



**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 13 September 2026

Pentecost 16

**10:15am Worship Service and
Baptism of Elise Lea O'Reilly**

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

A photograph of a field of pink lilies with green foliage, serving as a background for the text.

Filled and UnFulFilled

O praise God in his holiness
George Thomas Thalben-Ball

1896-1987

O praise God in his holiness; praise him in the firmament of his power.

Welcome

Call to Worship

Come as you are, and let us gather in prayer with thanksgiving.

Creator Spirit, our centre and friend, awaken our spirit to your presence.

Eternal Spirit, in whom we live and move and have our being,
well up within us that we may love and praise you in spirit and in truth.

Hymn 613 Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy

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.

The Sacrament of Baptism

The Baptism of Elise Lea O'Reilly

Introduction

(Words to the parents)

Parents Amanda and Shaun respond:

We do and we will with God's help.

(Words to Godparents, extended family & friends)

Godparents, Family and Friends respond:

We do and we will with God's help.

(Words to the congregation)

Congregation responds:

With God's help we will live out our baptism as a loving community in Christ: nurturing one another in prayer, and encouraging one another in service.

(Water is poured into the font)

The Baptism

(Let us pray for Elise singing Hymn 776)

***The Lord bless you and keep you;
The Lord make his face to shine upon you,
and be gracious unto you;
the Lord lift up his countenance upon you,
and give you Peace.***

With joy and thanksgiving, we receive and welcome *Elise Lea O'Reilly* as a member of the catholic, universal Christian Church family. Welcome Elise!

(Elise is introduced to the Congregation – Elder and Parents)

(Certificate of Baptism and Candle presented to parents by the Elder)

Amanda and Shaun, continue to enjoy raising Elise (and Maisie) with love.

Hymn 135 All things bright and beautiful

Reading Matthew 6: 25-34 Hugh Luxford

“Therefore, I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? Therefore, do not worry, saying, “What will we eat?” or “What will we drink?” or “What will we wear?” For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But strive first for the kingdom of God

For the words and stories that speak to our conscience,
we give thanks.

Hide not Thou Thy face from us, O Lord, and cast not off Thy servant in Thy displeasure: for we confess our sins unto Thee, and hide not our unrighteousness: for Thy mercy sake deliver us from all our sins.

*God be in my head and in my understanding,
God be in mine eyes and in my looking,
God be in my mouth and in my speaking,
God be in my heart and in my thinking,
God be at my end and in my departing.*

Generous God, we offer our lives and our gifts to be channels of your love and grace within and beyond church communities. Bless our giving and our living. Amen.

***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.***

Hymn 569 Guide me, O thou great Redeemer

Blessing

Go forth in brave faith, confidence and hope, 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



Artwork: Sylvia Isaac

The flowers in the Church today are given by Janice Maddern.

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.

Toorak Uniting Church Newsletter

Update 13 September 2026

update@toorakuc.org.au
03 9829 0300

Sunday services:
9am & 10:15am

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



Music to In-spire

Replacement of the spire is scheduled to commence in early October. We are so lucky that David Ross-Smith has organized an exciting spire fund-raising concert for Sunday, 11 October starting at 3 pm. Performers will include members of the choir, at least two other members of the congregation, as well as further wonderful musicians. One of our ministers has promised to perform *Nessun Dorma* if needed!

This in-spiring music is not to be missed, and it will be followed by afternoon tea. Entry by donation.

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!

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 on Sunday 20 September. This 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.

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.

Cranbourne Food Truck

We are asking for donations of any clean, warm clothing you might be able to donate to our Outreach Project, the Cranbourne Food Truck.

Many of their drop in guests are either living rough or sometimes sleeping in their cars. Warm jumpers, windcheaters, jackets and coats, blankets and sleeping bags would be gratefully received. Please bag them and drop them into Monique during office hours - Monday 12:00 to 4:00, Tuesday through Friday 9:00 to 4:00.

Digital Essentials: Smart Devices Class

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=49580.

Blessing of the Animals - 4 October

Our service at 10.15 am on 4 October 2026 (St Francis Day) will be conducted by Rev Barbara Allen and will include a Blessing of the Animals. Watch for more details closer to the day.

Christian Meditation

Christian Meditation Group on 15 September will be at 7:30pm in the Church. For more information, contact April at lirpanotes@icloud.com

Fellowship at TUC

TUC is working towards establishing initiatives such as a Chatty Cafe and a Men's Group to provide more opportunities for fellowship and also reach out into the wider community.

Rev Sylvia would be happy to hear from you if you would like to assist. In the meantime, if you want to sample these kind of activities, Prahran Place Neighbourhood Centre has a number on offer that may be of interest, as outlined in previous Updates.

Christmas cards

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

Diary Dates

Sun	13 Sep	9.00 am	Worship with Conversation	Rev Sylvia
Sun	13 Sep	10.15 am	Worship Service	Rev Sylvia
			followed by morning tea	Faichney
Mon	14 Sep	10.30 am	Exploring the Bible	Argyle House
Tue	15 Sep	7.30 pm	Christian Meditation	Church
Tue	15 Sep	7.30 pm	Exploring the Bible	Zoom
Wed	16 Sep	7.00 pm	Handbells	Wettenhall
Fri	18 Sep	10.00 am	Digital Essentials	Faichney
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 House
Tue	22 Sep	7.30 pm	Exploring the Bible	Zoom
Fri	25 Sep	All day	Public Holiday TUC closed	Office

Connecting with TUC

Scan this QR code if you'd like to become connected to the TUC Community. If you have any questions, please speak to someone on Sunday or get in touch with the Minister.

