



**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 10 May, 2026

10:15am Worship Service

Mother's Day

Minister: Rev Sylvia Akauola-Tongotongo

Synthesising the 'is'
and the 'ought':
A mother's instinct

Introit Praise ye the Lord. I will praise the Lord
Donald Joseph Cashmore

1926-2013

Praise ye the Lord. I will praise the Lord with my whole heart, in the assembly of the upright and in the congregation.

Welcome

Call to Worship

People of God, we gather today to celebrate and give thanks for the gift of life and for the gift of mothers.

We give thanks for mothers and their contributions to life, to families, and to communities.

Loving God, in whom we live and move and have our being, we gather with thanksgiving to honour all mothers, past and present whose spirit, faith, voices, teachings and ways of being continue to live with us.

Gracious God, we thank you for your presence with us always. May our hearts and minds be opened to worship you in spirit and in truth. Amen.

Hymn 137 For the beauty of the Earth

A Reflective Prayer

Poem for Mothers

M – for the million things she gave me

O – for outstanding in all attributes

T – for tears she shed to save me

H – for her heart of purest gold

E – for her eyes, shining with love

R – means right, and right she'll always be.

Mother – a word and the person that means the world to me!

Anthem Ubi caritas et amor – Where charity and love
Maurice Durufle 1902-1986

*Ubi caritas et amor, Deus ibi est.
Ubi caritas et amor, Deus ibi est.
Congregavit nos in unum Christi amor.
Congregavit nos in unum Christi amor.
Exsultemus, et in ipso jucundemur.
Timeamus, et amemus Deum vivum.
Et ex corde diligamus nos sincero.
Et ex corde diligamus nos sincero, sincero.
Ubi caritas et amor, Deus ibi est.
Amen.*

*[Where there is charity and love, God is there.
The love of Christ's has gathered us as one.
Let us rejoice and be glad in it.
Let us honor and love the living God.
And from a sincere heart let us love one other.]*

Reading John 14: 15-21 Graeme Harris

If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.

May we be attentive to these words,
And through them, may we hear the spirit of truth.

Reflection Synthesising the 'is' and the 'ought':
A mother's instinct.

Hymn Faith of our mothers, living still
 Arthur Bardwell Patten (Tune: St Catherine)

*Faith of our mothers, living still
In cradle song and bedtime prayer;
In nursery lore and fireside love,
Thy presence still pervades the air.
Faith of our mothers, living faith,
We will be true to these till death.*

*Faith of our mothers, loving faith,
Fount of our childhood's trust and grace,
Oh, may the consecration prove
Source of a finer, nobler race;
Faith of our mothers, loving faith,
We will be true to thee till death.*

*Faith of our mothers, guiding faith,
For youthful longing, youthful doubt,
How blurred our vision, blind our way,
Thy providential care without.
Faith of our mothers, guiding faith,
We will be true to these till death.*

*Faith of our mothers, Christian faith,
In truth beyond our stumbling creeds,
Still serve the home and save the Church,
And breathe thy spirit through our deeds;
Faith of our mothers, Christian faith,
We will be true to thee till death.*

Offering Mother of God, here I stand
 John Kenneth Tavener

1944-2013

*Mother of God, here I stand now praying,
Before this icon of your radiant brightness,
Not praying to be saved from a battlefield,
Not giving thanks, nor seeking forgiveness
For the sins of my soul, nor for all the souls.
Numb, joyless and desolate on earth,
But for her alone, whom I wholly give you.*

Dedication

Gracious God, grant that we may not so much seek to gain as to give, for it is in giving that we receive. Bless our giving and our living, to be the vehicles and channels of your love and grace. Amen.

Community Notices

Prayers of the People – The Lord’s Prayer

Contemporary Version by Jim Cotter in NZ Prayerbook

Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver, Source of all that is and that shall be, Father and Mother of us all, Loving God in whom is heaven –

***The hallowing of your name echo through the universe; the way of your justice be followed by all peoples on Earth;
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings;
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come on Earth.***

With the bread we need for today, feed us; in the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us; In the times of temptation and test, strengthen us; From trials too great to endure, spare us; From the grip of all that is evil, free us.

***For you reign in the glory of the power that is love,
Now and forever. Amen.***

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

Benediction

Postlude

Toorak Uniting Church Newsletter
Update 10 May 2026

office@toorakuc.org.au
03 9829 0300

Sunday services:
9am & 10:15am

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



**TOORAK UNITING CHURCH
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION**

To be held at 11:00am on Sunday 31st May 2026 (or so soon thereafter as the 10:15am service permits) in the Faichney Room

The Annual General Meeting of the Congregation will be held at 11:00am on Sunday 31st May 2026 (or so soon thereafter as the 10:15am service permits) in the Faichney Room.

The agenda will be as follows.

1. Election of Elders and members of Church Council.*
2. To consider and if thought fit to receive the Annual Report for 2025.
3. To consider and if thought fit to approve the Annual Financial Report for 2025.

Copies of these reports will be sent out to members electronically. Please contact the Church office if you would like a hard copy.

* Nominations may be made on the form available from the Church Office and emailed to members of the Congregation. Nominations must be submitted to the Secretary of the Congregation, James Barber, **by 17th May 2026**, preferably by email to jbarber@vicbar.com.au.

Anyone with questions about what is involved in Eldership or membership of Church Council may contact the Chair of Church Council, Barbara McKinnon at chair@toorakuc.org.au.

**Mozart: Requiem in D Minor Concert | 2:30pm on Saturday, 30 May
at St Andrew's Church, 228 New St, Brighton**

Glen Eira City Choir in conjunction with Bendigo Chorale presents a concert featuring Mozart's Sancta Maria (1771) and Laudate Dominum (1780). Conducted by Elena Varsharvskya and featuring soloists Lisa Robinson, Soprano, Chloe James, Mezzo-soprano, Nicholas Sheppard, Tenor, Christian Smith, Bass with Hugh Fullarton on the Organ. A performance not to be missed!

Tickets are \$45 for adults and under 16s are free.
To book, please visit trybooking.com/DLASF

17 May – Communion Sunday

Each month on the third Sunday we come together to celebrate Communion. It is these Sundays we have the opportunity to donate towards our 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 cash into the Outreach offering bowl at the rear of the Church or you may 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!

Putting together an Argyle House Working Group

With the closure of the Café, we have the opportunity to review and renew the purpose of Argyle House. Argyle House is currently used by Uniting AgeWell as a drop off and pick up point for its social connections program on Mondays and Tuesdays, for TUC groups including the Bible Explorers and Coffee Club, and Church Council meets there when meetings coincide with Dancing Class.

Argyle House can be used as a public gathering place – just like the church and the Wettenhall, Faichney and Hall spaces. It cannot be used for retail, as an office or as a café.

We have expressions of interest from Uniting and a Korean entrepreneur to run community programs on the site (see Church Council reports). With a projected operational deficit and the spire expenses looming, we also need Argyle House to be income producing. It is a lovely part of our site with significant potential.

If you would like to be part of a working group to evaluate the pros and cons of different proposed uses and report to Church Council (ideally for the next meeting on June 4), please email chair@toorakuc.org.au.

Please note that the Exploring the Bible group will be taking a break while Rev Peter is away and **will not meet for two weeks until Monday, 25 May.**

Roundtable Gathering for Climate Justice in the Uniting Church | Thursday, 21 May at 2pm via Zoom

As a Church, we are called not only to proclaim the Gospel, but to live it—responding to God’s love through our care for one another and for the whole of creation. There will be a series of three Assembly Net Zero Emissions online Roundtable gatherings focused on Climate Justice this year, each held via Zoom for two hours.

Together, these gatherings seek to:

- Equip the Church to respond faithfully to the call to Climate Justice
- Strengthen connection and shared purpose across our communities
- Encourage ongoing action in local contexts and spheres of influence

The gatherings are an opportunity for us, as the Uniting Church, to deepen our shared commitment to this work—grounded in faith, shaped by the wisdom of First Peoples, and expressed through practical action in our communities. You are encouraged to take part in these important conversations and to invite others within your communities to join you.

The first session will be held on Thursday, 21 May at 2pm and explore how we, as a Church, are called to advocate for justice and how you can engage in this work within your context.

To register, please visit <https://uniting.church/join-the-journey-to-net-zero-2026-roundtables/>

The Royal Gala VIP Concert | Saturday, 13 June at 4pm, Lincoln of Toorak, 445 Toorak Rd

This is a formal, alcohol-free event featuring gospel artist Fiston Mbuyi aimed at bringing together churches and multicultural communities from across Melbourne. Organised by Hope Multicultural Community Association Inc., it will be a night of worship, joy, and non-stop celebration. To book, please visit <https://shorturl.at/3y0e0>

May Diary Dates

Sun	10 May	9:00am	Worship in the Round	Rev Sylvia
Sun	10 May	10:15am	Worship Service	Rev Sylvia
Sun	10 May	11:15am	Morning Tea	Hall
Tue	12 May	7:30pm	Christian Meditation Group	Online
Wed	13 May	2:00pm	Property Committee Meeting	Argyle House
Wed	13 May	7:00pm	Handbells	Wettenhall
Sun	17 May	9:00am	Worship in the Round HC	Rev Sylvia
Sun	17 May	10:15am	Worship Service HC	Rev Sylvia
Sun	17 May	11:15am	Morning Tea	Hall
Tue	19 May	7:30pm	Christian Meditation Group	Church Space
Wed	20 May	7:00pm	Handbells	Wettenhall

Call for Nominations for Election to Eldership and/or Church Council

On Sunday, 31st May 2026 we will have the Annual General Meeting of the Toorak Uniting Church Congregation at which we will receive the church accounts for approval and vote for Elders and Church Councillors.

Elders and Church Councillors serve on **Church Council**, unless otherwise authorised by Presbytery. The nominated term is for between one and five years, after which they may stand for re-election.

The priority of the **Church Council** is to build the congregation up in faith and love.

The responsibilities of **Church Council** include[†]:

- Sharing with the ministers in the encouragement of faith and love to all Church members; assisting the ministers with worship, particularly at Communion, Baptism, Confirmation and other special occasions.
- Assisting on rosters of welcome, vestry duty.
- Making decisions in keeping with regulations: managing financial affairs and general administration: arranging for audit, presentation and examination of the accounts; preparing and presenting annual reports to the Congregation.
- Managing and controlling property.
- Referring matters to Presbytery as required.
- Exercising discipline on behalf of the Congregation as appropriate.
- Managing Child Protection Reporting; ensuring the Church is a safe place for all people.

In addition, **Elders** “assist in the spiritual oversight of the congregation” through

- Attending regular bi-monthly Elders’ meetings.
- Pastorally caring, encouraging and supporting their assigned congregational members.
- Serving communion and preparing the table and the elements.
- Being a point of contact for baptismal parents and assisting with baptism.

If you would like to be nominated as an Elder, please arrange to speak with Rev Syliva 'Akau'ola Tongotongo or Rev John Edwards.

Who can be members of the Church Council?

Confirmed members & members in association; Elders or leaders; any ministry agents in placement.

The Church Council meets bi-monthly.

The terms of office of one current Elder, and two current Members of Church Council not being Elders, expire on 30th June 2026.

Church Council exercises oversight of both the smooth running and mission direction of TUC and renewal of its membership strengthens our congregation. You are invited to consider whether this is a way in which you can contribute to the life and work of the Church.

Nominations need to be received in writing by the Secretary of Congregation, James Barber, **by 17th May 2026**, preferably by email to jbarber@vicbar.com.au.

[†]See Reg 3.1.2(a) and 3.1.2(b) of the Regulations of the Uniting Church in Australia



Artwork: Angela Abbott

“There is a religion in all deep love, but the love of a mother is the veil of a softer light between the heart and the heavenly Father.”

- Samuel Taylor Coleridge

The flowers in the church today are provided by Christine and Garry.

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.