



**TOORAK
UNITING
CHURCH**

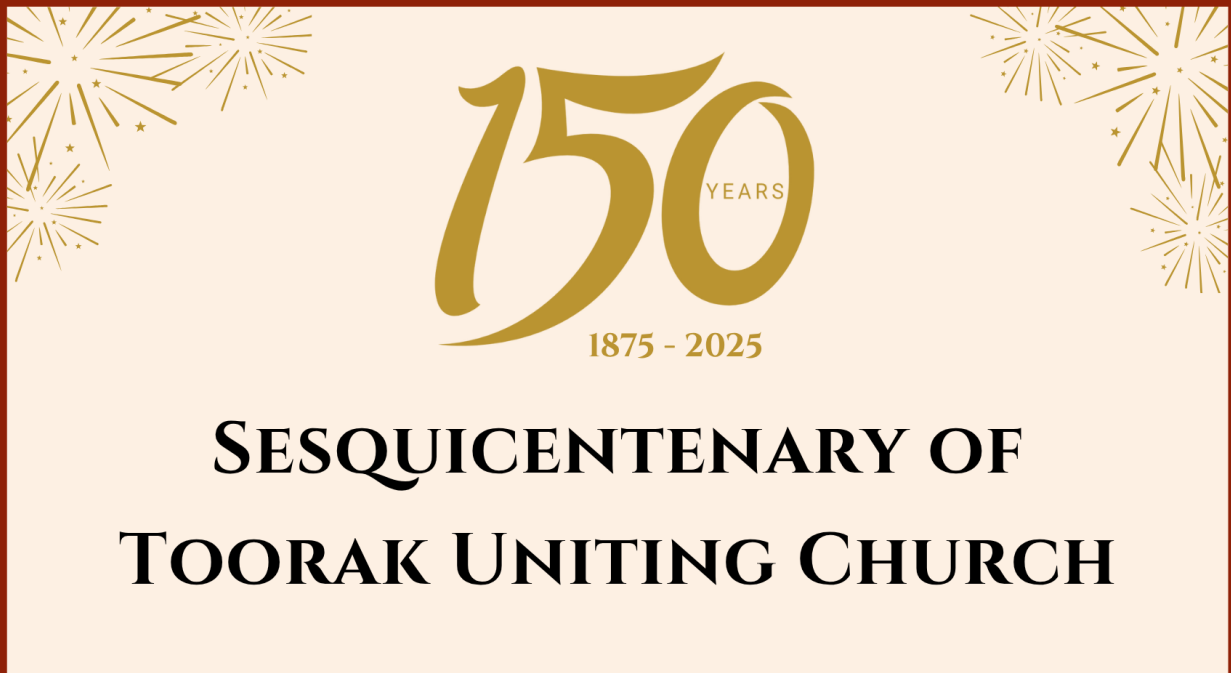
We are a people who follow
the way of Jesus of Nazareth.
His words and actions
inform our living today.
03 9829 0300
office@toorakuc.org.au

Order of Service

Sunday 16 November, 2025

10:15am Sesquicentenary Service of Thanksgiving

Preacher: Rev Dr Jim Donaldson
Minister: Rev Sylvia Akauola-Tongotongo
Director of Music: Dylan Quinlan-Baskett



Prelude

Gymnopedie No. 1

Eric Satie

1866-1925

Peal con Brio

Karen Thompson

Featuring the Pamela Brown Handbell Choir

Fugue on a Famous Jazz Theme

Joseph Yu

For Brass Quintet

Introit

Locus iste - This place was made by God

Anton Bruckner

1824-1896

*Locus iste a Deo factus est,
inaestimabile sacramentum,
irreprehensibilis est.*

*[This place was made by God,
an inestimable holy place.
It is without blame.]*

"Locus" was written in 1869 for the dedication of the Votive Chapel of Linz Cathedral.

Gathering for Worship

This is the day that the Lord has made.

We will rejoice and be glad in it.

Give thanks to the Lord for he is good:

His love endures forever.

Acknowledgement of First Peoples

We acknowledge that we are on the land of the Wurundjeri People and that the Spirit was in the land revealing God to them through law, custom and ceremony.

The same love and grace that was fully revealed in Jesus Christ sustained the first Sovereign people of this land and gave them particular insights into God's ways.

Therefore, we honour and respect the wisdom of their elders and their continuing culture;

and pray that we all live and work together for justice each day.

Hymn 134 Praise, my soul, the king of heaven

Prayers of Thanksgiving Sue McDonald & David Ross-Smith

God of all peoples, in all places, at all times, your faithfulness,
abundant grace, goodness and unending love
witnessed in this place for 150 years

we give you thanks, O God.

For the founders and pioneers of this church family,
for their generous giving and sacrificial service

we give you thanks, O God.

For the leaders, councillors, advisors, and guides of this faith
community, for their spiritual vision, faith and practical skills

we give you thanks, O God.

For the faithful worshippers of this church, for their dedication,
perseverance, courage and boldness in prayer

we give you thanks, O God.

For the practical servants of this church: for their willing hands;
hospitable attitude; and serving hearts

we give you thanks, O God.

For the Sunday school teachers and pastoral carers through the
years, for the faith they have shared and the lives they have
nurtured and nourished

we give you thanks, O God.

For the children, young people, and young adults of this community,
for the love received, for the opportunities for faith to seek meaning

we give you thanks, O God.

For the Ministers of the Word who have served in this church, for
their leadership, worship, and thoughtful preaching offered,

we give you thanks, O God.

For the people who have found faith and experienced your
presence through this community, for their spiritual gifts and their
joy in belonging,

we give you thanks, O God.

For all who have been baptised, confirmed or received as members,
or have other connections to this place, for the Holy Spirit shining
through their lives,

we give you thanks, O God.

For all who have been married here, for the love kindled in their
hearts and homes by your blessing,

we give you thanks, O God.

For all whose earthly life has been remembered here, or who are
resting in our memorial garden, for compassion given, for comfort
and peace received,

we give you thanks, O God.

***For filling us with life anew, that we continue to do what you
would do, we give you thanks, O God. Amen.***

Reading

Philippians 2: 5-11

Clare Boyd-Macrae

Your word O Lord is a lamp to our feet

And a light to our path.

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though
he existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as
something to be grasped, but emptied himself, taking the form of a
slave, assuming human likeness. And being found in appearance as
a human, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of
death - even death on a cross. Therefore God exalted him even more
highly and gave him the name that is above every other name, so
that at the name given to Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven
and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

In this is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Anthem

I was glad when they said unto me

Charles Hubert Hastings Parry

1848-1918

I was glad when they said unto me,

we will go into the house of the Lord.

Our feet shall stand in thy gates O Jerusalem.

Jerusalem is builded as a city that is at unity in itself.

*O pray for the peace of Jerusalem. They shall prosper that love thee.
Peace be within thy walls and plenteousness be within thy palaces.*

Reading

John 15: 1-12

Rev Alistair Macrae

“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples. As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.”

For the word of God in Scripture

For the word of God among us

For the word of God within us

Thanks be to God.

Hymn 106 Now thank we all our God

Sermon The Challenge to Become Real and Alive

Hymn 547 Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart

Offering How can I keep from singing

Robert Lowry

arr. Sarah Quartel

1826-1899

1982-

*My life flows on in endless song above earth's lamentations. I hear
the real, though far-off tune, that hails a new creation. Through all the*

tumult and the strife, I hear its music ringing. It sounds an echo in my soul, how can I keep from singing?

No storm can shake my inmost calm while to that rock I'm clinging, it sounds an echo in my soul, how can I keep from singing?

Although the tempest loudly roars, I hear the truth it liveth, and though the darkness 'round me close, songs in the night it giveth. No storm can shake my inmost calm while to that rock I'm clinging, since love is lord of heaven and earth, how can I keep from singing?

I lift my eyes the cloud grows thin, I see the blue above it, and day by day this pathway smooths since first I learned to love it. The peace of love makes fresh my heart, a fountain ever springing. All things are mine in love and joy, how can I keep from singing?

Prayer of Dedication

Janet Atkinson

Generous God, may our gifts and our lives be blessed for your service. May our gratitude for life be expressed in our generosity. May our faith be expressed in our commitment to justice. May our hope and belief in the future find expression in simple acts of kindness lived out in our ordinary lives. Amen.

Community News

Prayers of the People

Rev John Edwards

Lord of Majesty, as we celebrate with thanksgiving, how faith and spirituality have been developed, transformed and grown in this place for 150 years, may this space continue to be a place of worship: where your name is exalted; your presence experienced; and your grace released.

Lord of encounter, may we continue to be a prayerful community: where your face is sought; your healing touch felt; and your will is revealed.

Lord of the Gospel, we pray that this worship space be a place of revelation: where the good news is proclaimed; your word preached; and your love shown and shared.

Lord of the Cross, may we be a community of reconciliation: where the body of Christ is restored; barriers are broken down; and relationships are nurtured.

Lord of compassion, we pray that this church be a place of acceptance: where all are welcomed and valued; the rejected and the lost find a home; and love is poured out.

Lord of the broken, may we continue to be a community of healing: where those who mourn are comforted; wounds are tended; and lives are made whole.

Lord of the oppressed, we pray that this place be a space of liberation: where the yoke of the past is broken; chains are struck off; and people are set free.

Lord of the weak, may we continue to be an empowering community: where hearts and hands are strengthened; courage and faith rekindled; and the gifts of your Spirit bestowed.

Lord of the redeemed and of all life, for all that has been, we give thanks, and we trust you for all that is to come in the years ahead. May we continue to be a place and a community of celebration: where joy and gratitude overflow; and abundant life is realised.

In the name of Jesus, whose prayer we now say together:

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 687 God gives us a future

Blessing

Rev Dr Jim Donaldson

Go in peace with strength and courage to live your best each day.

We go bravely knowing that we are loved abundantly.

And may God continue to bless you, with:

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, now and forever more. Amen.

Postlude

Nun Danket Alle Gott, Op. 65 no. 59
Sigfrid Karg-Elert

1877-1933

Musicians featured

Adam Davies & Andrew Hemsworth – Trumpets

Joseph Yu – French Horn

Pranav Roy – Trombone

Sebastian Fernandez Feo – Tuba

Alexander Meagher – Timpani

Toorak Uniting Church Newsletter

Update 16 November 2025

office@toorakuc.org.au
03 9829 0300

Sunday services:
9am & 10:15am

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



Church Council – your input and assistance welcome!

Our secretary, Rudi Doku, is unfortunately going to need to relinquish his role at the end of the year as he establishes his new business direction, so Barbara is keen to hear from anyone who would like to consider taking on this important role.

Please get in touch with her to discuss what is involved via email at barbara.mckinnon@bigpond.com, or on mobile **0405 987 890**.

Book Launch for Rewilding Prayer: God Beyond Gender, Faith Beyond Formulas 5:00pm - 6:30pm, Monday 1 December 2025

You are warmly invited to attend Sally Douglas' launch of her book *Rewilding Prayer: God Beyond Gender, Faith Beyond Formulas* with Rev Salesi Faupula, Moderator of the Uniting Church in Australia, Synod of Victoria and Tasmania, and Julia Perrin, storyteller and writer.

Rewilding Prayer disrupts the idol of pretending that God is a man and upends the delusion that prayer is about wishful thinking, vending machines, or reciting words. With insight and honesty, questions about what prayer is for, what prayer does and does not do, and what we can do when we cannot pray are explored. This book is for the curious, the "spiritual not religious", the faithful, the disenchanted, and for those who thirst for more.

Venue: Yuma Auditorium, Centre for Theology and Ministry,
29 College Crescent, Parkville.

Tickets: Free event, RSVP by Wednesday 26 November
<https://events.humanitix.com/rewilding-prayer>

Volunteers for January Services

A big thank you to those who have already volunteered to help with services during January when some of our usual volunteers are away on well-earned breaks.

We are still seeking volunteers, particularly for 18 January, and need one of each position as follows: Leader, Communion, Reader, Morning Tea, and Support/Welcome at Door (25 Jan).

If you'd like to help and haven't already done so, please contact the Office to be added to the roster - office@toorakuc.org.au

TOORAK UNITING CHURCH GENERAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION

A General Meeting of the Congregation will be held at **9:45am on Sunday, 7 December 2025 in the Faichney Room.**

The agenda will be as follows:

1. Election of two representatives to Presbytery for 2026*
2. To consider and if thought fit to approve the Budget for 2026.
3. To consider and if thought fit to approve the appointment of a Church Auditor

Copies of the Budget will be sent out to members by email.
Please contact the Church Office if you would like a hard copy -
office@toorakuc.org.au.

*Nominations may be made on the form available from the Office.

Last TUC Sewing Circle of the Year! 24 November, Wettenhall Room

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. Coffee and tea will be provided, and you're welcome to join us for lunch in the Café afterwards. To RSVP, contact either
Margot 0409 361 877 or Angela 0407 887 596.

Ecumenical Advent Service

Our Ecumenical Celebration for the Season of Advent is at St John's Anglican Church on **Saturday, November 29 2025 at 7:00pm.**

This year's service will feature a Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols by the Choir of Trinity College, University of Melbourne. The Choir is internationally renowned and has featured on the ABC and BBC.

All are welcome.

November Diary Dates

Sun	16 Nov	10:15am	Sesquicentenary Service	Rev Sylvia
Sun	16 Nov	11:15am	Sesquicentenary Refreshments	Hall
Mon	17 Nov	10:30am	Exploring the Bible	Kinross Café
Tue	18 Nov	7:30pm	Exploring the Bible Online	Zoom
Wed	19 Nov	7:00pm	Handbells	Wettenhall Room
Sun	23 Nov	9:00am	Worship in the Round (HC)	Rev Sylvia
Sun	23 Nov	10:15am	Worship Service (HC)	Rev Sylvia
Sun	23 Nov	11:15am	Morning Tea	Faichney Room
Mon	24 Nov	10:30am	Exploring the Bible	Kinross Café
Tue	25 Nov	7:30pm	Exploring the Bible Online	Zoom
Wed	26 Nov	5:00pm	Worship Committee Meeting	Faichney Room
Wed	26 Nov	7:00pm	Handbells	Wettenhall Room
Thu	27 Nov	10:30am	Ecumenical Prayers for Unity	Church Space



The flowers in the Church today are given by the Davidson family
in remembrance of Frederick Davidson –
Husband, Father, Grandfather, Brother, Uncle, & Great Uncle,
a dearly missed pillar of our family who has gone before us.

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.

The way we produce the Orders of Service is changing, so you may notice some differences, and these changes will continue to evolve over time.