



**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 29 March, 2026

10:15am Worship Service

Lent 6 – Palm Sunday

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

*From palm leaves
to human palms*

Introit

Pueri Hebraeorum
Franz Peter Schubert

1797-1828

Pueri Hebraeorum portantes ramos olivarum obviamerunt Domino clamantes et dicentes, Hosanna in excelsis.

The Hebrew children bearing olive branches went forth to meet the Lord crying out and saying, Hosanna in the highest.

Welcome & Community Notices

Gathering for Worship

The waves of the ocean cry out in joy

The trees wave their branches in delight

The myriad birds burst forth in song, in the city and countryside

The lips of children shout sweet hosannas

For Christ the King of liberating truth is among the people

So humanly divine and divinely human, we gather in faith to worship the sacred in spirit and in truth.

Hymn 572 O thou who camest from above

Prayer of Preparation

We pray for:

Eyes to see the best in people;

A heart that forgives the worst;

A mind that forgets the bad; and

A soul that never loses faith in God. Amen.

Reading

Matthew 21: 1-11

Alison Legge

When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, just say this, 'The Lord needs them.' And he will send them immediately." This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet, saying, "Tell the daughter of Zion, Look, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey." The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; they brought the donkey and the colt, and put

their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!" When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, "Who is this?" The crowds were saying, "This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee."

For the stories of Jesus that strengthen and transform our life and faith, ***we give thanks.***

Hymn 348 Ride on, ride on in majesty

A Poem for Palm Sunday

What Have We Learned by Loyd C. Taylor, Sr., 2015

They shouted with praises, reaching the sky,
Pushing and shoving to see Jesus pass by,
Crying, "Hosanna, hosanna, glory to the King!
He comes to us today, great joy He doth bring."

They threw down palm leaves, covering the way,
Making a clear path for Him to travel that day,
Raising joyful voices, as praises filled the air,
Their day had come, God answered prayer!

But in a short time they changed their chant,
From joyful noise to a mob's hate-filled rant,
From Hosanna, hosanna, as when He was praised;
To crucify Him! Crucify Him, as their anger blazed!

In disbelief, we might question why they turned?
But maybe the question is, "What have we learned?"

Reflection From palm leaves to human palms

Offering Hosanna to the Son of David
 Luc Jakobs

1956-

*Hosanna filio David benedictus qui venit in nómine Dómini. Rex Israël.
Hosánna in excélsis.*

Hosanna to the Son of David.

Blessed be He that comes in the name of the Lord.

Blessed be the King that comes in the name of the Lord.

Peace in heaven and glory in the highest heavens.

Hosanna in the highest heavens.

Prayer of Dedication

In gratitude for the blessings in our lives, we offer our gifts, talents and resources to support and enhance the sharing of the gospel. May our living and our giving continue to be agents and channels of faith, hope and love in our communities. Amen.

Hymn 353 The glory of our king was seen

Prayers of the People

We give thanks for life and put our trust in all its possibilities for good - for our own good, for the good of all people, and for the Earth.

We celebrate the honest search for meaning, purpose, truth and wholeness shown by people of faith through the ages, and join them in the quest;

May our minds be open with curiosity and our hearts filled with empathy.

We recognise in Jesus a man of integrity, insight and vision who continually challenges our willingness to settle for too little, both in ourselves and in the world around us;

We find in the Christ of faith, the archetype of love, grace and transformation, a source of strength, a focus for wholeness, an inspiration for new beginnings, and a spur to be all we are capable of;

May our minds be open with curiosity and our hearts filled with empathy.

We affirm the communities of trust, love, faith and hope that widen our understanding, extend our empathy and drive our creativity, affirming our belonging together to the family of humanity. In these ways, and the dynamic of their interlinking, we experience your reality Spirit of God with us. In you, we put our trust, now and into the future.

May our minds be open with curiosity and our hearts filled with empathy.

In silence we pray for ourselves, our families, our church, and the world.

(silence)

May our minds be open with curiosity and our hearts filled with empathy. We pray together in the words Jesus taught us:

The 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 351 Lift high the cross

Benediction

Go confidently in peace, for Jesus the Christ rides with us. And go boldly in faith, for we are led by the Spirit.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all, evermore, Amen.

Postlude Ride on, King Jesus

arr. Moses Hogan

1957-2003

Ride on, King Jesus, Ride on, the conquering king.

Oh ride on, King Jesus, ride on. No man no can a-hinder thee.

I was but young when I began.

But now my race is almost done.

King Jesus rides a milk white horse.

The river of Jordan he did cross.

He's the king, and the Lord of all. He's the first and the last.

He's the Lord of Lords. Jesus is the Prince of Peace.

No man can a-hinder thee. Oh ride on King Jesus,

Ride on just ride on Jesus.

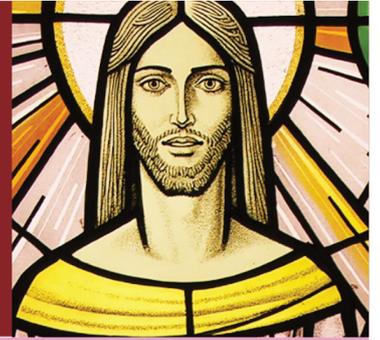
Ride on, King Jesus, ride on, Just ride on, Jesus. Ride on, King Jesus.

Toorak Uniting Church Newsletter
Update 29 March 2026

office@toorakuc.org.au
03 9829 0300

Sunday services:
9am & 10:15am

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



Kinross Café

Church Council has determined that Kinross Café will cease operation just before Easter on **Thursday, 2 April**.

Since coming under the management of TUC in mid 2024, the Café has had both joys and challenges, including the recent move to Argyle House. Operation of the current model of a commercial café is no longer financially viable, however we would very much like to continue to use Argyle House as a space of hospitable welcome for all and are seeking options for alternative uses and a new path forward.

We sincerely appreciate all your support of the Café over the last 18 months and understand that the closure will disrupt some activities, but please note that we are seeking to minimise the impact for TUC groups.

Holy Week at TUC

Please join us for our Holy Week services on the following dates:

Maundy Thursday, **2 April at 7pm**

Good Friday, **3 April at 10am**, followed by the Ecumenical Witness Walk

Easter Sunday, **5 April at 10:15am**

Ecumenical Good Friday Witness Walk

The Ecumenical Good Friday Witness Walk is taking place on **Friday, 3 April** following TUC's Good Friday Worship Service. The walk will commence at **St John's Anglican Church at 11:30am** and end at TUC approximately 45 minutes later where we will have fellowship and a morning tea of Hot Cross Buns in the Hall.

We will need some volunteers to prepare and serve the buns, so please speak with Rev Sylvia or Stan Laugher if you're able to help.

Change to Exploring the Bible

The regular Zoom-based Exploring the Bible group will **not meet on Tuesday evenings until after Easter, 31 March and 7 April**.

A Day of Beautiful Things | 10am-3pm on Saturday, March 28 in the Wettenhall Room

Jill Nazar, Pamela Dean, and Robyn Cartwright will be holding a pop-up market in the Wettenhall Room featuring cashmere dressing gowns, cardigans, capes, baby blankets, embroidered jackets and more along with distinctive and unique jewellery and stunning artificial floral arrangements. Entry is by gold coin donation.

The sale of Robyn's floral arrangements will continue on **Sunday, March 29 from 9:45am-12:45pm** and Jill & Pamela are also exhibiting at St Paul's Church in Canterbury on Thursday, March 26 from 10am-3pm. More information about the day and the exhibitors contact details can be found on the flyers at the back of the Church and the table outside the Office.

Educate 10,000 initiative

In these times of heightened antisemitism, TUC's Church Council draws members' attention to the Jewish Community Council of Victoria's "Educate 10,000" initiative which aims to promote social cohesion and understanding of Australian Jewish identity and history, and to combat antisemitism.

As part of the JCCV's initiative, the Jewish Museum of Australia is offering free 2-hour introductory sessions at **1:30pm on Wednesdays and 10:00am on Thursdays until 30 April, 2026**. Sessions include an introduction to Jewish life and community demographics, a Museum tour, and an introduction to historical and current forms of antisemitism.

Further details can be found at <https://jccv.org.au/>. To book into a session, please visit <https://shorturl.at/rn7K1>. If you do attend, please let James Barber know via jbarber@vicbar.com.au as Church Council would like to be able to report to the JCCV how many of the TUC Congregation have participated.

March - April Diary Dates

Sun	29 Mar	9:00am	Worship in the Round	Rev Sylvia
Sun	29 Mar	10:15am	Worship Service	Rev Sylvia
Sun	29 Mar	11:15am	Morning Tea	Hall
Mon	30 Mar	10:30am	Exploring the Bible	Kinross Café
Tue	31 Mar	7:30pm	Christian Meditation Group	Church Space
Wed	1 Apr	7:00pm	Handbells	Wettenhall Room
Thu	2 Apr	7:00pm	Maundy Thursday Service	Rev John
Fri	3 Apr	10:00am	Good Friday Service	Rev Sylvia
Fri	3 Apr	11:30am	Ecumenical Witness Walk	St John's
Fri	3 Apr	12:15pm	Witness Walk Refreshments	TUC Hall
Sun	5 Apr	10:15am	Easter Sunday Service	Rev Sylvia
Sun	5 Apr	11:15am	Morning Tea	Hall



Artwork: Angela Abbott

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.