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 29 November 2026

Advent One: Hope

10:15am Worship Service

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

Grace,
the essence of
Advent



Introit Matin Responsory – I look from afar
Giovanni Pierluigi Palestrina 1525-1594

I look from afar: and lo, I see the power of God coming, and a cloud covering the whole earth.
Go ye out to meet him and say: Tell us, art thou he that should come to reign over thy people Israel? High and low, rich and poor, one with another, Go ye out to meet him.

Hear, O thou Shepherd of Israel, thou that leadest Joseph like a sheep, Tell us, art thou he that should come?
Stir up thy strength, O Lord, and come to reign over thy people Israel.
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.

Welcome & Community Notices

Lighting of the Advent Candle of Hope

We light this first candle of Advent in Hope. Looking forward with quiet confidence and trusting in light even during dark or uncertain times.
May our hearts be steady, and God's light shine into every dark and weary place in our lives, so we carry hope into the world. Amen.

Call to Worship

We are called this day, as in every day, to walk in brave faith towards each other and the world.
We are called in freedom and hope, to respect, accept, affirm and appreciate the divinity and humanity of God in ourselves and each other.

Let us worship with thanksgiving.

Hymn 59 All people that on earth do dwell

Prayer

Reading 1 Corinthians 1: 3-9 Julie Frazer

May these words be a lamp to our feet, ***and a light to our path.***

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace

of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind - just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you - so that you are not lacking in any gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful, by whom you were called into the partnership of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Anthem Drop down, ye heavens
George Alexander MacFarren 1813-1887

Drop down, ye heavens, from above, and let the skies pour down righteousness: let the earth open, and let them bring forth salvation. Amen.

Reading Mark 13: 24-37

“But in those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels and gather the elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert, for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake, for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening or at midnight or at cockcrow or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

May we hear the spirit in these words. ***We give thanks.***

Hymn 265 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
vv. 1-2

Reflection Grace, the essence of Advent

Offering Creator of the Stars of Night
Fred Gramann 1950-

Creator of the stars of night, thy people's everlasting light,
O Christ, thou Saviour of us all, we pray thee, hear us when we call.

When the old world drew on toward night, Thou camest, not in splendour bright as monarch, but the humble child of Mary, blameless mother mild.

At thy great name, exalted now all knees must bend, all hearts must bow; And things celestial thee shall own, and things terrestrial, Lord alone.

Creator of the stars of night, Thy people's everlasting light,
O Christ, thou saviour of us all, we pray thee, hear us when we call.

Prayer of Dedication

Gracious God, giver and provider of all things. We give you thanks, as we bring our gifts and offer our lives to do your work in the world. Bless our giving and our living for your service. Amen.

Prayer of Dedication

Prayers of the People

The 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 273 Lo! He comes with clouds descending

Blessing

May the child of God continue to grow in you and his love bring you hope.

May the grace of Christ, our role model, and the Father's boundless love, with the Holy Spirit's favour, rest upon you this day and every day. Amen.

Postlude



Artwork: Sylvia Isaac

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 the Wurundjeri Woiwurrung and Bunurong peoples of the East Kulin Nation as the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we live, work and worship, and we pay respect to their elders past and present.

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.

Toorak Uniting Church Newsletter

Update 29 November 2026

update@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 29th November 2026 in the Faichney Room**.

The agenda will be as follows.

1. Election of two representatives to Presbytery for 2027.*
2. To consider and if thought fit to approve the Operating Budget for 2027.
3. To consider and if thought fit to approve the appointment of Accru Melbourne as Church Auditors.

Copies of the Budget have been sent out to members by email. Please contact the Church office if you didn't receive it or would like a hard copy.

Chris Begg and Alexandra Legge have indicated acceptance of nomination as Presbytery Representatives.

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

Faithful futures

The TUC Church Council's response to the Faithful Futures process will be open for discussion over morning tea by all who are interested from 11.40 am (following the 10.15 am service) this Sunday, 29 November.

Volunteers for January services

A big thank you to those who have already volunteered to help with Summer Sunday services in January. We are still seeking volunteers for the following dates and positions:

17th Jan: Morning Tea, 24th Jan: Leader, 31st Jan: Reader, Morning Tea

If you'd like to fill one of these positions please contact the Office.

TUC Christmas Party - Monday 21 December from 4 pm

Save the date for our annual Community Christmas party where TUC staff, hirers and the congregation are all warmly invited to celebrate together. More details to follow in future *Update*s.

Exploring the Bible

There will be an *Exploring the Bible* session on Monday 30 November in the Faichney room, but NO zoom session on Tuesday 1 December. Sessions will then continue as usual until mid-December. Further information from Rev Peter, on pcwhitaker@icloud.com.

Coffee Club - Friday 4 December

The last get together for 2026 of our Coffee Club is at 10.30 am on Friday 4 December in the Faichney Room. All are welcome to join us for a cuppa and a friendly chat.

Food for Friends Appeal 2026

Our annual Food for Friends appeal of the Toorak Ecumenical Movement is upon us. These funds enable us to assist local agencies in providing support to those in need at this time of the year. We use your donations to purchase nonperishable groceries and personal items to supply to our chosen charities for sharing with their clients.

Please make your donation direct to:

Toorak Ecumenical Fund
BSB: 063 177 **Account Number:** 1002 6147
Toorak Branch, Commonwealth Bank of Australia
Please mark this donation Food 4 Friends.

Nine Lessons and Carols - Wesley Church

As the Toorak Ecumenical Council is not having an Ecumenical Lessons and Carols Service this year, you might consider attending the Service of Lessons and Carols at Wesley Church (Lonsdale Street) on 6 December at 5.30 pm for an ecumenical service of beautiful carols, sung by a choir of 100 singers. There will, of course, also be lots of congregational singing of many Christmas favourites.

For more details, see https://excelsis.org.au/wp/event/nine-lessons-and-carols/?instance_id=31

Men's Lunch

We're planning our next informal lunch on Thursday 3 December, so if you'd like to join us please speak to Rob Ahin or Ian Thomas or email Rob A at robinahin@optusnet.com.au

Nine Lessons and Carols Service

TUC's Nine Lessons and Carols service will be held at 8 pm on Sunday 13 December.

NCLS Survey

Thanks to those who have done so, but if you didn't get a chance to complete the National Church Life Survey in person on 8 November, you can still do so online via https://mysurveys.ncls.org.au/start/attender using TUC's unique church code. Please contact the office for the code.

Sammy Stamp - Please keep your festive stamps!

The Uniting Church Adult Fellowship Stamp Fund, better known as Sammy Stamp, coordinates the collection and sale of stamps to offer grants for mission and development work in Australia and overseas. Sammy Stamp has raised over $1.2 million since 1977.

Please help support this worthy venture by keeping any stamps you receive over the festive season (or in fact, at any time). We look forward to collecting any used stamps (on or off envelopes) during February, or you can also drop them into the Office any time throughout the year.

Diary Dates

Sun	29 Nov	9.00 am	Worship with Conversation	Rev Sylvia
Sun	29 Nov	9.45 am	Congregational Meeting	Faichney
Sun	29 Nov	10.15 am	Worship Service	Rev Sylvia
			followed by morning tea	Faichney
Mon	30 Nov	10.30 am	Exploring the Bible	Faichney
Tues	1 Dec	7.30 pm	Christian Meditation	Church
Wed	2 Dec	5.00 pm	Worship Committee	Wettenhall
Wed	2 Dec	7.00 pm	Handbells	Wettenhall
Fri	4 Dec	10.30 am	Coffee Club	Faichney
Sun	6 Dec	9.00 am	Worship with Conversation	Rev Sylvia
Sun	6 Dec	10.15 am	Worship Service	Rev Sylvia
			followed by morning tea	Faichney
Mon	7 Dec	10.30 am	Exploring the Bible	Faichney
Tues	8 Dec	7.30 pm	Exploring the Bible	Zoom