



**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 22 February, 2026

10:15am Combined Worship Service

Lent 1

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

**LOOKING GOD
IN THE EYE
AND IN THE 'I'**

Introit

Hear us, O Lord, as now we pray

Donald Joseph Cashmore

1926-2013

Hear us, O Lord, as now we pray, that thou wilt meet us here; to turn all sadness into joy, and drive out ev'ry fear.

Welcome

Call to Worship

Living God, we gather with open minds and hearts seeking your gift of peace.

Not the peace of order, when order oppresses. Not the peace of silence, when silence is born of suppression.

Your peace is love for all people; justice for all people and truth for all people.

Grant us your peace and we will give this peace to others.

Amen.

Hymn 194 O love how deep, how broad, how high!

Prayer of Approach

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.

Reading

Genesis 2: 15-17; 3: 1-7

Rob Fisher

The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. And the Lord God commanded the man, 'You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die.'

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden'?" The woman said to the

serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.'" But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die; for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

Anthem Attende Domine: A Lent Prose
Mode V

Refrain: *Hear us, O Lord, have mercy upon us: for we have sinned against thee.*

1. *To thee, Redeemer, on thy throne of glory:
Lift we our weeping eyes in holy pleadings:
Listen, O Jesu, to our supplications.*
2. *O thou chief cornerstone, right hand of the Father:
Way of salvation, gate of life celestial:
Cleanse thou our sinful souls from all defilement.*
3. *God, we implore thee, in thy glory seated:
Bow down and hearken to thy weeping children:
Pity and pardon all our grievous trespasses.*
4. *Sins oft committed now we lay before thee:
With true contrition, now no more we veil them:
Grant us, Redeemer, loving absolution.*
5. *Innocent, captive, taken unresisting:
Falsely accused and for us sinners sentenced,
save us, we pray thee, Jesu our Redeemer.*

Reading Matthew 4: 1-11

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. The tempter came and said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.' But he answered, 'It is written,

"One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God." Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, 'If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written, "He will command his angels concerning you", and "On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone."

Jesus said to him, 'Again it is written, "Do not put the Lord your God to the test."' Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour; and he said to him, 'All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.' Jesus said to him, 'Away with you, Satan! for it is written, "Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him."' Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

For the words of Scripture that speak to our life and faith,
we give thanks.

Hymn 591 Forty days and forty nights

Reflection Looking God in the eye and in the 'I'

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, may these gifts represent our commitment to reflecting your love that is within us. Bless our offerings and grant that they be multiplied for the cause of the gospel. Amen.

Community News

Prayers of the People

(Silent prayers)

***God give us grace to accept the things that we cannot change,
Courage to change the things that should be changed,
And the wisdom to distinguish the one from the other.
Amen.***

Hymn 580 Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us

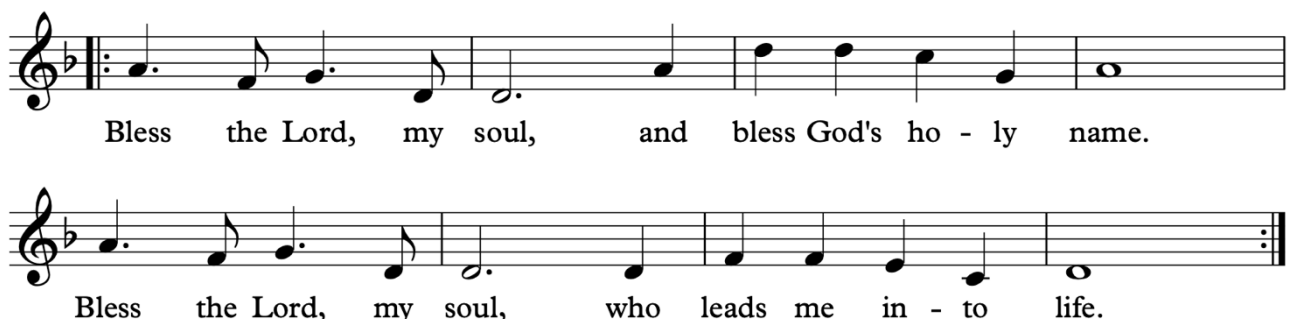
Blessing

Let us go boldly into the season of Lent and may the life renewing love of God give us the passion for living and loving; the courage for daring and hoping; the freedom for growing and changing; and the strength for enduring.

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

Chant Bless the Lord, my soul
 Jacques Berthier

1923-1994



From the Taizé Community, 1978.

Toorak Uniting Church Newsletter

Update 22 February 2026

office@toorakuc.org.au
03 9829 0300

Sunday services:
9am & 10:15am

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



Special Morning Tea this Sunday

This Sunday, 22 February, will be a whole church service followed by a special morning tea in celebration of pancake day.

We hope that some of our generous volunteer cooks might bring a plate of pikelets or drop scones with butter or jam to the kitchen in the morning before church.

- Jenny Stewardson

Reflections on the Meaning of the Cross

Our Ecumenical Lenten Studies for 2026 is a series of four sessions being led by Revd Peter Whitaker. The theme will be focused on "Reflections on the Meaning of the Cross".

These discussions are at 7:00 pm on Tuesday evenings in March

7:00pm Tuesday 3 March at St Peter's Catholic Church

7:00pm Tuesday 10 March at Toorak Uniting Church

7:00pm Tuesday 17 March at The Swedish Church

7:00pm Tuesday 24 March at St John's Anglican Church

For more information, please speak with Rev Sylvia or Stan Laugher.

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. 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**

February Diary Dates

Sun	22 Feb	10:15am	Combined Worship Service	Rev Sylvia
Sun	22 Feb	11:15am	Special Morning Tea	Faichney Room
Mon	23 Feb	10:30am	Exploring the Bible	Kinross Café
Mon	23 Feb	11:00am	TUC Sewing Circle	Wettenhall Room
Tue	24 Feb	7:30pm	Exploring the Bible Online	Zoom
Tue	24 Feb	7:30pm	Christian Meditation Group	Online
Wed	25 Feb	7:00pm	Handbells	Wettenhall Room
Thu	26 Feb	10:30am	Prayers for Christian Unity	Swedish Church



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.