



**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 1 February, 2026**

**10:15am Worship Service**

**Minister: Rev Sylvia Akauola-Tongotongo**

**Organist: Elizabeth Buttery**

**Conductor: Ursula Paez**

**JUST BE YOU!**

## Introit

O taste and see

Ralph Vaughan Williams

1872-1958

*O taste and see how gracious the Lord is:*

*Blest is the man that trusteth in Him.*

## Welcome & Community Notices

### Call to Worship

Come as you are, and let us with open hearts and minds, worship together in spirit and in truth.

***With thanksgiving, we praise our Creator and source of life, who welcomes us with warm embraces, and loves us just as we are.***

Hymn 137      For the beauty of the earth

### Prayer of Approach

***Living and Loving God, in whom we live and move and have our being, we give thanks for the gift of life. May your life-giving Spirit flow through us, filling us with the will to live and the will to love. As we observe, listen, reflect and learn in our journey of life each day, may we see with eyes of love. May we hear with ears of hope. May we ponder with minds of wisdom. May we learn with hearts of faith. Amen.***

## Readings

Krystyna Thomas

Micah 6: 6-8

“With what shall I come before the Lord and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousand of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?” He has told you, O mortal, what is good, and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice and to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God?

## Matthew 5: 1-12

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. And he began to speak and taught them, saying: "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. "Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. "Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. "Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. "Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. "Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

For the words that inspire and challenge our faith,

***We give thanks.***

<b>Anthem</b>	God be in my head John Rutter	1945-
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*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.*

<b>Reflection</b>	Just be You!
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<b>Hymn 609</b>	May the mind of Christ my Saviour
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<b>Offering</b>	O Sacrum Convivium Pietro Terzian	1765-1831
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*O sacrum convivium! in quo Christus sumitur recolitur memoria passionis ejus; mens impletur gratia, et futurae gloriae nobis pignus datur.*

*(O sacred banquet! in which Christ is received, the memory of his passion is renewed, the mind filled with grace, and a pledge of future glory to us is given.)*

## Dedication of Offering

***We offer our gifts and resources for the mission of the church and communities beyond the church. May our living and our giving be blessed to be blessings and channels of hope and love. Amen.***

## Prayers of the People

*(Silent prayers)*

Spirit of light,

***let the fire of your wisdom burn brightly within us.***

Spirit of courage,

***dispel the fear that lingers in our hearts.***

Spirit of love,

***compel us to open ourselves to the needs of others.***

Spirit of truth,

***grant us your strength and guide us to walk in the way of Christ. Amen.***

**Hymn 687**      God gives us a future

## Blessing

<b>Postlude</b>	Fugue in G minor, BWV 578	
	Johann Sebastian Bach	1685-1750
	Performed by Jeffrey Li	

Toorak Uniting Church Newsletter

# Update 1 February 2026

office@toorakuc.org.au  
03 9829 0300

Sunday services:  
9am & 10:15am

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



We pray for Rev Wal Baker and his family as he recovers from recent unexpected surgery.

## Request for Annual Reports

It's that time of the year again! The Office is beginning to prepare the 2025 Annual Report and will need reports from all of the TUC Committees by **Friday, 27 February**. If you are the chair or convenor of a Committee, please email your report to **office@toorakuc.org.au** by this date to ensure that we can complete the report in a timely manner.

## TUC Coffee Club - 6 February

Our first Coffee Club Meeting this year is on **Friday, 6 February at 10:30am** in Kinross Café. Everyone is welcome. Come join us in this informal gathering. If you need assistance with transport to attend, please contact me on **0427 401 299** before 12:00 on Thursday.

- Stan Laughler

## Pastoral Care Update

Please note that Christine Brown is stepping down from leadership of Pastoral Care and is delighted that David Ross-Smith will be the leader going forward and will be supported by Anne Binmore as Secretary. If you are unable to contact your pastoral care group leader when needed, please call the Church Office and leave a message. Your call will be responded to as soon as possible.

## Spire Fundraising Committee

We need a creative team to lead a campaign to raise funds to repair the spire - expected to cost more than \$3 million - so that TUC can continue to operate in the way that we all currently value.

Expressions of interest sought ASAP to **chair@toorakuc.org.au**

## Cranbourne Food Truck Anniversary BBQ Sunday, 1 February at 6pm

The Cranbourne Food Truck's annual anniversary celebration is taking place at **6pm this Sunday, 1 February** at Cranbourne Uniting Church, 41 Lesdon Avenue.

Please join us to celebrate our supporters and volunteers.

## Christian Meditation Group - Tuesdays at 7:30pm

There will be a Christian Meditation Group starting at Toorak Uniting Church on Tuesday, 3 February which began in 2007 at Gardiner UCA, then transferred to Armadale UCA and now is moving to TUC.

Our sessions begin at 7:30pm and go for approximately one hour and take in a short talk aimed at deepening our understanding of the way Christian meditation can work in relation to Christianity as a whole and prayer in particular. We then meditate for 25 minutes and finish with spoken prayer.

Christian Meditation is a faith journey that aims to bring our minds and hearts together at a depth where we are enabled to better experience the presence of the Holy Spirit within, and in turn to better express this in the way we live our lives.

The first and third Tuesdays will be held in the church and the second and fourth will be on Zoom as we have some people who can only attend online. When there are 5 weeks in the month, we will hold CM at TUC on the 5th Tuesday as well.

We warmly welcome anyone who would like to join us. Please feel free to talk to me at church or you can contact me via email at [lirpa@comcen.com.au](mailto:lirpa@comcen.com.au) or phone **0419 807 892**.

*- April Blackwell (Group Leader)*

## Request for Photos of TUC People and Activities

TUC is compiling a 2000 - 2025 update to its last history publication, to bring us up to date in our sesquicentenary year. The editorial committee seeks photographs of the people of TUC, and the activities of the congregation over that period. Congregation members and families may have photos of both formal and informal events over the years, which will be of interest if included in our current publication.

So we ask you to sift back through photograph albums, boxes and computer files for items which provide visual connection with TUC. Photographs can be shared with:

**Michael Kenihan** - [michael@michaelkenihan.com.au](mailto:michael@michaelkenihan.com.au)

**Chris Legge** - [chris.adella@gmail.com](mailto:chris.adella@gmail.com)

or **Pamela Wilson** - [wilsonpf@optusnet.com.au](mailto:wilsonpf@optusnet.com.au)

Or please contact us to discuss your treasure trove! Many thanks.

## February Diary Dates

Sun	01 Feb	9:00am	Worship in the Round	Rev Sylvia
Sun	01 Feb	10:15am	Worship Service	Rev Sylvia
Sun	01 Feb	11:15am	Morning Tea	Faichney Room
Mon	02 Feb	10:30am	Exploring the Bible	Kinross Café
Tue	03 Feb	7:30pm	Exploring the Bible Online	Zoom
Tue	03 Feb	7:30pm	Christian Meditation Group	Church Space
Wed	04 Feb	7:00pm	Handbells	Wettenhall Room
Fri	06 Feb	10:30am	Coffee Club	Kinross Café
Sun	08 Feb	9:00am	Worship in the Round	Rev Sylvia
Sun	08 Feb	10:15am	Worship Service	Rev Sylvia







The flowers in the Church today are provided by Pamela Wilson.

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.