



**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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Masks are no longer mandated indoors, nevertheless, social distancing is still recommended and there will be members of the congregation who feel more secure wearing a mask. Please ensure that all feel welcome by allowing plenty of space.

Order of Service

Sunday 26 June 2022

10:15 am Worship Service

Worship Leader

Rev. John Edwards

Director of Music

Jennifer Chou



Painting of Samuel learning from Eli, by John Singleton Copley 1738-1815

Introit

Come before the Lord with Thanks

Fred Gramann 1950 -

Welcome and Community News

Gathering Words

O Christ, you are within each of us. It is not just the interior of these walls: it is our own inner being you have renewed.

We are your temple not made with hands. We are your body.

If every wall should crumble, and every church decay,
we are your habitation. Nearer are you than breathing,
closer than hands and feet.

Ours are the eyes with which you, in the mystery, look out with compassion on the world.

Yet we bless you for this place, for your directing of us, your redeeming of us, and your indwelling.

Take us outside, O Christ, outside holiness, out to where soldiers curse and nations clash at the crossroads of the world.

So shall this building continue to be justified. We ask it for your own name's sake.

Amen.

Hymn Lord, for the years your love has kept and guided

Lord, for the years your love has kept and guided,
urged and inspired us, cheered us on our way,
sought us and saved us, pardoned and provided:
Lord of the years, we bring our thanks today.

Lord, for that word, the word of life which fires us,
speaks to our hearts and sets our souls ablaze,
teaches and trains, rebukes us and inspires us:
Lord of the word, receive your people's praise.

Lord, for our land in this our generation,
spirits oppressed by pleasure, wealth and care:
for young and old, for commonwealth and nation,
Lord of our land, be pleased to hear our prayer.

Lord, for our world where we disown and doubt you,
loveless in strength, and comfortless in pain,
hungry and helpless, lost indeed without you:
Lord of the world, we pray that Christ may reign.

Lord for ourselves; in living power remake us –
self on the cross and Christ upon the throne,
past put behind us, for the future take us:
Lord of our lives, to live for Christ alone.

Prayers of Confession and Gratitude

O God our Father, we confess to you that we have
failed to be the men and women you meant us to be.

***When duty has called we have shirked it and have offered
excuses which did not convince us, let alone deceive you.***

We are sorry for our failure which has hurt ourselves as well as
others, and we resolve to put right what we can.

***And as for those mistakes which cannot be changed and
constantly accuse us, we surrender them to you.***

Save us from being haunted by them. Free us from their burden.

***May we step into the future unafraid, knowing that even if we
fail, failure is not final and does not put us out of reach of your
love which comes to us through Jesus Christ our Lord.***

For this fragile planet earth, its times and tides,
its sunsets and seasons,

We give you thanks.

For the joy of human life, its wonders and surprises,
its hopes and achievements,

We give you thanks.

For our human community, our common past and future hopes,
our oneness transcending all separation; for our capacity to work for
peace and justice in the midst of hostility and oppression,

We give you thanks.

Meet our new Assistant Church Officers

Aaron Rubingo and Tatenda Mungombe

Reading

1 Samuel 3: 1-10

Bronwyn Davis-Jones

The boy Samuel ministered before the Lord under Eli. In those days
the word of the Lord was rare; there were not many visions.

One night Eli, whose eyes were becoming so weak that he could barely see, was lying down in his usual place. The lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the house of the Lord, where the ark of God was. Then the Lord called Samuel.

Samuel answered, "Here I am." And he ran to Eli and said, "Here I am; you called me."

But Eli said, "I did not call; go back and lie down." So he went and lay down.

Again the Lord called, "Samuel!" And Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, "Here I am; you called me."

"My son," Eli said, "I did not call; go back and lie down."

Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord: The word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him.

A third time the Lord called, "Samuel!" And Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, "Here I am; you called me."

Then Eli realised that the Lord was calling the boy. So Eli told Samuel, "Go and lie down, and if he calls you, say, 'Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

The Lord came and stood there, calling as at the other times, "Samuel! Samuel!"

Then Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening."

Anthem Let the Heaven Light Shine on Me
arr. Moses Hogan 1957-2003

Reading Mark 1: 1-11

The beginning of the good news about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God, as it is written in Isaiah the prophet:

"I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way—a voice of one calling in the wilderness, 'Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.'"

And so John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him.

Confessing their sins, they were baptised by him in the Jordan River. John wore clothing made of camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. And this was his message: "After me comes the one more powerful than I, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I baptise you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit."

At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptised by John in the Jordan. Just as Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased."

Hymn 597 Master, speak, thy servant heareth

Sermon The breath of a light whisper

The Apostles' Creed

***I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.***

***I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.***

***On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.***

***I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.***

Offering All things bright and beautiful *John Rutter 1945 -*

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

Prayers for Others and Ourselves

Hymn 598 Dear Father, Lord of humankind

The Blessing

Postlude Middlebury

Bernard Wayne Sanders 1957 -



The flowers in the church today are from
Annette and Graeme Baldwin

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.