



**TOORAK
UNITING
CHURCH**

We are a people who follow
the way of Jesus of Nazareth.
His words and actions
inform our living today.

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Please sign in using the QR code. If you do not have mobile phone access, the elder on duty can assist. Masks must be worn at all times, including while singing.

Order of Service

Sunday 9 January 2022

9:30 am Worship Service

Worship Leader

Rev. Wal Baker

Organist

Elizabeth Buttery



Introit

Welcome and community news

Invocation Prayer

Hymn 162 Thank you for giving me the morning

Prayer

Loving God, as we bow in worship at the beginning of a New Year we are reminded that our life is a journey in faith; not just a cycle of birth, growth, maturity and death; but a journey towards something that lies beyond. A journey with meaning and purpose, leading to a deeper quality of life in your presence.

We believe that you are our creator; you have made us, and you know all about us. You know our deepest emotions, and our most secret thoughts and we can't hide our true selves from you.

We believe that you became one of us in Jesus, and went all the way to the cross to show that you are worthy of our highest love, and most devoted service.

We believe that your Spirit makes the presence of Jesus real in our lives, and even when we are reluctant to follow him, you prompt and guide us, and enable us to be part of your church in this community.

We thank you that we are helped on our life's journey by the experience of other people; the first disciples; the example of Christian people down through the centuries; and the lives of faithful people we know and admire. But most of all we thank you that Jesus shows us what you are like, and brings us into your presence.

We acknowledge that at times we find it difficult to give you the place in our lives that we should. We come now to confess our need; and to ask for your help as we seek to be your people in this church and community in the coming days.

Bless this time we share with you in prayer, and help us to be your people in word and deed.

This is our sincere prayer. Amen.

Story Webster the Preacher Duck

Reading Psalm 100

Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth.
Worship the Lord with gladness;
come before him with joyful songs.
Know that the Lord is God.
It is he who made us, and we are his;
we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving
and his courts with praise;
give thanks to him and praise his name.
For the Lord is good and his love endures forever;
his faithfulness continues through all generations.

Reading Luke 3: 15-17, 21-22

The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John might possibly be the Messiah. John answered them all, "I baptize you with water. But one who is more powerful than I will come, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire."

When all the people were being baptized, Jesus was baptized too. And as he was praying, heaven was opened and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased."

Sermon Beginning his ministry with baptism

Hymn 650 Brother, sister, let me serve you

Offering and dedication

Your offering will be gratefully received via direct credit to
Account Name: Toorak Uniting Church
BSB: 033086 Account Number: 911892

Prayers of the people

Hymn 442 All praise to our redeeming Lord

Benediction

Postlude

Welcome to Toorak Uniting Church

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.