



**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 7 December, 2025

Second Sunday of Advent

10:15am Worship Service

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

**Decluttering
creates
peace**

Introit The glory of the Lord shall be revealed
 Hal Harold Hopson 1933-

The glory of the LORD will be revealed, and all earth will see it together.

Welcome and Greeting

Lighting of the Advent Candle of Peace

Call to Worship

Sowing and reaping, coming and going
God is working in us.

Weeping and singing, working and praying
God is working in us.

Travelling and resting, learning and loving
God is working in us.

In our watching, in our waiting,
God is alive in us, and we are glad.

In our questioning, in our hoping,
God is alive in us, and we are empowered.

In our dreaming, in our dancing,
God is alive in us, and we are encouraged.

In our travelling, in our homecoming,
God is alive in us, and we are at peace.

Hymn 265 O come, O come, Emmanuel
 vv 1-3

Prayer of Approach

(All)

***Blessed are You, Beloved,
Who shows me the Way and accompanies me on the journey.
May I live the day's unfolding with compassion
and foster faith in the One who is All.***

***Enveloped in Your Light,
may I be a beacon to those in search of Light.***

***Sheltered in Your Peace,
may I offer shelter to those in need of peace.***

***Embraced by Your Presence,
so may I be present to others.
Amen.***

Reading Matthew 3: 1-12

Adelle Merrall

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.'" Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptised by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. "I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

For these words of witness and Jesus the Word
Thanks be to God.

Anthem Advent Prose (Rorate Caeli)
Ed. Stephen John Cleobury

1948-2019

*Pour down, O heavens, from above;
And let the skies rain down righteousness.*

*Turn your fierce anger from us, O Lord; and remember not our sins
for ever. Your holy cities have become a desert, Zion a wilderness,*

Jerusalem a desolation; our holy and beautiful house, where our fathers praised you.

We have sinned and become like one who is unclean; we have all withered like a leaf, and our iniquities like the wind have swept us away. You have hidden your face from us; and abandoned us to our iniquities.

You are my witnesses, says the Lord; and my servant whom I have chosen; that you may know me and believe me. I myself am the Lord, and none but I can deliver; what my hand holds, none can snatch away.

Comfort my people, comfort them; my salvation shall not be delayed. I have swept your offences away like a cloud; fear not, for I will save you. I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Redeemer.

Reflection Decluttering creates peace

Hymn 270 On Jordan's bank

Offering Song of Zechariah
Morning Prayer No 4 Officium Divinum
Margaret Rizza 1929-

*Benedíctus Dóminus, Deus Israël,
quia visitávit, et fecit redemptionem plebis suæ*

*Bless the Lord, the God of Israel, who has come to set us free.
He has raised for us a Saviour sprung from royal David's tree.
Through his prophets God had spoken of the hope the Christ would
bring; of his faithfulness and mercy let each generation sing.*

*Long ago God made a promise he would set his people free,
that in all our life and worship we might know true liberty,
to be holy, to be righteous in his sight, to be holy and righteous
throughout our days; now this child will be a herald making ready all
God's ways.*

*Let all people know salvation through forgiveness of their sin,
as our God in his compassion bids a shining dawn begin.
So may all who dwell in darkness see the shadows disappear
while he guides our feet in pathways where his peace is ever near.*

*To the Father be all glory with the Spirit and the Son,
as it was, is now and shall be while eternal ages run. Amen.*

(Luke 1: 68-79)

Prayer of Dedication

***Loving God, we bring our gifts and pray that what we give will
be used where it's most needed. May our time and talents gifted
from you be our gifts to the world in the most helpful ways. May
we listen and respond to your guiding us to give generously.
In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.***

Community News

Prayers of the People

Responses: May steadfast love and faithfulness meet;
May justice and peace unite.

Hymn 283 Long ago, prophets knew

Blessing

Postlude

Toorak Uniting Church Newsletter

Update 7 December 2025

office@toorakuc.org.au
03 9829 0300

Sunday services:
9am & 10:15am

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



Food for Friends Appeal 2025

Our annual Food for Friends appeal of the Toorak Ecumenical Movement is upon us. These funds enable us to assist local agencies in providing support to those in need at this time of the year. We use your donations to purchase nonperishable groceries and personal items to supply to our chosen charities for sharing with their clients.

Please make your donation direct to:

Toorak Ecumenical Fund

BSB: 063 177 Account Number: 1002 6147

Toorak Branch, Commonwealth Bank of Australia

Please mark this donation Food 4 Friends.

Alternatively, you may place cash in the marked bowl at the back of the Church at the end of today's service, or use an appeal envelope available from the back of the Church. This envelope may be placed in the Offertory plate during the Service, or at the end of the service in the marked bowl at the back of the Church.

In the past year, TUC through Food for Friends, has delivered goods valued at \$6,800 to support those in need. We thank you for your support and generosity.

Nine Lessons and Carols Service Special Morning Tea

The Nine Lessons and Carols service will be held at 10:15am on 14 December, followed by a special morning tea in the Faichney Room.

It is a Combined Worship Service and there will be no 9am service.

Please bring a plate to share.

Christmas Party for TUC Staff and Wider Community 4pm - 6pm Wednesday, 17 December

After a delightful event last year, we will be having a Christmas party in the Courtyard at which we will thank our dedicated staff (who in many cases are the public face of TUC), and celebrate our engagement with the wider community.

TUC congregation members are encouraged to bring a plate of Christmas party fare to share.

Sammy Stamp - Please keep your festive stamps!

The Uniting Church Adult Fellowship Stamp Fund, better known as Sammy Stamp, coordinates the collection and sale of stamps to offer grants for mission and development work in Australia and overseas. Sammy Stamp has raised over \$1.2 million since 1977, with the most recent projects benefiting being aid to Zambia, Frontier Services Bush Chaplains, and the Uniting Vic.Tas Winter Appeal.

Please help support this worthy venture by keeping any stamps you receive over the festive season. We look forward to collecting any used stamps (on or off envelopes) during February, or you can also drop them into the Office any time throughout the year.

TOORAK UNITING CHURCH GENERAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION

A General Meeting of the Congregation will be held at **9:45am on Sunday, 7 December 2025 in the Faichney Room.**

The agenda will be as follows:

1. Election of two representatives to Presbytery for 2026*
2. To consider and if thought fit to approve the Budget for 2026.
3. To consider and if thought fit to approve the appointment of Mr Ahmad Samadi, Chartered Accountant and Registered Company Auditor, of Accru Melbourne, as Church Auditor.

Copies of the Budget have been sent out to members by email and can be found in hard copy form at the back of the Church.

*Nominations have been received from Chris Begg and Alexandra Legge. Any further nominations may be made on the form available from the Church Office.

Office Closure

The TUC Office will be closed from Tuesday, 23 December - Monday, 12 January inclusive. We will reopen on Tuesday, 13 January and operate to the usual hours of Monday 12 - 4pm, Tuesday - Friday 9am - 4pm.

December Diary Dates

Sun	07 Dec	9:00am	Worship in the Round	Rev Sylvia
Sun	07 Dec	9:45am	Congregational Meeting	Faichney Room
Sun	07 Dec	10:15am	Worship Service	Rev Sylvia
Sun	07 Dec	11:15am	Morning Tea	Faichney Room
Mon	08 Dec	10:30am	Exploring the Bible	Kinross Café
Tue	09 Dec	7:30pm	Exploring the Bible Online	Zoom
Thu	11 Dec	7:30pm	Church Council	Faichney Room
Sun	14 Dec	10:15am	9 Lessons and Carols Service	Rev Sylvia
Sun	14 Dec	11:15am	Special Morning Tea	Faichney Room



The flowers in the Church today are provided by Margaret Billson.

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.

The way we produce the Orders of Service is changing, so you may notice some differences, and these changes will continue to evolve over time.