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 November 2026

10:15am Worship Service with Holy Communion

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



Introit O taste and see
Ralph Vaughan Williams 1872-1958

O taste and see how gracious the Lord is:
Blest is the man that trusteth in Him.

Welcome & Community Notices

Call to Worship

Spirit divine, fall afresh on us today.
Come as light and be our guide.

May our eyes be open to see the best in one another.
May our ears be open to listen with hope.

May our minds be open to ponder with imagination.
May our hearts be open to receive understanding.

Come as you are, and let us praise and worship God.

Hymn 111 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

Prayer of Awareness

We give thanks for the constant presence and guidance of the Holy Spirit in our journey of life. May we notice the quiet goodness that surrounds us. May we live this day, and every day, with appreciation. Amen.

Reading Matthew 25: 14-30 Peter Whitaker

"For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. At once the one who had received the five talents went off and traded them and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and his master's money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things; I will put you in

charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' And the one with two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things; I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow and gathering where you did not scatter, so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here, you have what is yours.' But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take this talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance, but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

For the words that liberate our faith into action. ***We give thanks.***

Anthem God be in my head
John Rutter 1945-

God be in my head and in my understanding,
God be in mine eyes and in my looking,
God be in my mouth and in my speaking,
God be in my heart and in my thinking,
God be at my end and in my departing.

Reflection The Mountain is You

Offering God so loved the world – from The Crucifixion
John Stainer 1840-1901

God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. (John 3: 16-17)

Prayer of Dedication

In giving and receiving, we learn to love and be loved.
May our gratitude for life be expressed in our generosity.
May our faith be expressed in commitment to justice.
May our belief in the future find expression in simple acts of kindness lived out each day. Amen.

Prayers of the People

(in silence we pray for the world, for the church, for ourselves and our families)

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 147 To God be the glory

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

Friends and family, we are invited to receive the hospitality of God. The invitation to the Lord's table is to 'come as you are'. At the Lord's table, there is room for all, where everyone is warmly welcomed as an honoured guest.

The peace of God be with you.
And God's peace be also with you.

Lift up your hearts!
We lift them up to God

We give thanks for Jesus Christ, who models love and compassion for us.
We give thanks for Jesus Christ who calls us into action – living life to the best, with our best, and for the best.

When Jesus shared a meal with his disciples. He took bread, blessed it, broke it and gave it to his disciples saying, “This is my body which is given for you.” In the same way he took the cup, after giving thanks, poured it out and gave it to his disciples saying, “This cup is the new covenant sealed with my blood.”

With Holy Communion, we reaffirm our identity; our commitment to being fully human; and living out our covenantal relationship of love, with the sacred spirit within us and with one another.

In Christ and through Christ we receive the bread of life; and the cup of compassion. Let us receive these gifts in faith with thanksgiving.

Distribution of Elements

The bread of life, given for you.

The cup of compassion, poured out for you.

Prayer after Communion

Living Spirit, thank you for your generous hospitality and love for us. May we live each day grounded in strength, growing stronger in our love for one another, with courage and in peace. Amen.

Hymn 573 A charge to keep I have

Blessing

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. Amen.

Postlude

Toorak Uniting Church Newsletter

Update 15 November 2026

update@toorakuc.org.au
03 9829 0300

Sunday services:
9am & 10:15am

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



Communion Sunday

Each month on the third Sunday (this Sunday) we celebrate Communion. On these Sundays we have an opportunity to donate towards the four Outreach programs we support under the umbrella of the Uniting Church. These programs greatly rely on and appreciate our gifts: The Homework Hub in Pakenham, The Cranbourne Food Truck, Boroondara Community Outreach in Kew, and SOSK (Skills, Opportunity and Survival in Kenya).

You may either donate into the Outreach offering bowl at the rear of the Church or donate electronically at any time to Toorak Uniting Church, marking your donation as "Outreach". Thank you for your support!

BSB: 033 086 Account Number: 911 892

Seeking volunteers for Summer Sunday services

TUC's Summer Sunday services will be taking place at 9:30am from 27 Dec - 31 Jan inclusive, in lieu of our usual two services. We seek volunteers to serve as Leaders, Welcomers, Readers and on Morning Tea during January. If you're going to be around during the summer, please consider putting your hand up as your service will provide our usual volunteers with a well-earned break. Please let Rev Sylvia know or contact office@toorakuc.org.au to volunteer. Thank you!

Monday 23 November - TUC Sewing Circle

Whether you're new or a seasoned stitcher, TUC Sewing Circle is a place for sharing ideas, developing 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. Contact **Margot 0409 361 877** or **Angela 0407 887 596.**

Volunteers needed – Toorak Op Shop

The Toorak Op Shop is operated by the three Toorak Ecumenical Churches: Toorak Uniting, St John's, and St Peter's. It's at 1A Carters Av, Toorak, and is open Mon to Sat, 12-4pm. (https://toorakopshop.com.au/). Volunteers to help in the shop are needed and are always welcome, so if you're interested please contact Carrlo at carrlojack@gmail.com.

Please note that Christian Meditation will be held via Zoom next Tuesday, 17 November at 7:30pm, rather than in the church.

Church Council Secretary

This position is still vacant. As previously noted, the role includes sending the agenda and other meeting papers to the members of church council, and handling correspondence addressed to the secretary. If you have the computer skills to carry out this role, Barbara would be delighted to hear from you. At present she carries out this task on top of full time service to the wider community.

Nine Lessons and Carols Service

The Nine Lessons and Carols service will be held at 8pm on Sunday 13 December. Note that this year, it will be an evening service, in addition to the usual 9am and 10.15am services on this day.

Save the Dates - Christmas at TUC!

Make a note of these special services at TUC for the festive season!

Sunday 13 December - 8pm Lessons and Carols (see item above).

Christmas Eve 24 December - 6pm (Christmas Carols) and also 8pm (service featuring John Rutter's *Gloria*).

Christmas Day 25 December - 10.15am Worship Service.

Sunday 27 December - Summer Sundays services commence, at 9.30

Diary Dates

Sun	15 Nov	9.00 am	Worship with Conversation	Rev Sylvia
Sun	15 Nov	10.15 am	Worship Service	Rev Sylvia
			followed by morning tea	Faichney
Mon	16 Nov	10.30 am	Exploring the Bible	Faichney
Tue	17 Nov	7.30 pm	Christian Meditation	Zoom
Tue	17 Nov	7.30 pm	Exploring the Bible	Zoom
Wed	18 Nov	7.00 pm	Handbells	Wettenhall
Sun	22 Nov	9.00 am	Worship with Conversation & HC	Rev Gillian
Sun	22 Nov	10.15 am	Worship Service and Communion	Rev Gillian
			followed by morning tea	Faichney
Mon	23 Nov	10.30 am	Exploring the Bible	Faichney
Mon	23 Nov	11.00 am	Sewing Circle	Wettenhall
Tue	24 Nov	7.30 pm	Exploring the Bible	Zoom
Tue	24 Nov	7.30 pm	Christian Meditation	Zoom
Wed	25 Nov	5.00 pm	Worship Committee	Faichney
Wed	25 Nov	7.00 pm	Handbells	Wettenhall



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.