



**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 4 October 2026

Feast of St Francis – Blessing of the Animals

10:15am Worship Service

Minister: Rev Barbara Allen
Director of Music: Dylan Quinlan-Baskett



Introit

I am the good Shepherd
George Thomas Thalben-Ball

1896-1987

I am the good Shepherd; the good shepherd layeth down his life for the sheep. They shall be one flock, and one shepherd.

Prayer of Francis of Assisi

***Lord, make me an instrument of Your peace;
where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
and where there is sadness, joy.***

***O Divine Master,
grant that I may not so much seek
to be consoled as to console;
to be understood, as to understand;
to be loved, as to love;
for it is in giving that we receive,
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
and it is in dying that we are born to Eternal Life. Amen***

Welcome & Community News

Call to Worship (Psalm 104: 24-25, 27-28, 30)

O Lord, how manifold are your works!
***In wisdom you have made them all;
The earth is full of your creatures.***

Yonder is the great and wide sea
with its living things too many to number,
creatures both small and great.

All of them look to you
to give them their food in due season.

You give it to them; they gather it;
you open your hand, and they are filled with good things.

You send forth your Spirit, and they are created;
and so you renew the face of the earth.

Hymn 156 Morning has broken

Prayers of Adoration, Thanksgiving, and Confession

Words of Assurance

This is the best of all:

When we are empty, God fills us.

When we are disheartened, God is compassionate.

When we are wounded, God brings healing.

When we confess our sins, God forgives.

In Christ, through Christ, and because of Christ,

Our sins are forgiven.

Thanks be to God.

Reading Job 12: 7-10

Janet Atkinson

The words of scripture are a lamp to our feet: ***a light to our path.***

‘But ask the animals, and they will teach you; the birds of the air, and they will tell you; ask the plants of the earth, and they will teach you; and the fish of the sea will declare to you. Who among all these does not know that the hand of the Lord has done this? In his hand is the life of every living being, and the breath of every human being.’

Anthem The Canticle of the Sun (The song of the creatures)

Martin Shaw

1875-1958

O most high, Almighty good Lord God, to Thee belong praise, glory, honour and all blessing.

Praised be my Lord God, with all His creatures, and especially our brother the Sun, who brings us the day and who brings us the light:

Fair is he, and he shines with a very great splendour. Oh Lord, he signifies us to Thee!

Praised be my Lord for our sister the Moon, and for the stars, which thou has set clear and lovely in the heaven.

Praised be my Lord for our brother the Wind, and for air and cloud, calm and all weather, by which Thou upholdest life and all creatures.

Praised be my Lord for our sister Water, who is very serviceable to us, and humble and precious and clean.

Praised be my Lord for our brother Fire, through whom Thou givest us light in the darkness; he is bright and pleasant and very mighty and strong.

Praised be my Lord for our mother the Earth, the which doth sustain us and keep us, and bringeth forth divers fruits and flowers of many colours, and grass.

Praised be my Lord for all those who pardon one another for His love's sake, and who endure weakness and tribulation:

Blessed are those who peacefully shall endure, for Thou, O most highest, shalt give them a crown.

Praised be my Lord for our sister, the death of the body, Blessed are those who are found walking by Thy most holy will, for the second death shall have no power to do them harm.

Praise ye and bless ye the Lord and give thanks to Him and serve Him with great humility. Alleluia, Alleluia.

Readings Matthew 25: 34-40 Janet Atkinson
‘Then the king will say to those at his right hand, ‘Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me. Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing?’ And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?’ And the king will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.’

Galatians 5: 22-23

‘...the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things.’

For the words of treasured scripture which continue to inspire, challenge, and comfort us, **we give thanks.**

Sermon They bless us!

Blessing of the Pets

Hymn 100 All creatures of our God and King
vv. 1, 4, 5, 7

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 this day our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil,
for the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.***

Offering For the beauty of the earth
John Rutter

1945-

*For the beauty of the earth
For the beauty of the skies
For the love which from our birth
Over and around us lies
Over and around us lies
 Lord of all, to thee we raise
 This our joyful hymn of praise

For the beauty of the hour
Of the day and of the night
Hill and vale and tree and flower
Sun and moon and stars of light
Sun and moon and stars of light
 Lord of all, to thee we raise
 This our joyful hymn of praise*

*For the joy of human love
Brother, sister, parent, child
Friends on earth and friends above
For all gentle thoughts and mild
For all gentle thoughts and mild
 Lord of all, to thee we raise
 This our joyful hymn of praise*

*For each perfect gift of thine
To our race so freely given
Graces human and divine
Flow'rs of earth and buds of heav'n
Flow'rs of earth and buds of heav'n
 Lord of all, to thee we raise
 This our joyful hymn,
 our joyful hymn of praise
 This our joyful hymn of praise*

Dedication

Hymn 135 All things bright and beautiful

Blessing (Norman Habel)

***God, our Creator, help us to love
all creatures as kin,
all animals as partners on Earth,
all birds as messengers of praise,
all minute beings as expressions of your mysterious design,
and all frogs as voices of hope. Amen***

Postlude Duetto Buffo Di Due Gatti
 Gioacchino Rossini

1792-1868

Toorak Uniting Church Newsletter

Update 4 October 2026

update@toorakuc.org.au
03 9829 0300

Sunday services:
9am & 10:15am

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



Blessing of the Animals

Our services this Sunday, St Francis Day, will be conducted by Rev Barbara Allen and will include a Blessing of the Animals.

For the Blessing, you are most welcome to bring along your pet, but please do not bring them if they are likely to be stressed by this event (this would apply to most cats). If this will be the case for your animal companion, then please bring a photo of them instead. We will also have a prayer of remembrance, so if your pet has died, please bring along a photo of them if possible, or have their name written down.

Music to Inspire Concert - Sunday 11th - afternoon tea

Don't forget our request for assistance in providing biscuits, cakes, and slices for our post concert refreshments. We are looking forward to an afternoon of beautiful music followed by fellowship together in the Church Hall. We look forward to your help and to seeing you on the day! If you have any questions, please contact Christine Brown.

New TUC Website

The revised TUC website is now online. Thanks to all who have contributed to its development. See it at www.toorakuc.org.au.

Music to Inspire Concert

Next Sunday 11 October at 3 pm

Join us for an inspiring afternoon with timeless vocal, choral and instrumental classics spanning a variety of moods and styles. Please book if you can on Trybooking (but you're still welcome to come even if you can't do this) -

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

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.

No Election Fair this year

As TUC has not been chosen as a polling location for the Victorian State Election this year, we will not be able to hold an election day fair.

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.

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.

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.

Developing a Culture of Welcoming

A four-part online series, *Welcoming Church: Building Pathways for Belonging*, is running on **Wednesday evenings until 21 October (7.30–8.30pm via Zoom)**.

These practical workshops are guiding participants in understanding how people become integrated into congregational life, assessing current practices, and designing a meaningful Welcoming Pathway for their context. The series is free, recordings will be available, and although registrations have closed, more information is available here:

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

Married Flutes Concert

The first in the Stonnington Community Uniting Church 2026 Concert Series will be the Married Flutes Concert featuring Lisa-Maree Amos & Peter Sheridan, performing as "Married Flutes." They present flute duets and solo works on the whole family of flutes, including music written especially for them.

There will also be a special guest performance by Houston Dunleavy. The concert will include flute compositions by Dunleavy, Dubois, Reeder, Bach, Schocker and Mozart. It's at **3.00 pm, Sunday 4 October 2026** at Stonnington Community Uniting Church, 59 Burke Rd, Malvern East.

Tickets: \$35 / \$30. Bookings: At the door if not sold out, online via:

www.trybooking.com/DOPIK

Christian Meditation

Christian Meditation Group on 6 October will be at 7:30pm in the Church. For more information, contact April at lirpanotes@icloud.com.

Diary Dates

Sun	4 Oct	9.00 am	Worship with Conversation	Rev Barbara Allen
Sun	4 Oct	10.15 am	Worship Service with Blessing of Animals followed by morning tea	Rev Barbara Allen Faichney
Mon	5 Oct		TUC Office closed	
Mon	5 Oct	10.30 am	Exploring the Bible	Argyle
Tue	6 Oct	4.00 pm	Renew.603 Meeting	Faichney
Tue	6 Oct	7.30 pm	Exploring the Bible	Zoom
Tue	6 Oct	7.30 pm	Christian Mediation	Church
Wed	7 Oct	7.00 pm	Handbells	Wettenhall
Fri	9 Oct	10.00 am	Digital Essentials Class	Argyle
Sun	11 Oct	9.00 am	Worship with Conversation	Rev Sylvia
Sun	11 Oct	10.15 am	Worship Service followed by morning tea	Rev Sylvia Faichney
Sun	11 Oct	3.00 pm	Music to Inspire concert followed by refreshments	Church Hall



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.