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

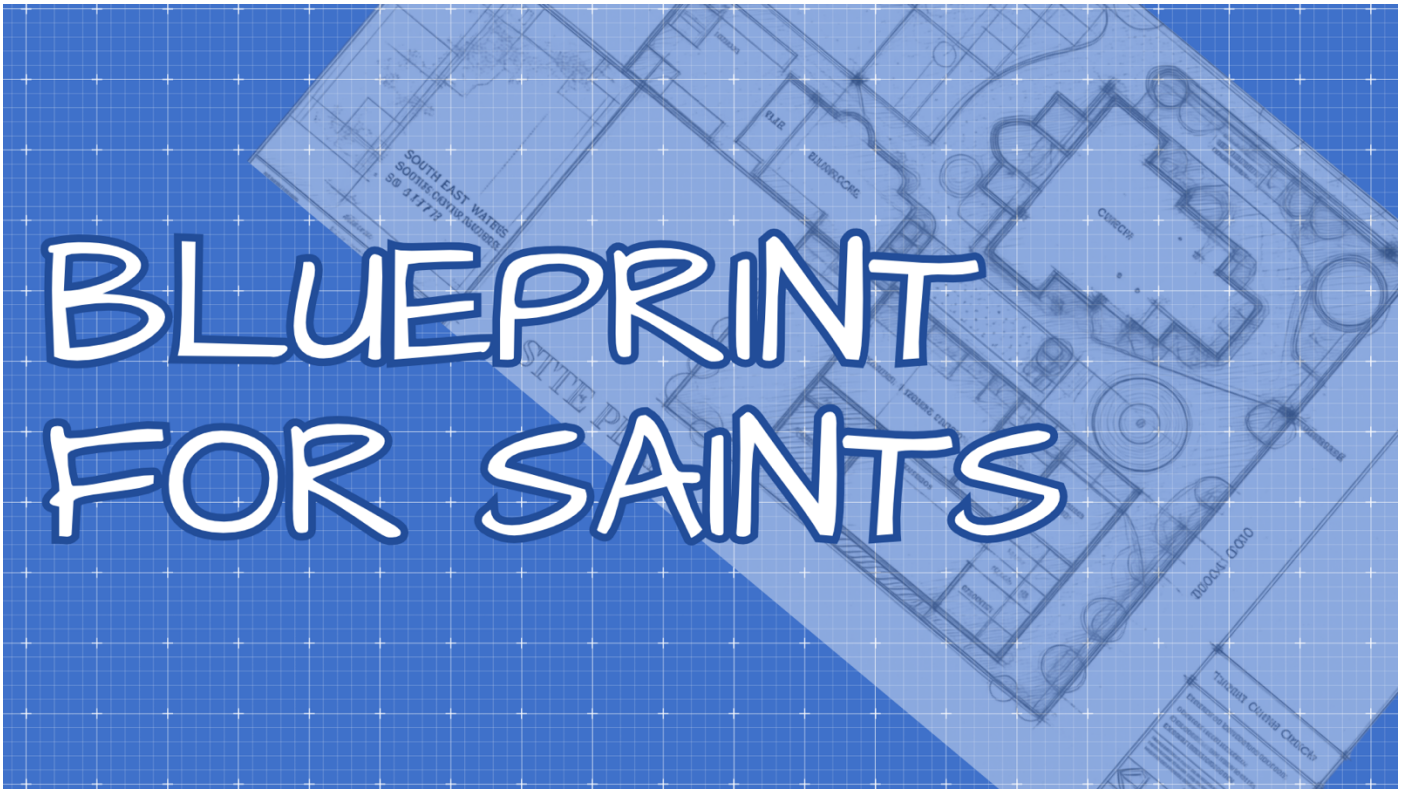
Order of Service

Sunday 1 November 2026

All Saints Day
and
Remembering those who died in the last year

10:15am Worship Service

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



Introit Blessed are the pure in heart
(Henry) Walford Davies 1869-1941

Blessed are the Pure in heart for they shall see their God.
The secret of the Lord is theirs, their soul is Christ's abode.
Still to the lowly soul, He doth himself impart
And for his cradle and his throne chooseth the pure in heart.

Welcome

Gathering Words

We gather in the presence of God and in the company of the saints.
We are surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses.

We remember those who prophesied, those who spoke out, those who made their witness for God.
We remember those who gave their lives, so every voice must be heard.

We give thanks for all who make their witness for God and the good of all.
We come with gratitude for courage and with hope for the days ahead, looking to God who is ever faithful.

With gratitude for living saints, with thankfulness for the purpose of faith, let us worship God.

Hymn 455 For all the saints
vv. 1-3, 8

Prayer of Approach

Spirit of the living God, awaken us to your steadfast presence. We come with grateful hearts for the gifts you bless us with. May we use them wisely to work with integrity and live in safety.
May the power and strength of your spirit that is present within us and amongst us, give us the courage to live joyfully, peacefully and with purpose, making a difference for ourselves and all that we encounter in our journey of life. Amen.

Reading Matthew 5: 1-12 (The Beatitudes) Adelle Merrall

Your word, O Lord, is a lamp to our feet; ***A light to our path.***

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then 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 righteousness’ sake, 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.

In this, is the word of the Lord. ***Thanks be to God!***

Anthem Holy is the true light
William Henry Harris 1883-1973

Holy is the true light, and passing wonderful, lending radiance to them that endured in the heat of the conflict: from Christ they inherit a home of unfading splendour, wherein they rejoice with gladness ever more. Alleluia.

Reflection Blueprint for Saints

The Jesus Creed by Rev Dr Lorraine Parkinson

I believe in Jesus’ vision of the best kind of world, made known to us in his teaching.

Jesus said:
Fortunate are the humble-minded;
They will live in the best possible world.

Fortunate are the mournful;
they will face the future with strength.

Fortunate are the non-violent;
they will govern the earth.

Fortunate are those whose passion is for justice;
they will receive justice.

Fortunate are the compassionate;
they will receive compassion.

Fortunate are the undivided in heart;
they will commit to the way of Jesus.

Fortunate are the peacemakers;
they will forgive and reconcile humanity.

Fortunate are those in danger for living Jesus' way;
they will be freed from fear to follow him.

I believe that all who follow him, will create a world according to Jesus.

Offering Crossing the Bar
Charles Hubert Hastings Parry 1848-1918

Sunset and evening star, and one clear call for me!
And may there be no moaning of the bar, when I put out to sea.
But such a tide as, moving, seems asleep, too full for sound and foam,
When that which drew from out the boundless deep turns again home.
Twilight and evening bell, and after that the dark!
And may there be no sadness of farewell when I embark;
For, though from out our bourne of time and place the flood may bear me far, I hope to see my Pilot face to face when I have crost the bar.

Prayer of Dedication

Gracious God, giver and provider of all things. We give you thanks, as we bring our gifts and offer our lives to do your work in the world. Bless our giving and our living for your service. Amen.

Community News & Notices

Hymn 470 Rejoice in God's saints

Remembering saints and celebrating life

Prayers for our life

God of new life, we give thanks for our loved ones who died in the last year and those who have been finally left to rest in our memorial garden.
We pray that what we do will bring life to others beyond this place, especially in places it is hard for life to survive.

(silence)

We give thanks for the life we experience in each one of us and we pray that the way we live and work together will encourage that life. In silence we pray for ourselves and for each other.

(silence)

We affirm that we see, experience, and appreciate the life in our midst.
We affirm that here in this place, and wherever we are, new life can emerge and grow, and that hope for life is to be cherished every day.

(silence)

We believe that in every person the Spirit breathes many gracious possibilities. ***We commit ourselves to living, loving and caring for each other, giving, receiving and sharing gifts and graces, as agents of the transforming love of God. Amen.***

Hymn 150 Ye watchers and ye holy ones

Benediction

Saints of God, go in peace, knowing that you are loved and you are enough to live life in its fullness.
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. Amen.

Postlude

Artwork: Sylvia Isaac

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.

Toorak Uniting Church Newsletter

Update 1 November 2026

update@toorakuc.org.au
03 9829 0300

Sunday services:
9am & 10:15am

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

Coffee Club - Friday 6 November

The next get together for our Coffee Club will be at 10:30 am this Friday (6 November). As Argyle House is being used to assist with Spire Restoration works, we will now meet in the Faichney Room.

All are welcome to join us for a cuppa and a friendly chat. We look forward to meeting you then - just turn up!

Exploring the Bible

Exploring the Bible sessions will be held as usual this coming week, on Monday 2 November in Argyle House at 10.30 am and on Tuesday 3 November (Cup Day), by Zoom at 7.30 pm.
Further information from Rev Peter, on pcwhitaker@icloud.com.

Christian Meditation

There will be no Christian Meditation on 3 November (Cup Day).
For more information, contact April at **lirpanotes@icloud.com**

Thanks

Thanks to all who assisted with last week's lunch after the combined service, and to Rob Ahin for co-ordinating.

Church Council secretary

This position is still vacant. The role involves sending the agenda and other meeting papers to the members of church council, bundling up the correspondence and meeting papers for distribution and passing on correspondence addressed to the secretary. It can, but does not need to, also involve taking and preparing meeting minutes. If you have the computer skills to carry out this role, Barbara would be delighted to hear from you. At present she carries out this task on top of full time service to the wider community.

Spire Appeal

Our concert helped, but there's still a long way to go! Donations to the Spire Appeal are welcome and can be tax deductible. See

https://www.toorakuc.org.au/spire-appeal

Oversight of church rosters

The smooth functioning of the 10:15 am service relies on a number of helpers - such as welcomers, readers, ushers, communion preparers, offering counters - each Sunday. Fiona Thomas has been doing a wonderful job coordinating the rosters for a number of years, but is relocating to the UK and is not in a position to continue. The coordinator needs to ensure that spaces are filled and to communicate with the office so that reminders can be sent. This role could be shared. Please let Rev Sylvia know if you or your team can assist with this vital support of our worshipping community.

Cross, Flag and Nation: Responding to Christian nationalism

Christian nationalism is often treated as an American story. In Europe, and here in Australia, it takes different forms. What does it look like? How should we respond? Visiting academic Dr Nick Spencer (Theos Thinktank, London) is gving a public lecture this topic on Monday 9 November, 7:30 pm, in person and online at the Centre for Theology and Ministry, 29 College Crescent Parkville.

Registration via https://events.humanitix.com/cross-flag-and-nation-the-many-faces-of-christian-nationalism

Introducing Surya Kriya yoga

A two morning program of Surya Kriya yoga conducted by Rakesh Chandra (Classical Hatha yoga teacher) will be held on Saturday 7 and Sunday 8 November 2026 at Armagh, 226 Kooyong Road, Toorak.

To learn more and register visit https://events.humanitix.com/hatha-yoga-program-surya-kriya

Enquires to rakesh.ragamalika@gmail.com. Also if you would be interested in regular Surya Kriya classes at TUC, please let Rakesh know.

Aged care fees and charges

Services Australia offer a variety of information sessions to help people understand the services and support available. The sessions cover a range of topics, but of interest may be an upcoming session at Kew Court House on 5 November about “Understanding Aged Care fees and charges”. For more information visit https://www.moniqueryan.com.au/services_australia_information_session_on_aged_care_fees_20261105

Faithful futures

The Faithful Futures Project is a collaborative effort between presbyteries and the Synod to discern priorities, direct resources and ensure we are equiped for the challenges and opportunities ahead. The project was approved at the Synod Meeting 2025.

A one-page summary is available setting out the five shared goals (copies were distributed last Sunday).

For more information, visit https://victas.uca.org.au/faithful-futures/

Diary Dates

Sun	1 Nov	9.00 am	Worship with Conversation	Rev Sylvia
Sun	1 Nov	10.15 am	Worship Service	Rev Sylvia
			followed by morning tea	Faichney
Mon	2 Nov	10.30 am	Exploring the Bible	Argyle
Mon	2 Nov	4.00 pm	Renew 603 meeting	Wettenhall
Tues	3 Nov	All Day	TUC closed for public holiday	Office
Tues	3 Nov	7.30 pm	Exploring the Bible	Zoom
Wed	4 Nov	7.00 pm	Handbells	Wettenhall
Thur	5 Nov	7.30 pm	Church Council	Faichney
Fri	6 Nov	10.30 am	Coffee Club	Faichney
Sun	8 Nov	9.00 am	Worship with Conversation	Rev Sylvia
Sun	8 Nov	10.15 am	Worship Service	Rev Sylvia
			followed by morning tea	Faichney
Mon	9 Nov	10.30 am	Exploring the Bible	Faichney
Tues	10 Nov	7.30 pm	Exploring the Bible	Zoom
Tues	10 Nov	7.30 pm	Christian Meditation	Zoom