



**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

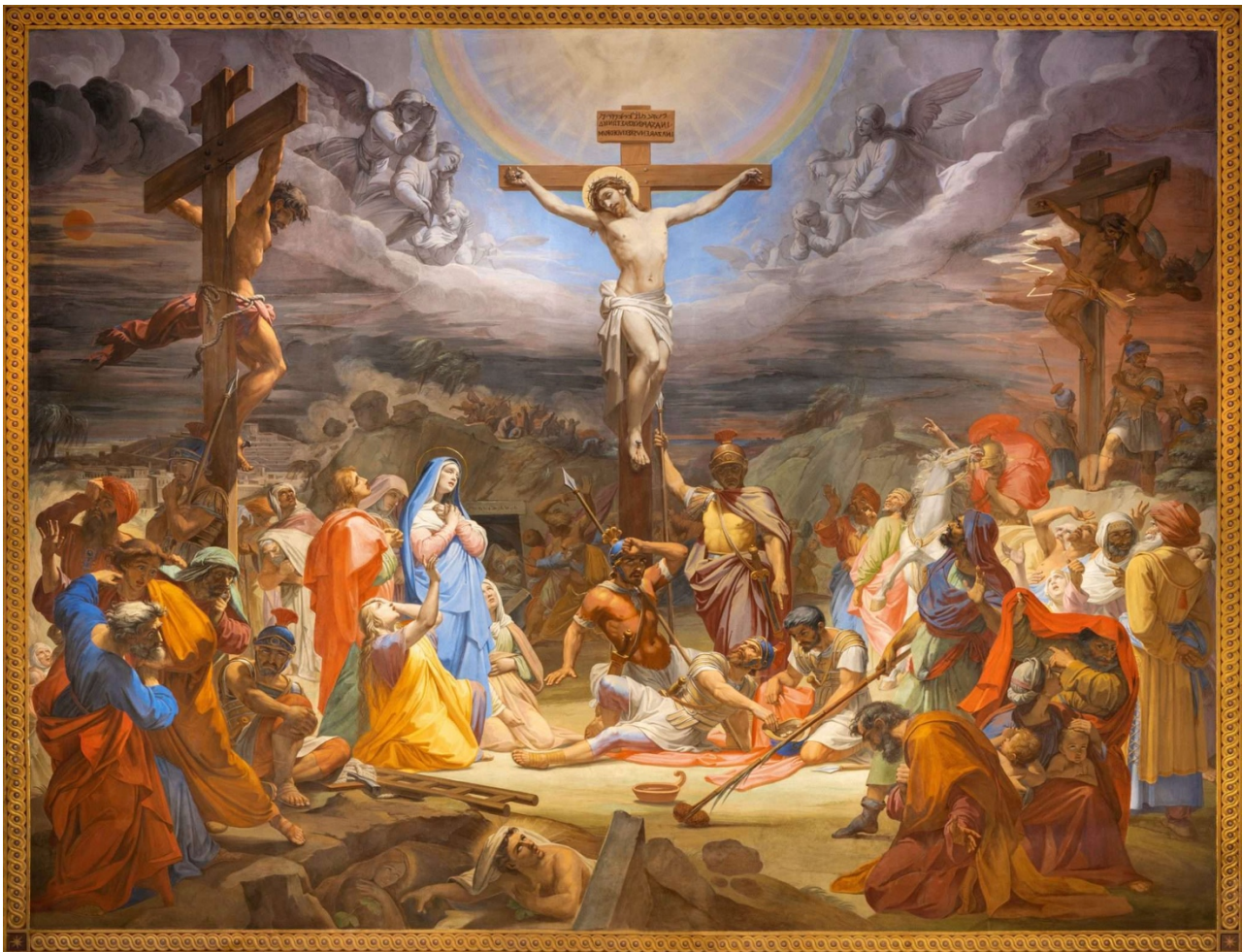
Order of Service

Friday 3 April, 2026

10am Worship Service

Good Friday

Minister: Rev John Edwards
Director of Music: Dylan Quinlan-Baskett



The Fresco of Crucifixion by Pietro Gagliardi (1847-1852)

Introit Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
African-American spiritual 1797-1828

*Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
were you there when they crucified my Lord?
O sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble;
were you there when they crucified my Lord?*

Welcome & Announcements

Gathering Words

There is a time for asking questions,
but there is always a day for decision.
There is a time to discuss who Jesus is,
but there is also a time to take up your cross and follow him.
There is a time to weigh the issues carefully,
but there are issues that will not wait until tomorrow.
If we wait until we understand everything,
we will wait forever.
If we do not follow the light which we *do* see,
we will receive no more light.
If we, today, miss this opportunity
then God help us. Amen.

Hymn 341 My song is love unknown

Prayer of Approach

Lord Jesus Christ, by your cross and passion, you brought healing and hope to the world. With grateful hearts we remember your immense suffering, your sacrifice, and your mercy upon us and all humanity. We give you thanks. May our hearts be cleansed from fear and filled with your love. May we have the strength to bear our own crosses and live in ways that honour the sacrifice you made for our salvation. Amen.

Reading Hebrews 4: 14-16; 5: 7-9 Bronwyn Davis-Jones

Since, then, we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been

tested as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him.

For the words of scripture that give us hope, ***thanks be to God.***

Anthem The Reproaches
 Ed. Dylan Quinlan-Baskett 1994-

*My people, what have I done to you? or in what have I offended you?
Testify against me.*

*Because I led you out of the land of Egypt, you have prepared a
cross for your Saviour.*

Response: *Holy god, Holy and mighty, Holy and immortal, have
mercy upon us.*

*Because I led you out through the desert for forty years, and fed you
with manna, and brought you into a good land, you prepared a cross
for your Saviour. (Response)*

What should I have done and did I not?

*Behold, I have planted you as my fairest vine, and you have become
very bitter to me, for you have quenched my thirst with vinegar, and
with a lance you have pierced your Saviours side. (Response)*

*My people, what have I done to you? or in what have I offended you?
Testify against me. (Response)*

Poem and inspiration

Janette Obuch

Rag 'n' Bone Christ

Christ calls out His mantra down the back roads,
ginnels, snicketts and alleyways of our souls,
His angel'd chariot clattering 'gainst t'cobbles.

'Rag 'n Bone, Rag 'n Bone,
bring Me your Rag 'n Bone'.

So, at His invite, we throw away our sin bundles like dirty rags,
discarded cargo, filthy and miasmic,
and, peg-nosed, drop our load in two digit pincer movement of
disdain 'twixt thumb and finger.

'Cos He alone can take the stain of Sin, which left, sheets home with
seeping stealth and steals His Spirit from within.

Saviour Christ then burns these bundled rags of shoddy in the hell
fires of our own making,
and, marled with His Own blood, a cleansing stench suffuses heart
and mind.

Thus, He turns our rotten into Right;
sells not our Sin but deems his profit the tidy habitation of our spirited
souls;
this Eternal Merchant of Exchange.

Reflection Why Good Friday?

Hymn 342 When I survey the wondrous cross

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 123 Be still, my soul: the Lord is on your side

Benediction

May the love of God continue to bless you and keep you. May the
gracious sacrifice of Christ shine brightly as your guiding light.
May the presence of the Spirit embrace you with wisdom and peace,
now and always. Amen.

(Leaving quietly and reflectively)