



**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 30 August, 2026

10:15am Combined Worship Service

Minister: Rev Peter Whitaker
Director of Music: Dylan Quinlan-Baskett



Introit **Salvator mundi**
 Taize

Salvator mundi salva nos. Salvator mundi salva nos, liberasti nos!
[Saviour of the world, save us. Saviour of the world, save us, free us.]

Welcome & Greeting

Psalm 139: 23-24

***Search me, O God, and know my heart;
test me and know my thoughts.
See if there is any wicked way in me,
and lead me to the way everlasting.***

Let us worship God. **Amen.**

Hymn 658 I, the Lord of sea and sky

Prayers of Approach

John Calvin, 1509-1564

***Most gracious God, our heavenly Father and Mother,
in you alone dwells all fullness of light and wisdom:
illuminate our minds by the Holy Spirit
in the true understanding of your Word.
Give us grace that we may receive it
with sincere reverence and humility.
May it help us to put our whole trust in you alone;
and thereby serve and honour you
that we may praise your name,
and encourage others by the good example of a godly life.
And because you are happy to include us among your people,
help us to give you the love and full respect that we owe,
as children of the light and as your servants Lord.
We ask this for the sake of our Master and Saviour. AMEN.
Holy God where we have failed to let you illuminate our lives;
we have been less than humble and respectful;
trusted more in ourselves than you;
and been a poor example of a life committed to you,
forgive us and renew us.***

Hear then Christ's word of grace to us:

Your sins are forgiven.

Thanks be to God.

THE SERVICE OF THE WORD

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

Readings Luke 15: 1-7

Krystyna Thomas

Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear him. And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, "This man receives sinners and eats with them."

So he told them this parable: "What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the open country, and go after the one that is lost, until he finds it? And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and his neighbours, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.' Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance."

Luke 15: 11-31

And he said, "There was a man who had two sons. And the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of property that is coming to me.' And he divided his property between them. Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took a journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in reckless living. And when he had spent everything, a severe famine arose in that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. And he was longing to be fed with the pods that the pigs ate, and no one gave him anything."

"But when he came to himself, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have more than enough bread, but I perish here with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants."' And he arose and came to his father."

But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his servants, 'Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.' And they began to celebrate.

"Now his older son was in the field, and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. And he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. And he said to him, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fattened calf, because he has received him back safe and sound.' But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, but he answered his father, 'Look, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command, yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him!' And he said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. It was fitting to celebrate and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.'"

Lord, may your word live in us: ***and bear much fruit to your glory.***

Anthem Adoramus te Christe

Antonio Lotti

1667-1740

*Adoramus te, Christe, et benedicimus tibi,
quia per sanctam crucem tuam redemisti mundum.*

*[We adore thee, O Christ and we bless thee,
because by thy holy cross thou hast redeemed the world.]*

Sermon The Lost Son who never left home!

Hymn 547 Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart

THE SERVICE OF RESPONSE

Notices

Offering	Christus Factus Est - Christ was made obedient Felice Anerio (Philippians. 2: 8-9)	1560-1614
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Christus factus est pro nobis obediens usque ad mortem autem crucis. Propter quod et Deus exaltavit illum, et dedit illi nomen, quod est super omne nomen.

*[Christ was made obedient even to death, death on the cross.
God therefore exalted him and gave him a name excelling all others.]*

Dedication of Offering

Prayers of the People Ursula Paez

Lord's Prayer

***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 The Summons
John L Bell and Graham Maule

Will you come and follow me
If I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know
And never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown,
Will you let my name be known,
Will you let my life be grown
In you and you in me?

Will you leave yourself behind
If I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind
And never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare
Should your life attract or scare?

Will you let me answer prayer
In you and you in me?

Will you let the blinded see
If I but call your name?

Will you set the prisoners free
And never be the same?

Will you kiss the leper clean,
And do such as this unseen.

And admit to what I mean
In you and you in me?

Will you love the 'you' you hide
If I but call your name?

Will you quell the fear inside
And never be the same?

Will you use the faith you've found
To reshape the world around,
Through my sight and touch and sound
In you and you in me?

Lord, your summons echoes true
When you but call my name.

Let me turn and follow you
And never be the same.

In your company I'll go
Where your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow
In you and you in me.

Benediction

Postlude Processional
William Mathias

1934-1992

Toorak Uniting Church Newsletter

Update 30 August 2026

update@toorakuc.org.au
03 9829 0300

Sunday services:
9am & 10:15am

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



Coffee Club - Friday 4 September

The next get-together for our Coffee Club is at 10:30am on Friday 4th September in Argyle House.

All are welcome to join us for a cuppa and a friendly chat.
We look forward to meeting you there on Friday.

Can you help?

This Sunday we will be having a special morning tea after our combined service. If any member of the congregation would like to bring a plate to morning tea/early lunch that day, it would be most welcome.
Savoury or sweet is fine.

Please bring the plate to the kitchen near the Hall before the service.

Concert for the Spire

We're having a fundraising concert, with the proceeds to go towards the cost of restoring the spire. This should be a memorable event, and will be at 3 pm on Sunday 11 October.

More details will follow shortly, but in the meantime, save the date!

Weekly TUC communications reminder

At the end of each week, we send out an email that includes the coming Sunday's Order of Service, Update, and any other important information about TUC. This can include notices of congregational meetings and Church Council minutes.

If you would like to stay up to date with what's happening and receive these weekly emails, you can subscribe via our website at toorakuc.org.au/newsletters-and-events, or otherwise by emailing the office.

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 below.

Come Say Hello at Prahran Place

Feeling like getting out and meeting some new faces? Prahran Place has something for everyone, whatever your age or interests. We are located centrally in Grattan Gardens, close to Prahran Market and the Prahran train station. Pop in for Chatty Cafe to grab a cuppa, have a laugh, and join in on some games, or lace up for one of our morning walking groups, a lovely way to stretch the legs and chat along the way. If you're navigating My Aged Care, we run regular information sessions and can also arrange a 1-on-1 chat to help you sort out what you need. We also run monthly group outings for My Aged Care clients. Love getting creative? Try your hand at crochet, studio arts, sewing or hand ceramics - all welcoming groups for any skill level.

Everyone's welcome! Give us a call on **9510 7052** or check out our website to find out what's on and when at prahranplace.org.au

Christian Meditation

Christian Meditation Group on 1 September will be at 7:30pm in the Church. For more information, contact April at lrpanotes@icloud.com

Faith in protest

Pilgrim Theological College will host the 2026 Northey Lecture, Faith in Protest: Liberation Theologies and Activism in the 1970s and 1980s, on Wednesday 2 September, from 2–3:30pm. Lecturer Michael Mawson will explore how New Zealand and Australian Christians engaged in anti-racist activism during the 1970s and 1980s, and how this history can inform our responses to racism and white supremacy today. This is a free public event. For more details, and to register on line or in person, refer to the Humanitix website (<https://humanitix.com/au>).

Exploring the Bible

Our *Exploring the Bible* sessions continue each Monday at 10.30am in Argyle House and each Tuesday at 7.30pm by Zoom.

Planning has started for an *Exploring the Bible* Retreat on Sunday 20 September. This would be from 12 noon until 3.30pm, and comprise prayers and meditation. All are welcome.

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

Agatha's Cantata, Vivaldi's Gloria

The documentary, **Agatha's Story** is on SBS OnDemand. It tells of the discovery and reconstruction of a lost Cantata. Born with only one finger on her left hand, Agatha grew up in the Venetian orphanage where Vivaldi was teaching and the orphans were given an excellent education in music. Agatha's Cantata, *Ecce nunc*, is the only composition by an orphan of the Ospedale della Pietà that has survived to be heard by modern audiences. The doco fills out details of Agatha's life and culminates in the ACC's performance of it at the Pisani Palace in Venice.

To celebrate the airing of the documentary and to celebrate Agatha's life and work, the ACC presents **Agatha's Cantata, Vivaldi's Gloria**.

Vivaldi's *Gloria* is a perfect companion to Agatha's Cantata.

Australian Chamber Choir with an orchestra of period instruments directed by Douglas Lawrence will present **Agatha's Cantata, Vivaldi's Gloria** at Scots' Church, Melbourne, 5 pm, Saturday 12 September.

Book at www.auschoir.org, or call 0452 531 750.

Diary Dates

Sun	30 Aug	10.15 am	Combined Worship service followed by morning tea	Rev Peter W Hall
Mon	31 Aug	10.30 am	Exploring the Bible	Argyle House
Tue	1 Sep	4.00pm	Renew 603 meeting	Faichney
Tue	1 Sep	7.30 pm	Christian Meditation	Church
Tue	1 Sep	7.30 pm	Exploring the Bible	Zoom
Wed	2 Sep	7.00 pm	Handbells	Wettenhall
Fri	4 Sep	10.30 am	Coffee Club	Argyle House
Sun	6 Sep	9.00 am	Worship with Conversation	Rev Sylvia
Sun	6 Sep	10.15 am	Worship service followed by morning tea	Rev Sylvia Faichney
Mon	7 Sep	10.30 am	Exploring the Bible	Argyle House



Artwork: Sylvia Isaac

The flowers in church today are in memory of Margaret Tuohy.

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 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.