



**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](mailto:office@toorakuc.org.au)

# Order of Service

**Sunday 11 October 2026**

**Pentecost 20**

**10:15am Worship Service**

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



1926-2013

## Welcome and Community Notices

## Call to Worship (Psalm 106: 1-5)

Who can proclaim the mighty acts of the Lord  
***or fully declare his praise?***

Blessed are they who maintain justice,  
***who constantly do what is right.***

Remember me, O Lord, when you show favour to your people,  
***come to my aid when you save them.***

That I may enjoy the prosperity of your chosen ones,  
***That I may share in the joy of your nation and join your inheritance in giving praise. Amen.***

**Hymn 693**    Come as you are

## Prayer of Approach

***Gracious God, we give thanks for the gift of life, and your abundant grace and provision that sustain us each day. May we be more aware of your presence, so that we may find deep peace within us. May our hearts and minds be opened to the infinite possibilities that we are blessed with. And may we be grateful always. Amen.***

|                |                  |           |
|----------------|------------------|-----------|
| <b>Reading</b> | Matthew 22: 1-10 | Tim Brown |
|----------------|------------------|-----------|

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: ‘The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, “Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.”

But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, maltreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, "The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet." Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

For the words of Jesus that continue to teach us, ***we give thanks.***

**Anthem**      The Lord is my shepherd  
Howard Goodall

1958-

*The Lord is my shepherd I shall not want,  
He maketh me to lie down in green pastures,  
He leadeth me beside the still waters.  
The Lord is my shepherd I shall not want,  
He maketh me to lie down in green pastures,  
He leadeth me beside the still waters.  
Yea though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death I will fear  
no evil,  
Yea though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death I will fear  
no evil,  
For you are with me, You will comfort me  
For you are with me, You will comfort me, Comfort me.  
Surely goodness and mercy,  
shall follow me all the days of my life,  
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.  
Forever, Forever, Forever.*

**Reflection**      The Inclusive Invitation

**Poem**

### **The Invitation**

It doesn't interest me what you do for a living.  
I want to know what you ache for, and if you dare to dream of  
meeting your heart's longing.

It doesn't matter to me how old you are.  
I want to know if you will risk looking like a fool for love, for your  
dreams, for the adventure of being alive.

It doesn't interest me what planets are squaring your moon.  
I want to know if you have touched the center of your own sorrow, if  
you have been opened by life's betrayals or have become shriveled  
and closed from fear of further pain!

I want to know if you can sit with pain, mine or your own, without  
moving to hide it, fade it, or fix it. I want to know if you can be with  
joy, mine or your own, if you can dance with wildness and let ecstasy  
fill you to the tips of your fingers and toes without cautioning us to be  
careful, be realistic, or to remember the limitations of being human.

It doesn't interest me if the story you are telling me is true,  
I want to know if you disappoint another to be true to yourself; if you  
can bear the accusation of betrayal and not betray your own soul.  
I want to know if you can be trustworthy. I want to know if you can  
see beauty even when it is not a pretty day, and if you can source  
your life from (your) God's presence. I want to know if you can live  
with failure, yours and mine,  
And still stand on the edge of the lake and shout to the silver of the  
full moon, "yes!"

It doesn't interest me to know where you live or how much money  
you have. I want to know if you can get up after the night of grief and  
despair, weary and bruised to the bone, and do what needs to be  
done for the children.

It doesn't interest me who you are or how you came to be here. I  
want to know if you will stand in the center of the fire with me and not  
shrink back.

It doesn't interest me where or what or with whom you have studied. I  
want to know what sustains you from the inside when all else falls  
away. I want to know if you can be alone with yourself, and if you  
truly like the company you keep in empty moments.

*By Oriah Mountain Dreamer, A Native American Indian Elder*

**Hymn 136**     There's a wideness in God's mercy  
vv. 1, 3-5

## Prayers of the People

### 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.***

**Offering**      O Sacrum Convivium - O sacred banquet  
Malcolm Archer 1952-

*O sacrum convivium, in quo Christus sumitur recolitur memoria  
passionis ejus;  
mens impletur gratia, et futurae gloriae nobis pignus datur. Alleluja.  
Amen.*

*[O sacred banquet, in which Christ is received, the memory of his  
passion is renewed,  
the mind filled with grace, and a promise of future glory given to us.  
Alleluia. Amen.]*

### Prayer of Dedication

***Generous God, we offer our lives and our gifts to be channels of  
your love and grace in the world.  
Bless our giving and our living. Amen.***

**Hymn 572**      O thou who camest from above

### Blessing

Go confidently, in peace, faith, hope, and love, knowing that we are  
loved and blessed with enough to live life with our best.

***May we have the passion for living and loving; courage for  
daring and hoping; freedom for growing and changing; and the  
strength for enduring. Amen.***

### Postlude

Toorak Uniting Church Newsletter

# Update 11 October 2026

[update@toorakuc.org.au](mailto:update@toorakuc.org.au)  
03 9829 0300

Sunday services:  
9am & 10:15am

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



## **Music to Inspire Concert**

**Our concert is this Sunday, 11 October, 3 pm.**

We're looking forward to an inspiring afternoon with timeless vocal, choral and instrumental classics spanning a variety of moods and styles. Join us afterwards for excellent refreshments.

It's not too late to book (and make a donation) on Trybooking, but it will also be possible to make a donation at the door.

<https://www.trybooking.com/au/event/1649849>

## **Music to Inspire Concert - afternoon tea**

Don't forget our request for assistance in providing biscuits, cakes, and slices for our post concert refreshments.

We look forward to your help and to seeing you!

If you have any questions please contact Christine Brown.

## **Spire Appeal**

Donations to the Spire Appeal are most welcome! If you wish, they can be tax deductible. All the details are on the TUC website. See

<https://www.toorakuc.org.au/spire-appeal>

## **Latest edition of the TUC Directory**

The latest edition of the TUC Directory has now been emailed to those who have chosen to have their details included.

If you would like a hard copy, please let the TUC office know.

## **18 October – Communion Sunday**

Each month on the third Sunday (next week) we come together to celebrate Communion. On these Sundays we have the opportunity to donate towards the four Outreach programs we support. They are The Homework Hub in Pakenham, The Cranbourne Food Truck, Boroondara Community Outreach in Kew, and SOSK (Skills, Opportunity and Survival in Kenya).

Details about supporting these Outreach programs in next week's Update.

## **Developing a Culture of Welcoming**

An online series, *Welcoming Church: Building Pathways for Belonging*, is running on Wednesday evenings until **21 October (7.30–8.30pm via Zoom)**. These are practical workshops to guide participants in understanding how people become integrated into congregational life. Although registrations have closed, more information is available here:

<https://events.humanitix.com/welcoming-church>

## **Mendelssohn's Elijah**

Camberwell Chorale are presenting Felix Mendelssohn's choral masterpiece *Elijah* at Hawthorn Arts Centre, Burwood Road, Hawthorn, on Sunday, 18 October at 2:30 pm. This performance will feature a number of leading Melbourne soloists, under conductor Douglas Heywood OAM.

"Elijah" is a large-scale sacred oratorio and tells the story of the biblical prophet Elijah. Our Congregation members Alison Legge and Rob Fisher will be two of the performers.

More details and to book, see <https://www.camberwellchorale.org.au/mendelssohns-elijah-hawthorn-arts-centre-hawthorn-sunday-18-october-2026/>

## **Progetto Corelli presents Voices of Serenissima**

This spring, take a journey into the Grand Canal of Venice, the Most Serene Republic. This is a curated selection of vocal and instrumental gems from Baroque Venice, including Albinoni, Marini, Merula, Monteverdi, Vivaldi. Our organist, Dylan, is one of the performers.

It's here, at TUC, on Sunday 25 October 2026 at 3:00 pm.

To book: [www.trybooking.com/DPFTA](http://www.trybooking.com/DPFTA)

## Exploring the Bible

Our *Exploring the Bible* sessions continue each Monday at 10.30 am in Argyle House and each Tuesday at 7.30 pm by zoom.

Further information from Rev Peter, on [pcwhitaker@icloud.com](mailto:pcwhitaker@icloud.com).

## Mental Health Today

Canterbury Council of Churches invites you to an ecumenical liturgy to open eyes and hearts to the challenges of mental health today. It's on

Monday 12 October 2026 at 7.00 pm, and then a cup of tea and a chat.

Guest speaker: Mr Neal Murphy, Director of Mission Integration at St John of God Accord Facilitator of Mental Health First Aid.

Hosted by St Dominic's Catholic Church, 816 Riversdale Rd, Camberwell  
All are welcome. No need to book in advance.

## Diary Dates

|     |        |          |                                |            |
|-----|--------|----------|--------------------------------|------------|
| Sun | 11 Oct | 9.00 am  | Worship with conversation      | Rev Sylvia |
| Sun | 11 Oct | 10.15 am | Worship service                | Rev Sylvia |
|     |        |          | followed by morning tea        | Faichney   |
| Sun | 11 Oct | 3.00 pm  | Music to Inspire concert       | Church     |
|     |        |          | followed by afternoon tea      | Hall       |
| Mon | 12 Oct | 9.30 am  | Pastoral care group            | Faichney   |
| Mon | 12 Oct | 10.30 am | Exploring the Bible            | Argyle     |
| Mon | 12 Oct | 2.30 pm  | Archives meeting               | Faichney   |
| Tue | 13 Oct | 7.30 pm  | Christian Meditation           | Zoom       |
| Tue | 13 Oct | 7.30 pm  | Exploring the Bible            | Zoom       |
| Wed | 14 Oct | 7.00 pm  | Handbells                      | Wettenhall |
| Fri | 16 Oct | 10.00 am | Digital Essentials             | Faichney   |
| Sun | 18 Oct | 9.00 am  | Worship with HC & conversation | Rev Sylvia |
| Sun | 18 Oct | 10.15 am | Worship service with HC        | Rev Sylvia |
|     |        |          | followed by morning tea        | Faichney   |
| Mon | 19 Oct | 10.30 am | Exploring the Bible            | Argyle     |
| Tue | 20 Oct | 2.00 pm  | Spire project team meeting     | Faichney   |
| Tue | 20 Oct | 7.30 pm  | Exploring the Bible            | Zoom       |
| Tue | 20 Oct | 7.30 pm  | Christian Meditation           | Church     |
| Wed | 21 Oct | 7.00 pm  | Handbells                      | Wettenhall |
| Fri | 23 Oct | 10.00 am | Digital Essentials             | Faichney   |









*Artwork: Sylvia Isaac*

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 the Wurundjeri Woiwurrung and Bunurong peoples of the East Kulin Nation as the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we live, work and worship, and we pay respect to their elders past and present.

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 continues to be 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.