



**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 15 March, 2026

10:15am Worship Service with Holy Communion

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

**GOD ISN'T
EXPLAINED**

BUT PROFESSED

him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.' When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, saying to him, 'Go, wash in the pool of Siloam' (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. The neighbours and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, 'Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?' Some were saying, 'It is he.' Others were saying, 'No, but it is someone like him.' He kept saying, 'I am the man.' But they kept asking him, 'Then how were your eyes opened?' He answered, 'The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, "Go to Siloam and wash." Then I went and washed and received my sight.' They said to him, 'Where is he?' He said, 'I do not know.'

They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, 'He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see.' Some of the Pharisees said, 'This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath.' But others said, 'How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?' And they were divided. So they said again to the blind man, 'What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened.' He said, 'He is a prophet.'

The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight and asked them, 'Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?' His parents answered, 'We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.' His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, 'He is of age; ask him.'

So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, 'Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner.' He answered, 'I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.' They said to him, 'What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?' He answered

them, 'I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?' Then they reviled him, saying, 'You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.' The man answered, 'Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.' They answered him, 'You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?' And they drove him out.

Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, 'Do you believe in the Son of Man?' He answered, 'And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.' Jesus said to him, 'You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.' He said, 'Lord, I believe.' And he worshipped him. Jesus said, 'I came into this world for judgement so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind.' Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, 'Surely we are not blind, are we?' Jesus said to them, 'If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, "We see", your sin remains.

For the words of scripture that strengthen and transform our life and faith, ***we give thanks.***

Anthem O Lord, increase my faith
Henry Loosemore

1607-1670

*O Lord, increase our faith,
strengthen me and confirm me in thy true faith;
endue me with wisdom, charity, chastity and patience,
in all my adversity.
Sweet Jesu, say Amen.*

Reflection God isn't explained but professed

Offering

Agnus Dei
Thomas Morley

1557-1603

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nostri?

[Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.]

Prayer of Dedication

God of our faith, we give thanks for the gift of life, and your abundant provision of what we need for life. We offer our lives, our love and our gifts to make a difference in the world. Bless our giving and our living. Amen.

Hymn 217 Love divine, all loves excelling

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

Thanksgiving

We give thanks for the way Holy Communion represents the abundant love and hospitality of God for us all.

We commit ourselves to respecting, honouring and appreciating the presence of the sacredness of life in one another.

We are gifted with enough to live life in the best way we can, with what we have.

***We give thanks that:
in the working of faith;
in the living of hope;
in the actions of kindness;
the grace of God is alive in us,
strengthening us, guiding us,
and walking with us every step of the way.***

We celebrate the Jesus we follow, whose words and actions inform our living.

With Holy Communion, we reaffirm our commitment to living life fully, with kindness and justice each day.

Breaking of Bread

Distribution of Elements

Prayer after Communion

Living and loving God, in whom we live and move and have our being, thank you for the many ways that enable us to understand and experience your presence. We receive your generous hospitality with grateful hearts. May your guiding wisdom in our faith experiences and imaginations continue to give us courage to be channels of peace, love, hope and grace wherever we are. Amen.

Hymn 572 O thou who camest from above

Blessing

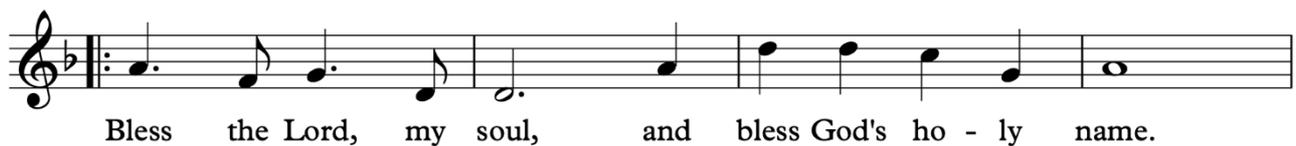
We are blessed to be blessings. May God's love continue to be visible in our daily living as we act justly, love kindness and walk humbly with one another.

Embraced, counselled and loved by an unending love, ours are the arms, the hands, the voices and the smiles that make life worth living.

And the blessings of God be with us all today and always. ***Amen.***

Chant Bless the Lord, my soul
 Jacques Berthier

1923-1994



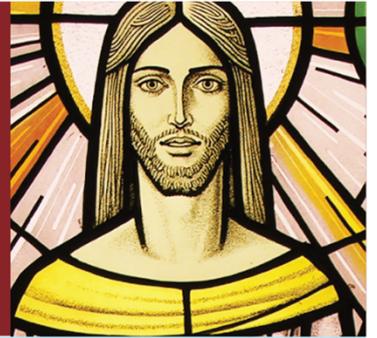
From the Taizé Community, 1978.

Toorak Uniting Church Newsletter
Update 15 March 2026

office@toorakuc.org.au
03 9829 0300

Sunday services:
9am & 10:15am

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



15 March - 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!

Name badge order

If you are new to TUC and would like a name badge, or otherwise have misplaced an old one, please email the Office with your name as you'd like it printed for our upcoming order. The cost of a name badge is now \$17.50 due to increased supplier pricing.

Ecumenical Lenten Studies

These Studies are being led by Rev Peter Whitaker, who continues with his theme of "*Reflections on the Meaning of the Cross*" on the following dates:

7pm on Tuesday, **17 March** at The Swedish Church and
7pm on Tuesday, **24 March** at St John's Anglican Church

Ecumenical Good Friday Witness Walk

The Ecumenical Good Friday Witness Walk is taking place on **Friday, 3 April** following TUC's Good Friday Worship Service. The walk will commence at **St John's Anglican Church at 11:30am** and end at TUC approximately 45 minutes later where we will have fellowship and a morning tea of Hot Cross Buns in the Hall.

For more information, please speak with Rev Sylvia or Stan Laugher.

**Bach B Minor Mass Concert | 3pm on Sunday, 22 March
at the Scots' Church, 156 Collins St**

The Australian Chamber Choir presents the Bach B Minor Mass concert directed by Douglas Lawrence and featuring the Melbourne Baroque Orchestra. The B Minor Mass represents Bach at the height of his powers, synthesising his life's musical experience into a timeless masterpiece that is a "greatest hits" of sacred choral writing. Don't miss this spiritual, emotional, and intellectual journey.

The TUC congregation has been offered a special 10% discount for this performance. To book tickets, please visit www.auschoir.org/buy-tickets and enter the discount code 'TUC'.

**A Day of Beautiful Things | 10am-3pm on Saturday, March 28
in the Wettenhall Room**

Jill Nazar, Pamela Dean, and Robyn Cartwright will be holding a pop-up market in the Wettenhall Room featuring cashmere dressing gowns, cardigans, capes, baby blankets, embroidered jackets and more along with distinctive and unique jewellery and stunning artificial floral arrangements. Entry is by gold coin donation.

The sale of Robyn's floral arrangements will continue on **Sunday, March 29 from 9:45am-12:45pm** and Jill & Pamela are also exhibiting at St Paul's Church in Canterbury on Thursday, March 26 from 10am-3pm. More information about the day and the exhibitors contact details can be found on the flyers at the back of the Church and the table outside the Office.

Educate 10,000 initiative

In these times of heightened antisemitism, TUC's Church Council draws members' attention to the Jewish Community Council of Victoria's "Educate 10,000" initiative which aims to promote social cohesion and understanding of Australian Jewish identity and history, and to combat antisemitism.

As part of the JCCV's initiative, the Jewish Museum of Australia is offering free 2-hour introductory sessions at **1:30pm on Wednesdays and 10:00am on Thursdays until 30 April, 2026**. Sessions include an introduction to Jewish life and community demographics, a Museum tour, and an introduction to historical and current forms of antisemitism.

Further details can be found at <https://jccv.org.au/>. To book into a session, please visit <https://shorturl.at/rn7K1>. If you do attend, please let James Barber know via jbarber@vicbar.com.au as Church Council would like to be able to report to the JCCV how many of the TUC Congregation have participated.

Change to Exploring the Bible

The regular Zoom-based Exploring the Bible group will **not meet on Tuesday evenings until after Easter**, including 17, 24, and 31 March.

The Primacy of St Peter Choral Concert | 7pm on Friday, 20 March at St Peter's Catholic Church, Toorak

A profound musical experience, performed by a vocal ensemble, featuring Melbourne's leading singers. Aria award winner Conrad Helfrich, composer and Director of Music at St Peter's, presents this original choral composition performed in English that brings Scripture to life through sacred music, highlighting St Peter's life.

The concert will be held in the church, with refreshments provided. Admission is by donation, making the Church's rich cultural and musical tradition accessible to all.

Tickets can be reserved at trybooking.com/DJRJP.

23 March - TUC Sewing Circle

Whether you're new or a seasoned 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. BYO lunch, coffee and tea provided. To RSVP, contact either

**Margot 0409 361 877 or
Angela 0407 887 596**

March Diary Dates

Sun	15 Mar	9:00am	Worship in the Round (HC)	Rev Sylvia
Sun	15 Mar	10:15am	Worship Service (HC)	Rev Sylvia
Sun	15 Mar	11:15am	Morning Tea	Hall
Mon	16 Mar	10:30am	Exploring the Bible	Kinross Café
Tue	17 Mar	7:00pm	TEM Lenten Studies	Swedish Church
Tue	17 Mar	7:30pm	Christian Meditation Group	Church Space
Wed	18 Mar	7:00pm	Handbells	Wettenhall Room
Sun	22 Mar	9:00am	Worship in the Round	Rev Peter
Sun	22 Mar	10:15am	Worship Service	Rev Peter
Sun	22 Mar	11:15am	Morning Tea	Hall
Mon	23 Mar	10:30am	Exploring the Bible	Kinross Café
Tue	24 Mar	7:00pm	TEM Lenten Studies	St John's Church
Tue	24 Mar	7:30pm	Christian Meditation Group	Online
Wed	25 Mar	5:00pm	Worship Committee Meeting	Faichney Room
Wed	25 Mar	7:00pm	Handbells	Wettenhall Room
Thu	26 Mar	10:30am	Prayers for Christian Unity	St Peter's Church



Artwork: Angela Abbott

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.