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 8 November 2026

Pentecost 24

10:15am Worship Service

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



Introit For the Fallen
Douglas Albert Guest 1916-1996

They shall grow not old as we that are left grow old.
Age shall not weary them nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
we will remember them.

Welcome & Community News

Gathering Words

Spirit of God, open our hearts.
Fill us with your Spirit.

Wisdom of God, open our hearts.
Fill us with your wisdom.

Loving God, open our hearts.
Fill us with your love. Amen.

Hymn 210 O for a thousand tongues to sing
vv. 1-3, 6

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Living and loving God, fill us with life anew;
that we may love all that you love, and do what you would do.

We thank you for faith, hope, courage and service.
May we continue to be people of faith, hope, courage and service in the world today.

We thank you for coming to us as love.
May our words and actions of justice and care reflect this same love.

We thank you for showing us ways of compassion and mercy:
May we reach out to all people with that same spirit of compassion and mercy.

We thank you for continuing to guide us in your way:
Open our hearts and minds to your presence, so that we may extend your way to all people, in all places, at all times. Amen.

Reading Matthew 25: 1-13 Nick Tolhurst
New Living Translation

Your word, O Lord, is a lamp to our feet: ***A light to our path.***

The Kingdom of Heaven can be illustrated by the story of ten bridesmaids who took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. The five who were foolish took no oil for their lamps, but the other five were wise enough to take along extra oil. When the bridegroom was delayed, they all lay down and slept. At midnight they were roused by the shout, 'Look, the bridegroom is coming! Come out and welcome him!' All the bridesmaids got up and prepared their lamps. Then the five foolish ones asked the others, 'Please give us some of your oil because our lamps are going out.' But the others replied, 'We don't have enough for all of us. Go to a shop and buy one for yourselves.' But while they were gone to buy oil, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the marriage feast, and the door was locked. Later when the other five bridesmaids returned, they stood outside, calling, 'Sir, open the door for us!' But he called back, 'I don't know you!' "So stay awake and be prepared, because you do not know the day or hour of my return."

For the words of Scripture that move our faith into action,
we give thanks!

Anthem O Lord, increase my faith
Henry Loosemore 1607-1670

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

Reflection Spiritually Ready

Hymn 266 'Wake, awake, for night is flying'

Offering Hear my prayer
arr. Moses Hogan 1957-2003

O Lord, please hear my prayer
In the morning when I rise.
It's your servant bound for glory.
O dear Lord, please hear my prayer.

O Lord, please hear my prayer.
Keep me safe within your arms.
It's your servant bound for glory.
O dear Lord, please hear my prayer.

When my work on earth is done,
And you come to take me home.
Just to know I'm bound for glory
And to hear You say, "Well done!"

Done with sin and sorrow.
Have mercy, mercy. Amen.

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.

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 582 Lead, kindly light

Blessing

May the abundant blessings of God continue to be yours today and always. Let us go in peace and with joy, to bring transformation and hope to the world.
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 8 November 2026

update@toorakuc.org.au
03 9829 0300

Sunday services:
9am & 10:15am

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



Next Sunday – Communion Sunday

Each month on the third Sunday we come together to celebrate Communion. On these Sundays we have the opportunity to donate towards the 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 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".

BSB: 033 086 Account Number: 911 892

Thank you for your heartfelt support!

Exploring the Bible

Exploring the Bible sessions will be held as usual this coming week on Monday 9 November in person at 10.30 am and on Tuesday 10 November by Zoom at 7.30 pm. **Note that the location of Monday's meeting has changed, and it will now be in the Faichney Room.** Further information from Rev Peter, on pcwhitaker@icloud.com.

Christian Meditation

Christian Meditation on 10 November will be by Zoom at 7.30 pm. For more information, contact April at **lirpanotes@icloud.com.**

Spire Appeal

There's still a long way to go! Work has started and donations to the Spire Appeal are welcome and can be tax deductible. All the details are on the website.
https://www.toorakuc.org.au/spire-appeal

NCLS Survey

TUC is participating in the 2026 National Church Life Survey. The last survey was in 2021, and it's designed to listen to the views of our community so as to provide a picture of our church's health and vitality and, along with other churches, feed in to the national picture. In due course, TUC will receive a summary of the results which will assist the Church Council in its work.

We are all requested to complete the survey at morning tea this Sunday 8 November.

Oversight of church rosters

The smooth functioning of the 10:15 service relies on a number of helpers - such as welcomers, readers, ushers, communion preparers, offering counters - each Sunday. Fiona Thomas has been doing a wonderful job coordinating the rosters for a number of years, but is relocating to the UK and is not in a position to continue. The coordinator needs to ensure that spaces are filled and to communicate with the office so that reminders can be sent. This role could be shared.

Please let Rev Sylvia know if you or your team can assist with this vital support of our worshipping community.

Church Council secretary

This position is still vacant. The role involves sending the agenda and other meeting papers to the members of church council, bundling up the correspondence and meeting papers for distribution and passing on correspondence addressed to the secretary. It can, but does not need to, also involve taking and preparing meeting minutes.

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.

Men's Lunch

We have monthly informal catch ups over lunch, so if you'd like to join us on some future date please speak to Rob Ahin or Ian Thomas or email Rob A at robinahin@optusnet.com.au

Baroque Christmas 2026

Composers throughout history have pulled out all the stops to produce buoyant and engaging music for the Christmas season. This year, the Australian Chamber Choir conducted by Douglas Lawrence is presenting a concert in Melbourne (Middle Park) on Sunday 6 December 2026 at 3:00 pm, as well as on other dates at Terang, Macedon, Dunkeld (package available including accommodation at Royal Mail Hotel) and Geelong. For further details, and to buy tickets, see https://www.auschoir.org/buy-tickets/

Faithful futures

Faithful Futures Project is a collaborative effort between presbyteries and the Synod to discern priorities, direct resources and ensure we are equiped for the challenges and opportunities ahead. The project was approved at the Synod Meeting in 2025.
A one-page summary is available setting out the five shared goals (copies available in the Church).
For more information, see https://victas.uca.org.au/faithful-futures/

Diary Dates

Sun	8 Nov	9.00 am	Worship with Conversation	Rev Sylvia
Sun	8 Nov	10.15 am	Worship Service	Rev Sylvia
			followed by morning tea	Faichney
Mon	9 Nov	10.30 am	Exploring the Bible	Faichney
Tues	10 Nov	7.30 pm	Christian Meditation	Zoom
Tues	10 Nov	7.30 pm	Exploring the Bible	Zoom
Wed	11 Nov	7.00 pm	Handbells	Wettenhall
Sun	15 Nov	9.00 am	Worship with Conversation & HC	Rev Sylvia
Sun	15 Nov	10.15 am	Worship Service with HC	Rev Sylvia
			followed by morning tea	Faichney
Mon	16 Nov	10.30 am	Exploring the Bible	Faichney
Tues	17 Nov	7.30 pm	Exploring the Bible	Zoom
Tues	17 Nov	7.30 pm	Christian Mediation	Church
Wed	18 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.