



**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 20 September 2026

Pentecost 17

10:15am Worship Service with Holy Communion

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



Introit Christ was the word
 Antony Baldwin

1957-

*Christ was the Word who spake it. He took the bread and brake it.
And what His word doth make it, that I believe and take it.*

Welcome

Call to Worship

With lives wide open to the gift of healing,
the gift of forgiveness, the gift of transformation,

We gather in faith to worship God.

God of all people, of all time and of every place,

We gather in faith to worship you.

Hymn 147 To God be the glory

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.

Reading Matthew 20: 1-16

Alexandra Legge

‘For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire labourers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the labourers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard.

When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; and he said to them, “You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.” So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, “Why are you standing here idle all day?” They said to him, “Because no one has hired us.” He said to them, “You also go into the vineyard.” When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, “Call the labourers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.” When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage.

Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, “These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.” But he replied to one of them, “Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?” So the last will be first, and the first will be last.’

For the words that transform our perceptions, ***we give thanks.***

Psalm Give thanks to the Lord; proclaim his name
Psalm 105 – 17B Gelineau Tone

Response



Give thanks to the Lord; proclaim his name. Make known his deeds among the peoples. O sing to him, sing his praise; tell all his wonderful works!

Response

Glory in his holy name; let the hearts that seek the LORD rejoice. Turn to the LORD and his strength; constantly seek his face.

Response

O children of Abraham, his servant, O descendants of the Jacob he chose, he, the Lord, is our God; his judgments are in all the earth.

Response

He remembers his covenant forever: the promise he ordained for a thousand generations, the covenant he made with Abraham, the oath he swore to Isaac.

Response

Reflection Radical Grace

Offering Teach me, O Lord, the way of thy statutes
Thomas Attwood 1765-1838
Teach me, O Lord, the way of thy statutes, and I shall keep it unto the end. [Psalm 119:33]

Prayer of Dedication

Everyday offers us the opportunity to make a difference not just in our own lives but in the lives of others. May our gratitude for life be expressed in our generosity. May our faith be expressed in commitment to justice. May our belief in the future find expression in simple acts of kindness lived out in our ordinary lives. Amen.

Community Notices

Prayers of the People

(In silence we pray for the world, for the church, for our families)

God give us grace to accept with serenity the things we cannot change, courage to change what should be changed, and the wisdom to distinguish one from the other. Amen.

Hymn 129 Amazing grace

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

Friends and family, we are invited to the feast of the hospitality of God. 'Come as you are' is the invitation to the Lord's table. At this table, there is room for all, where everyone is an honoured guest.

We, many as we are, are one body in Christ. If we do not love our brothers and sisters whom we have seen, how can we love God whom we have not seen?

The peace of God be with you. ***And God's peace be with you.***

Lift up your hearts! ***We lift them up to God.***

Let us give thanks to God. ***It is right to give our thanks and praise.***

We give thanks for the earth and its abundance for life.

We give thanks for Jesus Christ, who models love and compassion for us.

We give thanks for Jesus Christ who demonstrates God's grace is covenantal, not transactional.

We give thanks for echoes in our journeys which make the gospel of Jesus Christ alive in the working of faith, in the living of hope and in the actions of love.

When Jesus shared a meal with his disciples. He took bread, blessed it, broke it and gave it to his disciples saying, "This is my body which is given for you." In the same way he took the cup, after giving thanks, poured it out and gave it to his disciples saying, "This cup is the new relationship with God sealed with my blood."

With Holy Communion, we reaffirm our commitment to our covenantal relationship of love, with God, and with one another.

In Christ and through Christ we receive the bread of life; and the cup of compassion. The gifts of God, for the people of God.

Let us receive these gifts in faith with thanksgiving.

Distribution of Elements

The bread of life, given for you. ***We are the body of Christ.***

The cup of compassion poured out for you. ***We receive God's grace with grateful hearts.***

Prayer after Communion

Gracious God, thank you for your generous hospitality and love for us. May we live each day demonstrating your love, growing stronger in our love for one another, with courage and in peace. Amen.

Hymn 161 Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!

Blessing

Let us go and continue proclaiming the greatness of the Lord, with the hands of Christ, the touch of the Holy Spirit and the love of God that sustain, guide and protect us each day.

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

Toorak Uniting Church Newsletter

Update 20 September 2026

update@toorakuc.org.au
03 9829 0300

Sunday services:
9am & 10:15am

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



20 September – Communion Sunday

Each month on the third Sunday we come together to celebrate Communion. On these Sundays we have the opportunity to donate towards the four Outreach programs we support. These programs are all under the umbrella of the Uniting Church and greatly rely on and appreciate our support. They are The Homework Hub in Pakenham, The Cranbourne Food Truck, the Boroondara Community Outreach in Kew, and SOSK (Skills, Opportunity and Survival in Kenya).

You may either donate into the Outreach offering bowl at the rear of the Church or donate electronically at any time to Toorak Uniting Church, marking your donation as "Outreach".

BSB: 033 086 Account Number: 911 892

Thank you for your heartfelt support!

Music to Inspire Concert - Calling all Bakers! **Sunday 11 October at 3:00 pm at Toorak Uniting Church**

We are looking for assistance in providing biscuits, cakes, and slices for our post concert refreshments. If you are able to help in providing something sweet to go with coffee and tea after the concert it would be most appreciated. Simply drop off your plate to the church kitchen prior to the concert. We are looking forward to an afternoon of beautiful music followed by fellowship together in the Church Hall. This is a great way to begin the campaign for raising money to rebuild our historic church spire.

We look forward to seeing you on the day!

If you have any questions please contact Christine Brown.

Office Closure

The TUC office will be closed on Friday 25 September for the AFL Grand Final public holiday.

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.

There will be an *Exploring the Bible* retreat this Sunday, 20 September. It will be from 12 noon until 3.30 pm, and will comprise prayers and meditation. All are welcome. If you can attend only for part of the time, that would be quite in order.

Further information from Rev Peter, on pcwhitaker@icloud.com.

28 September - TUC Sewing Circle

Whether you're new or a seasoned stitcher, TUC Sewing Circle is a place for sharing ideas, learning new skills or just having a chat.

Come along and bring your latest project or just yourself!

Please arrive between 11-11:30am with a finish time of 2:30pm.

BYO lunch, coffee and tea provided.

To RSVP, contact either **Margot 0409 361 877** or **Angela 0407 887 596**.

Blessing of the Animals

Our 10.15 am service on 4 October (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, or have their name written down.

Digital Essentials: Smart Devices Class in Term 4

A new term of these beginner friendly classes starts on 9 October. They're designed to help improve confidence in using your own smart phone or device in a supportive environment.

Classes are held on Fridays from 10am-1pm in the Faichney Room.

To register or find out more, call **9510 7052** or visit socialplanet.com.au/activity/view?id=54631.

Prayers for Christian Unity

The next Ecumenical Prayers for Christian Unity are being held at the Swedish Church - SKUT - at 21 St George's Rd, Toorak, on Thursday, 24 September 2026 at 10:30 am.

Please come join with our fellow Christians.

Men's Group

TUC is working on initiatives such as a Chatty Cafe and a Men's Group to provide more opportunities for fellowship and to reach out into the wider community. Rob Ahin and Ian Thomas are assessing interest in a monthly men's lunch (or breakfast?), so if you're interested, please contact Rob at robinahin@optusnet.com.au

Intergenerate 2026

This gathering will inspire conversations about the flourishing of faith communities where all ages grow together. It will be an enriching day as a deep dive is taken into what it takes for a faith community, where all ages grow together, to flourish. Come along to Manningham Uniting Church on Saturday 15 October, 9.30 am - 4 pm.

This is part of Intergenerate Australia and New Zealand's mission to support Intergenerational Faith Communities.

More details here: <https://www.intergenerate.com.au/event-details/planted-to-flourish-templestowe-victoria>

Christian Meditation

Christian Meditation Group on 22 September will be at 7:30pm by Zoom. For more information, contact April at lirpanotes@icloud.com

TUC Directory

The church office is preparing a new edition of the TUC Directory for distribution later this month. If you're currently in the Directory and any of your contact details have changed, please send your updated details to the office via office@toorakuc.org.au.

If you're not currently in the Directory but would like to be, please let the office know. The Directory is only supplied to TUC congregation members who have chosen to have their details included, and is used exclusively for ministry and activities related to the church.

After church lunch?

It's been suggested that we have a self catered luncheon after church one Sunday in the Hall and Rob Ahin is making the arrangements. The idea is that each couple or single bring a dish on the day and we'll share a lunch together. In the interests of simplifying cleaning up, perhaps coffee would be postponed until after lunch. Rob will put a more detailed plan on the wall in the Faichney room so it can be discussed over morning tea (and dates arranged).

Rob would welcome any comments via robinahin@optusnet.com.au

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 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 3.00pm Sunday 4 October 2026 at Stonnington Community Uniting Church, 59 Burke Rd, Malvern East.

Tickets: \$35 / \$30. Bookings: <https://www.trybooking.com/DOPIK> and at door if not sold out.

Dementia Workshop

Mt Waverley Uniting Church warmly invites you to a Dementia Workshop presented by Uniting AgeWell on Thursday 1 October, 2.00–3.00pm at 37–43 Virginia Street, Mt Waverley.

Karen Cameron, Director of Dementia Care, will lead the session, offering helpful insights and practical guidance for individuals, families and carers. After the workshop, you are welcome to stay for a cup of tea or coffee and informal conversation. To assist with planning, please advise Margery Kennett of your intention to attend on 9807 4084 or mbkennett@bigpond.com.

Christmas cards

Do you send traditional Christmas cards? If you do, you might consider supporting Uniting Vic.Tas. You can order them online, at <https://fundraise.unitingvictas.org.au/christmas-cards/>

Then and Now

The Murrumbeena Uniting Church/Meeting Place invites the community to the Then & Now Exhibition, running from 22 September to 4 October.

This display brings together photos, treasured items and stories that trace how our past continues to shape who we are today. Join us for the Exhibition Launch on Tuesday 22 September from 7–8.30pm, or drop in during gallery open hours to explore the rich history and creativity of our congregation. For enquiries: connect@murrumbeenauniting.org.au

Diary Dates

Sun	20 Sep	9.00 am	Worship with Conversation & HC	Rev Sylvia
Sun	20 Sep	10.15 am	Worship Service with HC	Rev Sylvia
			followed by morning tea	Faichney
Mon	21 Sep	10.30 am	Exploring the Bible	Argyle
Tue	22 Sep	7.30 pm	Christian Meditation	Zoom
Tue	22 Sep	7.30 pm	Exploring the Bible	Zoom
Wed	23 Sep	5.00 pm	Worship Committee Meeting	Faichney
Thu	24 Sep	10.30 am	Prayers for Christian Unity	Swedish Ch
Fri	25 Sep	All Day	Public holiday, TUC closed	Office
Sun	27 Sep	9.00 am	Worship with Conversation	Rev Gillian Crozier
Sun	27 Sep	10.15 am	Worship Service	Rev Gillian Crozier
			followed by morning tea	Faichney
Mon	28 Sep	10.30 am	Exploring the Bible	Argyle
Mon	28 Sep	11.00 am	Sewing Circle	Wettenhall
Tue	29 Sep	7.30 pm	Exploring the Bible	Zoom
Tue	29 Sep	7.30 pm	Christian Meditation	Church
Fri	2 Oct	10.00 am	Digital Essentials	Faichney
Fri	2 Oct	10.30 am	Coffee Club	Argyle
Sun	4 Oct	9.00 am	Worship with Conversation	Rev Sylvia
Sun	4 Oct	10.15 am	Worship with Blessing of the Animals	Rev Barbara Allen

Joining the TUC Family

If you would like to become a member of the TUC Family, please scan this QR code. If you have any questions, please speak to someone on Sunday or get in touch with the Minister via email minister@toorakuc.org.au.





MUSICto INSPIRE

A spring concert to raise funds for the \$2.75 M cost of essential replacement of the iconic Toorak Uniting Church spire.

3pm, Sunday October 11
603 Toorak Road, Toorak

Entry by donation

Enjoy an inspiring afternoon with timeless vocal, choral and instrumental classics spanning a variety of moods and styles.

Join us after for excellent refreshments.



MUSICto INSPIRE



Celebrating Toorak Uniting Church's long history of fine music, hear works by Mozart, Puccini, Gilbert and Sullivan, Warlock, Grieg and more. Performers from the choir, other TUC congregation members, and guest artists.

How to donate

Please scan the QR Code or visit

<https://www.trybooking.com/DPWPT>

to register your attendance and make a donation. You may also donate on the day, however we still ask that you register for catering purposes.



Uniting Church in Australia
SYNOD OF VICTORIA AND TASMANIA



Artwork: Sylvia Isaac

The flowers in the Church today are given by Teck Chan,
in memory of Wilson.

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, present and emerging.

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.