
ST THEODORE'S, TOORAK GARDENS

ORDINARY 15 - NAIDOC WEEK

5 JULY 2026



WELCOME

St Theodore's is an active, caring and supportive community which values liturgy, prayer and preaching to sustain our daily lives, as we seek to foster love, hope and justice to all. You are welcome here as you are, embraced within God's boundless love. We hope you will feel at home.

PRAYING WITH CANDLES AND STONES

As you enter the church, there are two stations for prayer. One is an invitation to light a candle, symbolising our praying for each other before God. The other is an invitation to drop stones into a bowl of water, symbolising letting go of something (or someone) weighing us down.

ADMINISTRATION OF COMMUNION

- If there is a queue for the wine, please pause to avoid congestion.
- If you do not wish to drink the wine, you may wish to pause before the chalice to acknowledge the sacramental presence.
- The priest will come to you for communion or prayers, if need be.
- For health reasons, dipping bread into the wine is prohibited.

LIVE-STREAMING

Our 9:30am Sunday Service is live-streamed on YouTube. We endeavour not to show communicants coming forward for Holy Communion.

SUPPORTING OUR MINISTRY

St Theodore's depends on donations to sustain our ministry. You can contribute in person with Cash (Offertory Bowl) or Card (Eftpos Machine) at the church entrance. You can offer via bank transfer a regular gift to our Planned Giving account, or a donation to our FSP Donations account. We very much value your support.

Please email office@theodores.church to subscribe to our mailing list.

Please stand in body or in spirit

PROCESSIONAL HYMN: CP 598 AS A FIRE IS MEANT FOR BURNING

- 1 As a fire is meant for burning
with a bright and warming flame,
so the Church is meant for mission,
giving glory to God's name.
As we witness to the gospel,
we would build a bridge of care,
joining hands across the nations,
finding neighbours everywhere.

- 2 We are learners; we are teachers;
we are pilgrims on the way.
We are seekers; we are givers;
we are vessels made of clay.
By our gentle, loving actions,
we would show that Christ is light.
In a humble, listening Spirit,
we would live to God's delight.

- 3 As a green bud in the springtime
is a sign of life renewed,
so may we be signs of oneness
mid earth's peoples, many hued.
As a rainbow lights the heavens
when a storm is past and gone,
may our lives reflect the radiance
of God's new and glorious dawn.

Tune: Abbot's Leigh
Music: Cyril Vincent Taylor (1907-1991)
Words: Ruth Duck (1947-2024)
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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

As we gather in worship, we acknowledge the Kurna People as the traditional owners and custodians of this land.

May we walk together in harmony in a spirit of reconciliation.

INVOCATION AND GREETING

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

† Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever.

WELCOME

OPENING SENTENCE

'Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest,' says the Lord. 'Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart.' Matt 11.28-29

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Let us pray.
**Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hidden:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy name,
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

KYRIES

**Lord, have mercy
Christ, have mercy
Lord, have mercy**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Though Christ has called us into one body, the oneness of the peoples of this land has been broken by acts of oppression and the failure of compassion and justice.

Silence may be kept.

Let us therefore confess our brokenness, confident in God's power and promise to make us whole.

**Merciful God,
our maker and our judge,
we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
and in what we have failed to do:
we have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves;
we repent, and are sorry for all our sins.
O God, forgive us.
Strengthen us to love and obey you
in newness of life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Almighty God,
who has promised forgiveness
to all who turn to him in faith:
† pardon you and set you free from all your sins,
strengthen you in all goodness
and keep you in eternal life,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

GLORIA

Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to God's people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,

we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,

you take away the sin of the world:

have mercy on us;

you are seated at the right hand of the Father:

receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One,

you alone are the Lord,

you alone are the Most High

Jesus Christ,

with the Holy Spirit,

† in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Eternal God,

you blessed Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
with wisdom to live in this land and care for it:

bleed Australia's First Peoples again today

with pride in their languages, stories and songs;

and give grace to all of us

to share culture, faith and hope together

through our Lord Jesus Christ,

who lives and reigns

with you and the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Please be seated

FIRST READING: GENESIS 24.34-38, 42-49, 58-67

³⁴ So he said, 'I am Abraham's servant. ³⁵ The Lord has greatly blessed my master, and he has become wealthy; he has given him flocks and herds, silver and gold, male and female slaves, camels and donkeys. ³⁶ And Sarah my master's wife bore a son to my master when she was old; and he has given him all that he has. ³⁷ My master made me swear, saying, "You shall not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, in whose land I live; ³⁸ but you shall go to my father's house, to my kindred, and get a wife for my son."

⁴² 'I came today to the spring, and said, "O Lord, the God of my master Abraham, if now you will only make successful the way I am going! ⁴³ I am standing here by the spring of water; let the young woman who comes out to draw, to whom I shall say, 'Please give me a little water from your jar to drink,' ⁴⁴ and who will say to me, 'Drink, and I will draw for your camels also' – let her be the woman whom the Lord has appointed for my master's son."

⁴⁵ 'Before I had finished speaking in my heart, there was Rebekah coming out with her water-jar on her shoulder; and she went down to the spring, and drew. I said to her, "Please let me drink." ⁴⁶ She quickly let down her jar from her shoulder, and said, "Drink, and I will also water your camels." So I drank, and she also watered the camels. ⁴⁷ Then I asked her, "Whose daughter are you?" She said, "The daughter of Bethuel, Nahor's son, whom Milcah bore to him." So I put the ring on her nose, and the bracelets on her arms. ⁴⁸ Then I bowed my head and worshipped the Lord, and blessed the Lord, the God of my master Abraham, who had led me by the right way to obtain the daughter of my master's kinsman for his son. ⁴⁹ Now then, if you will deal loyally and truly with my master, tell me; and if not, tell me, so that I may turn either to the right hand or to the left.'

⁵⁸ And they called Rebekah, and said to her, 'Will you go with this man?' She said, 'I will.' ⁵⁹ So they sent away their sister Rebekah and her nurse along with Abraham's servant and his men. ⁶⁰ And they blessed Rebekah and said to her,

'May you, our sister, become
thousands of myriads;
may your offspring gain possession
of the gates of their foes.'

⁶¹ Then Rebekah and her maids rose up, mounted the camels, and followed the man; thus the servant took Rebekah, and went his way.

⁶² Now Isaac had come from Beer-lahai-roi, and was settled in the Negeb.

⁶³ Isaac went out in the evening to walk in the field; and looking up, he saw camels coming. ⁶⁴ And Rebekah looked up, and when she saw Isaac, she slipped quickly from the camel, ⁶⁵ and said to the servant, 'Who is the man over there, walking in the field to meet us?' The servant said, 'It is my master.' So she took her veil and covered herself. ⁶⁶ And the servant told Isaac all the things that he had done. ⁶⁷ Then Isaac brought her into his mother Sarah's tent. He took Rebekah, and she became his wife; and he loved her. So Isaac was comforted after his mother's death.

For the word of the Lord,
Thanks be to God.

PSALM 45.10-17

Response: Arise, O God, and judge the earth; for all the nations belong to you

¹⁰ Hear, O daughter, consider and incline your ear:
forget your own people and your father's house.

¹¹ The king desires your beauty:
he is your lord, therefore bow down before him. **R**

¹² The richest among the people, O daughter of Tyre:
shall entreat your favour with gifts.

¹³ The king's daughter is all glorious within:
her clothing is embroidered cloth-of-gold. **R**

¹⁴ In robes of many colours she is led to you, O king:
and, after her, the virgins that are with her.

¹⁵ They are led with gladness and rejoicing:
they enter the palace of the king. **R**

¹⁶ In place of your fathers you shall have sons:
and make them princes over all the land.
¹⁷ And I will make known your name to every generation:
therefore the peoples shall give you praise for ever. **R**

SECOND READING: ROMANS 7.14-25

¹⁴ For we know that the law is spiritual; but I am of the flesh, sold into slavery under sin. ¹⁵ I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. ¹⁶ Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. ¹⁷ But in fact it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. ¹⁸ For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot do it. ¹⁹ For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. ²⁰ Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. ²¹ So I find it to be a law that when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. ²² For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, ²³ but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. ²⁴ Wretched man that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? ²⁵ Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, with my mind I am a slave to the law of God, but with my flesh I am a slave to the law of sin.

For the word of the Lord,
Thanks be to God

Please stand in body or in spirit

GRADUAL HYMN: CP 101 ALL YE WHO SEEK FOR SURE RELIEF

1 All ye who seek for sure relief
in trouble and distress,
whatever sorrow vex the mind,
or guilt the soul oppress;

- 2 Jesus, who gave himself for you
upon the cross to die,
opens to you his sacred heart:
O to that heart draw nigh.
- 3 Ye hear how kindly he invites;
ye hear his words so blest:
'All ye that labour come to me,
and I will give you rest.'
- 4 O Jesus, joy of saints on high,
thou hope of sinners here,
attracted by those loving words
to thee we lift our prayer.
- 5 Wash thou our wounds in that dear blood
which from thy heart doth flow;
a new and contrite heart on all
who cry to thee bestow.

Tune: Corvedale
Music: Maurice Bevan (1921-2006)
Words: Frederick William Faber
(1814-1863)
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THE GOSPEL

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

**Blessed are you, Father, Lord of | heaven and earth;
you have revealed to little ones the mysteries | of the kingdom.**

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew 11.15-30

‡ Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

¹⁵ Jesus said, “Let anyone with ears listen!

¹⁶ ‘But to what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the market-places and calling to one another,

¹⁷ “We played the flute for you, and you did not dance;
we wailed, and you did not mourn.”

¹⁸ For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, “He has a demon”; ¹⁹ the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, “Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax-collectors and sinners!” Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.’

²⁵ At that time Jesus said, ‘I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; ²⁶ yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. ²⁷ All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

²⁸ ‘Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.’

This is the Gospel of the Lord,
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

SERMON

The sermon is followed by a time of silence for reflection.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Let us pray for the world and for the Church.

Let us pray that we will be joined together in working for reconciliation, and the healing of our ancient land and its peoples.

Forgive us for remaining silent and bound by fear.
Give us the courage to speak and act with justice.

Forgive us for our arrogance in closing our eyes to all peoples and cultures.
Enable us to know your redeeming power.

Forgive us for disfiguring this land and despoiling its bounty.
Come Holy Spirit, renew the whole creation.

Forgive us for despising the cultures of others and taking away their self-respect.
Give us grace to bind one another's wounds.

Forgive us for not listening to the griefs of all who are oppressed in this land, especially its First Peoples.
Draw us together as one people.

Forgive us for our part in tearing apart families and profiting from the misery of others.
Strengthen us to live with respect and compassion for one another.

The prayers are followed by a time of silence for reflection.

Conclusion:

Compassionate God, you have promised to hear our prayers.
**Grant that what we have asked in faith
we may by your grace receive,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

THE GREETING OF PEACE

We are the body of Christ.
God's Spirit is with us.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

OFFERTORY HYMN: CP596 "THERE IN GOD'S GARDEN STANDS THE TREE OF WISDOM"

- 1 There in God's garden stands the Tree of wisdom,
whose leaves hold forth the healing of the nations.
Tree of all knowledge, Tree of all compassion,
Tree of all beauty.
- 2 Its name is Jesus, name that says, 'Our Savior!'
There on its branches see the scars of suffering;
see where the tendrils of our human selfhood
feed on its life-blood.
- 3 Thorns not its own are tangled in its foliage;
our greed has starved it; our despite has choked it.
Yet look, it lives! Its grief has not destroyed it,
nor fire consumed it.
- 4 See how its branches reach to us in welcome;
hear what the voice says, 'Come to me, ye weary!
Give me your sickness, give me all your sorrow.
I will give blessing.'

Tune: *Christe Sanctorum*
Music: Melody from *Paris Antiphoner*, 1681
Words: Erik Routley (1917-1982), based on the Hungarian of Pécselyi Király Imre (c. 1590–c. 1641)
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PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation.
Through your goodness
we have these gifts to share.
Accept and use our offerings for your glory
and for the service of your kingdom.
Blessed be God for ever.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

God of Holy Dreaming, Great Creator Spirit,
from the dawn of creation, you have given your children
the good things of Mother Earth.
You spoke and the gum tree grew.
In the vast desert and dense forest,
and in cities at the water's edge,
Creation sings your praise.
Your presence endures
as the rock at the heart of our Land.
When Jesus hung on the tree
you heard the cries of all your people
and became one with your wounded ones:
the convicts, the hunted, the dispossessed.
The sunrise of your Son coloured the earth anew,
and bathed it in glorious hope.
In Jesus we have been reconciled to you,
to each other and to your whole creation.

Lead us on, Great Spirit,
as we gather from the four corners of the earth;
enable us to walk together in trust
from the hurt and shame of the past
into the full day which has dawned in Jesus Christ.
Therefore with angels and archangels,
and with all the company of heaven,
we proclaim your great and glorious name,
for ever praising you and saying:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

† Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Merciful God, we thank you
for these gifts of your creation,
this bread and wine,
and we pray that by your Word and Holy Spirit,
we who eat and drink them
may be partakers of Christ's body and blood.

On the night he was betrayed Jesus took bread;
and when he had given you thanks
he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying,
'Take, eat. This is my body given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me.'

After supper, he took the cup,
and again giving you thanks
he gave it to his disciples, saying,
'Drink from this, all of you.
This is my blood of the new covenant
shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.'

Therefore we do as our Saviour has commanded:
proclaiming his offering of himself
made once for all upon the cross,
his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension,
and looking for his coming again,
we celebrate, with this bread and this cup,
his one perfect and sufficient sacrifice
for the sins of the whole world.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

† Renew us by your Holy Spirit,
unite us in the body of your Son
and bring us with all your people
into the joy of your eternal kingdom;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
with whom, and in whom,
in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
we worship you, Father,
in songs of never-ending praise:

**Blessing and honour and glory and power
are yours for ever and ever. Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

As our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are confident to pray,

**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 for ever. Amen.**

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.
We who are many are one body,
for we all share in the one bread.

AGNUS DEI

**Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us.
Jesus, bearer of our sins, have mercy on us.
Jesus, redeemer of the world, grant us your peace.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The gifts of God for the people of God.
May we who share these gifts be found in Christ and Christ in us.

This is the table of communion with the earth,
in which Christ became incarnate
So come to this table, those who have much faith
and those who would like to have more;
those who have been here often
and those who have not been for a long time;
those who have tried to follow Jesus;
and we who have failed.
Come.

All are welcome to receive Holy Communion. At the entrance of the church you are welcome to receive anointing for healing and to use our two stations of prayer, the bowl of water with stones and the bowl of candles.

During Communion, the choir will sing 'Ancient Spirit Ever New' by Peter Burke (2013) arranged by Becky Lewellyn (2023) with violin accompaniment.

After Communion has concluded, please stand in body or in spirit.

POST-COMMUNION SENTENCE

Return to your God; hold fast to love and justice, and wait continually for your God. (Hosea 12: 6)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Heavenly Father,
you have created all humanity in your image and likeness,
and have revealed your plan and purpose
in calling us your friends and family.
As we have shared this holy meal,
inspire our hearts to see every person
given the dignity and value which is your purpose and your gift;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

PRAYER OF SELF-OFFERING

Most loving God,
you send us into the world you love.
Give us grace to go thankfully and with courage
in the power of your Spirit.

BLESSING

God of this ancient land,
through baptism you have given us
an inheritance into one family,
give us grace to walk together
in the unity of Christ Jesus;
and the blessing of God almighty,
† the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

NOTICES

DISMISSAL

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord:
In the name of Christ. Amen.

RECESSIONAL HYMN: CP 469 "I HEARD THE VOICE OF JESUS SAY"

- 1 I heard the voice of Jesus say,
‘Come unto me and rest;
lay down, thou weary one, lay down
thy head upon my breast’:
I came to Jesus as I was,
weary and worn and sad;
I found in him a resting-place,
and he has made me glad.

- 2 I heard the voice of Jesus say,
‘Behold, I freely give
the living water, thirsty one;
stoop down and drink and live’:
I came to Jesus, and I drank
of that life-giving stream;
my thirst was quenched, my soul revived,
and now I live in him.

- 3 I heard the voice of Jesus say,
‘I am this dark world’s light;
look unto me, thy morn shall rise,
and all thy day be bright’:
I looked to Jesus, and I found
in him my star, my sun;
and in that light of life I’ll walk
till travelling days are done.

Tune: Kingsfold
Music: Melody from English County
Songs 1893, harmonised by Ralph
Vaughan Williams (1872–1958)
Words: Horatius N. Bonar (1808–1889)
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POSTLUDE: HENRI NIBELLE: *SORTIE SUR LA MESSE* "ORBIS FACTOR"

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Homeopathy

In the morning,
I light the candles.
With each light,
I say the names.
Each name represents
a blessing that became
a wound that became again
a blessing. This is how
the heart makes of its losses
a salve, touching again
and again the dark
with its own dark, then
adding the smallest of lights
until light is what a heart
does.

– *Rosemerry Wahtola Trommer, June 2026*