



**TOORAK  
UNITING  
CHURCH**

We are a people who follow  
the way of Jesus of Nazareth.

His words and actions  
inform our living today.

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# Order of Service

**10:15am Combined Worship Service**

**Easter 6**

**National Volunteer Week – Connecting Communities**

**Minister: Rev Sylvia Akauola-Tongotongo**

**Director of Music: Dylan Quinlan-Baskett**

**CONNECTING  
COMMUNITIES**

**Introit**                Breathe on me, breath of God  
David Evans    1874 – 1948

*Breathe on me, breath of God, fill me with life anew,  
that I may love all that you love and do what you would do.*

## **Welcome**

### **Call to Worship**

We are the people of God:  
***called this day, as on every day  
to walk in brave faith  
towards each other and the world.***

We are the people of God:  
***called on this national volunteer week to recognise the power of  
volunteering in bringing people together, improving wellbeing and  
enriching communities.***

We are the people of God: called in freedom and in hope,  
to travel deeply following the way of Jesus.  
***May we open our hearts and minds to worship in spirit and in truth. May  
we be more alert and aware, of God's presence within us and around us.***

**Hymn 93** Praise the Lord you heavens adore him

**Reading** Hebrews 10: 21-25 Bronwyn Davis-Jones  
(New Living Translation)

May the ear of our heart be attentive to these words  
***In these words may we hear the spirit.***

And since we have a great High Priests who rules over God's people, let us go right into the presence of God, with true hearts fully trusting him. For our evil consciences have been sprinkled with Christ's blood to make us clean, and our bodies have been washed with pure water.

Without wavering, let us hold tightly to the hope we say we have, for God can be trusted to keep his promise. Think of ways to encourage one another to outbursts of love and good deeds. And let us not neglect our meeting

together, as some people do, but encourage and warn each other, especially now that the day of his coming back is drawing near.

**Choir Anthem**      If ye love me  
Philip Wilby    1949 -

*If ye love me, keep my commandments, and I will pray the Father, /  
and He shall give you another comforter,  
that He may abide with you for ever.  
E'en the Spirit of truth. And Ye know Him, for He dwelleth with you  
and shall be in you. I will not leave you comfortless. I will come to you.*

**Reading**    John 15:9 - 17

I have loved you even as the Father has loved me. Remain in my love. When you obey me, you remain in my love, just as I obey my Father and remain in his love. I have told you this so that you will be filled with my joy. Yes, your joy will overflow! I command you to love each other in the same way that I love you. And here is how to measure it – the greatest love is shown when people lay down their lives for their friends. You are my friends if you obey me. I no longer call you servants, because a master doesn't confide in his servants. Now you are my friends, since I have told you everything the Father told me. You didn't choose me. I chose you. I appointed you to go and produce fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask for, using my name. I command you to love each other.

For the words of Jesus that feed and transform our faith

***We give thanks.***

**Reflection**      Connecting Communities

**Hymn 584**      Just as I am without one plea (1,2,5,6)

## Recognition of Church Council, Committees and Volunteers

*(Chairperson of Church Council)*

We celebrate and give thanks for the ways the power of volunteering brings us together as a church family, building and connecting our communities with stronger relationships. We acknowledge that we are standing on the shoulders of those that have volunteered in this place for the last 150 years.

So together we remind ourselves:

There are diverse gifts;

***but it is the same Spirit who gives them.***

There are different ways of serving God:

***but it is the same Lord who is served.***

God works through people in different ways:

***but it is the same God whose purpose is achieved through them all.***

Each one of us is given a gift by the Spirit:

***and there is no gift without its corresponding service.***

There is one ministry of Christ:

***and in this ministry we all share.***

Together we are the body of Christ:

***and individually members of it.***

May we continue to build a loving and welcoming community following the way of Christ. **Amen.**

**Hymn 473**      Community of Christ

**Offering**              O Lord, give thy Holy Spirit

Thomas Tallis 1505 – 1585

*O Lord, give thy Holy Spirit into our hearts,  
and lighten our understanding  
that we may dwell in fear of thy name,  
all the days of our lives and that we may know thee,  
the only true God,  
Jesus Christ whom thou hast sent.*

## **Prayer for the Offering**

***Everyday offers us the opportunity to make a difference not just in our own lives but in the lives of others. May our gratitude for life be expressed in our generosity. May our faith be expressed in commitment to justice. May our belief in the future find expression in simple acts of kindness lived out in our ordinary lives, Amen.***

## **Community Notices**

### **Recognition of New Members**

*(Chairperson of Congregation)*

## **Prayers of the People**

### **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.***

**Hymn**      One more step along the world I go      (Sydney Carter)

*One more step along the world I go.*

*One more step along the world I go.*

*From the old things to the new*

*keep me traveling along with you.*

*And it's from the old I travel to the new.*

*Keep me traveling along with you.*

*Round the corners of the world I turn.*

*More and more about the world I learn.*

*All the new things that I see*

*you'll be looking at along with me.*

*And it's from the old I travel to the new.*

*Keep me traveling along with you.*

*As I travel through the bad and good  
keep me traveling the way I should.  
Where I see no way to go,  
you'll be telling me the way, I know.  
And it's from the old I travel to the new.  
Keep me traveling along with you.*

*Give me courage when the world is rough.  
Keep me loving though the world is tough.  
Leap and sing in all I do.  
Keep me traveling along with you.  
And it's from the old I travel to the new.  
Keep me traveling along with you.*

*You are older than the world can be.  
You are younger than the life in me.  
Ever old and ever new,  
keep me traveling along with you.  
And it's from the old I travel to the new.  
Keep me traveling along with you.*

### **Benediction**

May we go confidently and in peace, knowing that we are loved and we are enough to live life fully and responsibly.

***And may the Lord continue to bless us 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.***

### **Postlude**

Dialogue sur la Grands Jeux  
Louis-Nicolas Clérambault 1676-1749





Your offering will be greatly 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 Services is changing, so you may notice some differences, and these changes will continue to evolve over time.**