



**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 23 November, 2025

**Christ the King Sunday
Last Sunday of the Christian Liturgical Year**

10:15am Worship Service with Holy Communion

**Ministry Team: Rev John Edwards
Rev Peter Whitaker
Rev Sylvia Akauola-Tongotongo
Director of Music: Dylan Quinlan-Baskett**

**Pilgrims of
Hope**

Introit

Every voice be tuned for song
Hal Harold Hopson
On Handbells

1933-

*Every voice be tuned for song;
God is the ruler, mighty and strong. Praise the Lord.*

Welcome

Gathering for Worship

People of God, come as you are and let us worship together with thanksgiving, for we have been abundantly blessed and are blessings for one another.

May our hearts and minds be opened to the presence of God's spirit, wisdom, abundant grace and unending love.

Hymn 133 O Worship the King
vv 1, 2, 4, 6

Prayer of Awareness

We are loved by unending love.

We are embraced by arms that find us even when we are hidden from ourselves.

We are touched by fingers that soothe us even when we are too proud for soothing.

We are counselled by voices that guide us even when we are too embittered to hear.

We are loved by unending love.

We are supported by hands that uplift us even in the midst of a fall.

We are urged on by eyes that meet us even when we are too weak for meeting.

We are loved by unending love.

***Embraced, touched, soothed, and counselled,
ours are the arms, the fingers, the voices;
ours are the hands, the eyes, the smiles;
We are loved by unending love.***

(Rabbi Rami Shapiro, Beside Still Waters)

Reading

Jeremiah 23: 1-6

Julie Frazer

Your word is a lamp to our feet
and a light to our path.

Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! says the Lord. Therefore thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, concerning the shepherds who shepherd my people: It is you who have scattered my flock, and have driven them away, and you have not attended to them. So I will attend to you for your evil doings, says the Lord. Then I myself will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the lands where I have driven them, and I will bring them back to their fold, and they shall be fruitful and multiply. I will raise up shepherds over them who will shepherd them, and they shall not fear any longer, or be dismayed, nor shall any be missing, says the Lord. The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. And this is the name by which he will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness."

Anthem

O God the King of glory
Henry Purcell

1659-1695

*O God the King of glory who hast exalted thine only son Jesus Christ with great triumph into heaven; We beseech thee, leave us not comfortless; but send to us thy Holy Ghost to comfort us and exalt us unto the same place where our Savior Christ is gone before us.
Amen.*

Reading

Luke 23: 33-43

Julie Frazer

When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing." And they cast lots to divide his clothing. And the people stood by, watching; but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!" The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews." One of the criminals who were hanged there kept

deriding him and saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." He replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

In this is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Reflection Pilgrims of Hope

Hymn 572 O thou who camest from above

Offering God omnipotent reigneth

Charles Wood

1866-1926

*God omnipotent reigneth, Clad in apparel bright;
Sov'ran King He remaineth, Girded about with might;
By him the world alone, Immutably was grounded;
In heav'n hath He His throne, From everlasting founded.*

*Ocean billow and breaker, Uplift the voice of pride;
But their mightier Maker Governeth wind and tide.
His laws and sure decree, Of holiness are telling,
Which evermore shall be, Sole inmate of His dwelling.
Amen.*

Prayer of Dedication

With our gifts of money and resources, we offer our lives to help make the world a better place. May our giving and our living be blessed to be blessings for many more. Amen.

Community News

Prayers for ourselves and others

Lord of Majesty, as we come to the end of this liturgical year, we give thanks for life and all that we've been through with you this year. May this God space continue to be a place of worship: where your name is exalted; your presence experienced; and your grace released.

Lord of encounter, may we continue to be a prayerful community: where your face is sought; your healing touch felt; and your will revealed.

Lord of the Gospel, we pray that this worship space be a place of revelation: where the good news is proclaimed; your word preached; and your unending love shown and shared.

Lord of the Cross, may we be a community of reconciliation: where the body of Christ is restored; barriers are broken down; and relationships are nurtured.

Lord of compassion, we pray that this church be a place of acceptance: where all are welcomed and valued; the rejected and the lost find a home; and love is poured out.

Lord of the broken, may we continue to be a community of healing: where those who mourn are comforted; wounds are tended; the lonely are embraced; and lives are made whole.

Lord of the oppressed, we pray that this place be one of liberation: where the yoke of the past is broken; chains are struck off; and people are set free.

Lord of the weak, may we continue to be an empowering community: where hearts and hands are strengthened; courage and faith rekindled; and the gifts of your Spirit bestowed. Lord of the redeemed and of all life, for all that has been, we give thanks, and we trust you for all that is to come. Amen.

Hymn 228 Crown him with many crowns

Holy Communion

Hymn 147 To God be the glory

Blessing

Postlude

Toorak Uniting Church Newsletter

Update 23 November 2025

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 GENERAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION

A General Meeting of the Congregation will be held at **9:45am on Sunday, 7 December 2025 in the Faichney Room.**

The agenda will be as follows:

1. Election of two representatives to Presbytery for 2026*
2. To consider and if thought fit to approve the Budget for 2026.
3. To consider and if thought fit to approve the appointment of a Church Auditor.

Copies of the Budget have been sent out to members by email.
Please contact the Church Office if you would like a hard copy -
office@toorakuc.org.au

*Notifications may be made on the form available from the Office.

Ecumenical Advent Service

Our Ecumenical Celebration for the Season of Advent is at St John's Anglican Church on **Saturday, 29 November 2025 at 7:00pm.**
This year's service will feature a Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols by the Choir of Trinity College, University of Melbourne. The Choir is internationally renowned and has featured on the ABC and BBC.
All are welcome.

Country Women's Association of Victoria Christmas Fare Saturday, 6 December 2025, 9am - 2pm at Umina, 3 Lansell Rd, Toorak

Come along to the Christmas Fare for a festive day of fun and community. Experience a morning of relaxed shopping, stroll through Umina's historic gardens, and sit down and enjoy our famous Devonshire Tea.

It's a great opportunity to choose some wonderful home baked goodies to share with your friends and family. Old favourites including traditional Christmas cakes, puddings and shortbreads will be available, together with a range of exciting new stallholders selling some great food and gift ideas.

To pre-order cakes, pudding and shortbread for collection at the Fare, call **03 9827 8971** or go to

<https://cwaofvic.org.au/ordering-xmas-goods/>

Orders must be placed by 5pm on Monday 1 December.

**Book Launch for Rewilding Prayer:
God Beyond Gender, Faith Beyond Formulas
5:00pm - 6:30pm, Monday 1 December 2025**

You are warmly invited to attend Sally Douglas' launch of her book *Rewilding Prayer: God Beyond Gender, Faith Beyond Formulas* with Rev Salesi Faupula, Moderator of the Uniting Church in Australia, Synod of Victoria and Tasmania, and Julie Perrin, storyteller and writer.

Rewilding Prayer disrupts the idol of pretending that God is a man and upends the delusion that prayer is about wishful thinking, vending machines, or reciting words. With insight and honesty, questions about what prayer is for, what prayer does and does not do, and what we can do when we cannot pray are explored. This book is for the curious, the "spiritual not religious", the faithful, the disenchanted, and for those who thirst for more.

Venue: Yuma Auditorium, Centre for Theology and Ministry,
29 College Crescent, Parkville.

Tickets: Free event, RSVP by Wednesday 26 November
<https://events.humanitix.com/rewilding-prayer>

**Toorak Community News
Petition for Step Free Access at Heyington Station**

Heyington remains the ONLY station in Victoria without lifts or ramps, making it inaccessible for people with mobility issues, parents with prams, and older residents. Many locals have already backed the petition, reflecting strong community concern. The Hon. Michael O'Brien is supporting the petition and will be presenting it to parliament on 1 December. In the meantime, we need as many signatures as we can get to show that the local community cares deeply about this issue.

If you'd like to sign the petition, please visit <https://www.parliament.vic.gov.au/get-involved/petitions/heyington-station/>

Christmas Party

Following the success of last year's occasion, we will be having a TUC community Christmas party on **Wednesday, 17 December** from **4pm**. Our staff, hirers, and the TUC congregation are all warmly invited.

More details to follow.

**Last TUC Sewing Circle of the Year!
24 November, Wettenhall Room**

Whether you're new or a seasonal 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. Coffee and tea will be provided, and you're welcome to join us for lunch in the Café afterwards.

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

Sesquicentenary Service

A large congregation enjoyed a wonderful celebration at the 150th anniversary worship service at Toorak Uniting Church, led by a rousing address by Rev Dr Jim Donaldson (which you can revisit on our YouTube channel) and joyful musical offerings from the choir, handbells and brass.

It was delightful to catch up with many long-time friends of TUC over morning tea, and our grateful thanks to the team of Christine Brown, Anna Field, Thisby Lau, Angela Natoli, Robin and Anne Ahin, Anne Binmore, Anne-Marie Box, Kimberly Hobbs, Carrlo Jack and Barbara McKinnon who kept the coffee, scones, and other treats flowing smoothly. It was an occasion of hearty fellowship and a testament to the long life of TUC.



November Diary Dates

Sun	23 Nov	9:00am	Worship in the Round (HC)	Rev Sylvia
Sun	23 Nov	10:15am	Worship Service (HC)	Rev Sylvia
Sun	23 Nov	11:15am	Morning Tea	Faichney Room
Mon	24 Nov	10:30am	Exploring the Bible	Kinross Café
Tue	25 Nov	7:30pm	Exploring the Bible Online	Zoom
Wed	26 Nov	5:00pm	Worship Committee Meeting	Faichney Room
Thu	27 Nov	10:30am	Ecumenical Prayers for Unity	Church Space
Sun	30 Nov	9:00am	Worship in the Round	Rev Sylvia
Sun	30 Nov	10:15am	Worship Service	Rev Sylvia
Sun	30 Nov	11:15am	Morning Tea	Faichney Room



The flowers in the Church today are provided by Barbara Barber.

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.

The way we produce the Orders of Service is changing, so you may notice some differences, and these changes will continue to evolve over time.