



**TOORAK  
UNITING  
CHURCH**

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

03 9829 0300 office@toorakuc.org.au  
www.toorakuc.org.au

Masks are still recommended, especially when singing,  
and maintaining 1.5m between you and the next person is advised.

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## Order of Service

**Sunday 19 March 2023**  
**Worship Leader**  
**Conductor**  
**Organist**

**10:15 am Worship Service**  
**Rev Peter Whitaker**  
**Ursula Paez**  
**Tristan Sumarna**



*Romanesque mural painting, Italian, mainly 11th century*

- Prelude**            **Erbarm' Dich Mein, O Herre Gott**  
*J.L. Krebs 1713-1780*
- Introit**            **When Grief Is Raw**  
*John L Bell 1949 -*
- Welcome and Announcements**

# THE GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE IN THIS PLACE

## Call to Worship

In the beginning God created the Heavens and the Earth.  
The earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the  
surface of the deep.

***And the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.***

In the beginning God said: "let there be light," and there was light.

***And God saw that the light was good  
and He separated the light from the darkness.***

In the beginning was life, and that life was the light of the world.

***And the darkness has not understood the light.***

The true light that gives light to everyone has come into the world.

***The Father, His one and only Son, and the Spirit of Truth  
are with us here and now.***

**Hymn 148**     All things praise you, Lord most high

## Prayers of Approach

## THE SERVICE OF THE WORD

Your word is a lamp to our feet  
***and a light to our path.***

**Reading**     John 9: 24-41

Tasma Wischer

So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, "Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner." He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?" Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he

comes from.” The man answered, “Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.” They answered him, “You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?” And they drove him out.

Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” He answered, “And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.” Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.” He said, “Lord, I believe.” And he worshipped him. Jesus said, “I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind.” Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, “Surely we are not blind, are we?” Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, ‘We see,’ your sin remains.”

**Anthem**      Thou, Lord, Our Refuge

*Felix Mendelssohn 1809-1847*

**Reading**      Ephesians 5: 8-14

For once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light—for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, “Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.”

Lord, may your word live in us:

***and bear much fruit to your glory.***

**Hymn 246**      Christ is the world’s light, he and none other

**Sermon**      Live as Children of Light.

**Hymn 643**      I want to walk as a child of the light

# THE SERVICE OF RESPONSE

## Prayers of the People

## Dedication of Offering

**Aria**                    Then Shall the Righteous Shine Forth, from "Elijah"  
*Felix Mendelssohn 1809-1847*

Soloist: James Penn

**HOLY COMMUNION**    (Refer to separate Holy Communion document)

**Hymn 530**            Now let us from this table rise

## Benediction

**Postlude**            Prelude in C Major            *BWV531    J.S. Bach 1685-1750*

Your offering will be gratefully received via direct credit to:

Account Name: Toorak Uniting Church  
BSB: 033086    Account Number: 911892



The flowers in the church today are from Julia Zhou.

### **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.