



**TOORAK
UNITING
CHURCH**

We are a people
who follow Jesus.
His words and actions
inform our living.

03 9829 0300
office@toorakuc.org.au

To protect our community, if you have Covid or flu-like symptoms please wear a mask during worship, particularly when singing. Maintaining a distance of 1.5m from others is also recommended.

Order of Service

Sunday 12 January, 2025

Summer Sundays Service

9:30am

Ministers:

Rev Sylvia Akauola-Tongotongo

Rev John Edwards

Baptism,

**THE AFFIRMATION OF
AT-ONE-MENT**

Processional

Welcome

Call to Worship

Come as you are, beloved people of God.

We are loved as we are, not as we believe we should be.

May we listen with ears of hope; May we hear with ears of wisdom;
May we learn with hearts of faith, as we are moved by the word.

May the Spirit open our minds and souls to the truth.

Hymn 107 Sing praise and thanksgiving

Prayer of Awareness

Sacred Spirit, we give thanks and celebrate your presence with us. You are one with us, the God who chooses to be in the midst of our everyday ordinary life. We pray that as we become more fully aware of your presence and one-ness with us. We celebrate with thanksgiving, that you are always with us and we are never alone. Amen.

Reading Luke 15-17, 21-22 Leonie Dillon

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, 'I baptise you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.'

The Baptism of Jesus

Now when all the people were baptised, and when Jesus also had been baptised and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'

For the stories of Jesus affirming our sacred realities

We give thanks.

Hymn 547 Be thou my vision O Lord of my heart

Reflection Baptism, The Affirmation of At-one-ment

Offering and Dedication

In gratitude for the blessing in our lives, we offer our gifts, talents and resources to support the work of the church. May our living and our giving bring hope to others. Amen.

Community News

Prayers of the People

Hymn Word of God in human language

*Word of God in human language
For this time and in our tongue
Tell anew the ageless story
Ever ancient, ever young
May our heart receive the message
Of God's faithful, loving care
May our lives respond in action
Living deed and living prayer
All around the world is hungry
For the liberating Word
Food for spirit as for body
To be tasted, felt and heard
It is thus the Word encounters
At God's own appointed hour
Bringing knowledge and perception
Of true justice, peace and power
So God's voice continues speaking
In the words we can't deny
Sounding out across the ages!
Will we answer or defy?
As the call becomes still clearer
Witness that the word shall last
May we follow with commitment
In the present as the past*

Words by Jane Parker Hube
Tune: Austria

Blessing

As we leave worship today, go confidently and in peace, knowing that you are loved and you are enough to live life in its fullness.

And may you continue to be blessed with:

the passion for living and loving;

the courage for daring and hoping;

the freedom for growing and changing; and

the strength for enduring. Amen

Recessional



Your offering will be gratefully received via direct credit to
Account Name: Toorak Church
BSB: 033086 Account Number: 911892

Welcome to Toorak Uniting Church

Toorak Uniting Church acknowledges and pays respect to the past, present and future Traditional Custodians and Elders of this nation and the continuation of cultural, spiritual and educational practices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander 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.