com**.

Christmas cards

Do you send traditional Christmas cards?
If you do, you might consider supporting Uniting Vic.Tas. You can order them online via:

fundraise.unitingvictas.org.au/christmas-cards/.

Submission of Update notes

Just a reminder to send all Update notes to **update@toorakuc.org.au** (rather than to the Office email address).

Diary Dates

Sun	18 Oct	9.00 am	Worship with Conversation & HC	Rev Sylvia
Sun	18 Oct	10.15 am	Worship Service with HC followed by morning tea	Rev Sylvia Faichney
Mon	19 Oct	10.30 am	Exploring the Bible	Argyle
Tue	20 Oct	7.30 pm	Christian Meditation	Church
Tue	20 Oct	7.30 pm	Exploring the Bible	Zoom
Wed	21 Oct	7.00 pm	Handbells	Wettenhall
Sun	25 Oct	10.15 am	Combined Worship Service followed by lunch	Rev Sylvia Hall
Mon	26 Oct	10.30 am	Exploring the Bible	Argyle
Mon	26 Oct	11.00 am	Sewing Circle	Wettenhall
Tue	27 Oct	7.30 pm	Exploring the Bible	Zoom
Tue	27 Oct	7.30 pm	Christian Meditation	Zoom
Wed	28 Oct	5.00 pm	Worship Committee	Faichney
Wed	28 Oct	7.00 pm	Handbells	Wettenhall



Artwork: Sylvia Isaac

The flowers in the church today are a gift from St. Catherine's School

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 the Wurundjeri Woiwurrung and Bunurong peoples of the East Kulin Nation as the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we live, work and worship, and we pay respect to their elders past and present.

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.