
ST THEODORE'S, TOORAK GARDENS

**ORDINARY 21 - PRIDE EUCHARIST
23 AUGUST 2026**

"Pride of place"



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 'GOD LOVES US IN MYSTERIOUS WAYS'

- 1 God loves us in mysterious ways
beyond all sin or shame;
rich blessings for our weary days
as love dares speak its name.
- 2 More light and truth have yet to break
from God's eternal Word;
sure-hearted and with hope we take
new leaps of faith unblurred.
- 3 We take a chance on God, and fall
to higher depths of love;
in faith and flesh we heed God's call
to open doors above.
- 4 Bind up the wounds of shun and stray
for prodigals new found
and set us on our homeward way
unbullied and unbound.
- 5 'Come forth!' from deep, confining tombs
of gender, class and race
engendered here: wide open rooms
that offer pride of place.
- 6 A place where friends are swell and true
and lives and loves increased;
till all who come are welcomed to
the Lamb's own marriage feast.

Tune: Dundee
Music: Melody from the *Scottish
Psalter*, 1615
as set in Ravenscroft's *The Whole
Booke of Psalmes*, 1621
Words: Edward Moran
© Common Praise 2001

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

As we gather in worship, we acknowledge the Kaurana 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: Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer.

Blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever.

WELCOME

OPENING SENTENCE

There is no longer Jew or Greek; there is no longer slave or free; there is no longer male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

(Galatians 3:28)

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

God is steadfast in love and infinite in mercy, welcoming sinners and inviting them to the Lord's table.

Silence may be kept.

Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith, with a sincere and a true heart.

**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 God 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.

COLLECT

Dear God,
Giver of life, Bearer of pain, Maker of love,
affirming in your incarnation the goodness of the flesh:
may the yearnings of our bodies
be fulfilled in sacraments of love,
and our earthly embracing be enjoyed
as a foretaste of the glory to come,
in the light of the Resurrection of Jesus,
our companion, our lover and our guide.
Amen.

Written by Jim Cotter

Please be seated

FIRST READING: EXODUS 1.8-2.10

⁸ Now a new king arose over Egypt, who did not know Joseph. ⁹ He said to his people, 'Look, the Israelite people are more numerous and more powerful than we. ¹⁰ Come, let us deal shrewdly with them, or they will increase and, in the event of war, join our enemies and fight against us and escape from the land.' ¹¹ Therefore they set taskmasters over them to oppress them with forced labour. They built supply cities, Pithom and Rameses, for Pharaoh. ¹² But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and spread, so that the Egyptians came to dread the Israelites. ¹³ The Egyptians became ruthless in imposing tasks on the Israelites, ¹⁴ and made their lives bitter with hard service in mortar and brick and in every kind of field labour. They were ruthless in all the tasks that they imposed on them. ¹⁵ The king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, one of whom was named Shiphrah and the other Puah, ¹⁶ 'When you act as midwives to the Hebrew women, and see them on the birthstool, if it is a boy, kill him; but if it is a girl, she shall live.' ¹⁷ But the midwives feared God; they did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but they let the boys live. ¹⁸ So the king of Egypt summoned the midwives and said to them, 'Why have you done this, and allowed the boys to live?' ¹⁹ The midwives said to Pharaoh, 'Because the Hebrew women are not like the Egyptian women; for they are vigorous and give birth before the midwife comes to them.' ²⁰ So God dealt well with the midwives; and the people multiplied and became very strong. ²¹ And because the midwives feared God, he gave them families. ²² Then Pharaoh commanded all his people, 'Every boy that is born to the Hebrews you shall throw into the Nile, but you shall let every girl live.' ¹ Now a man from the house of Levi went and married a Levite woman. ² The woman conceived and bore a son; and when she saw that he was a fine baby, she hid him for three months. ³ When she could hide him no longer she got a papyrus basket for him, and plastered it with bitumen and pitch; she put the child in it and placed it among the reeds on the bank of the river. ⁴ His sister stood at a distance, to see what would happen to him. ⁵ The daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river, while her attendants walked beside the river. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her maid to bring it. ⁶ When she opened it, she saw the child. He was crying, and she took pity on him. 'This must

be one of the Hebrews' children,' she said. ⁷ Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, 'Shall I go and get you a nurse from the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?' ⁸ Pharaoh's daughter said to her, 'Yes.' So the girl went and called the child's mother. ⁹ Pharaoh's daughter said to her, 'Take this child and nurse it for me, and I will give you your wages.' So the woman took the child and nursed it. ¹⁰ When the child grew up, she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and she took him as her son. She named him Moses, 'because', she said, 'I drew him out of the water.'

For the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

PSALM 124

A song of pilgrimage. Of David.

R: *Our help comes from the Lord, who has made heaven and earth.*



- 1 If the LORD were not for us:
 well may Israel say:
- 2 If the LORD were not for us:
 when others rose against us. **R**
- 3 Then would they have swallowed us alive:
 in the heat of their anger against us.
- 4 Then the waters would have engulfed us:
 floods sweeping away our very lives. **R**
- 5 Then would they have overwhelmed us all:
 the wild and seething waters.
- 6 Blessed be the LORD:
 who did not let us be devoured. **R**

- 7 We escaped like a bird from the hunter's snare:
the snare broke open, and we were set free.
- 8 Our help is in the name of the LORD:
Maker of heaven and earth. **R**

SECOND READING: ROMANS 12.1-8

¹ I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. ² Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God – what is good and acceptable and perfect. ³ For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgement, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. ⁴ For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, ⁵ so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. ⁶ We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ⁷ ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; ⁸ the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

For the word of the Lord,
Thanks be to God

Please stand in body or in spirit

GRADUAL HYMN: CP 236 'THOU ART THE CHRIST, O LORD'

- 1 Thou art the Christ, O Lord,
the Son of God most high:
for ever be adored
that name in earth and sky,
in which, though mortal strength may fail,
the saints of God at last prevail.
- 2 O surely he was blest
with blessedness unpriced,
who, taught of God, confessed
the Godhead in the Christ;
for of thy church, Lord, thou didst own
thy saint a true foundation-stone.
- 3 Thrice fallen, thrice restored,
the bitter lesson learnt,
that heart for thee, O Lord,
with triple ardour burnt.
The cross he took he laid not down
until he grasped the martyr's crown.
- 4 O bright triumphant faith,
O courage void of fears,
O love most strong in death,
O penitential tears!
By these, Lord, keep us lest we fall,
and make us go where thou shalt call.

Tune: Love Unknown
Music: John Nicholson Ireland
(1879–1962)
Words: William Walsham How
(1823–1897)
© Common Praise 2001

THE GOSPEL

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

**Give thanks to the Lord / for God's goodness:
and for the wonders / that God does.**

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew 16.13-20
‡ Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

¹³ Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, 'Who do people say that the Son of Man is?' ¹⁴ And they said, 'Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' ¹⁵ He said to them, 'But who do you say that I am?' ¹⁶ Simon Peter answered, 'You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.' ¹⁷ And Jesus answered him, 'Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. ¹⁸ And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. ¹⁹ I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.' ²⁰ Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

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.

Response:

Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

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: TIS 205 'JOIN ALL THE GLORIOUS NAMES'

- 1 Join all the glorious names
of wisdom, love, and power,
that ever mortals knew,
that angels ever bore:
all are too mean to speak his worth,
too mean to set my Saviour forth.
- 2 But O what gentle terms,
what gracious loving ways
doth our Redeemer use
to teach his heavenly grace!
Mine eyes with joy and wonder see
what forms of love he bears for me.
- 3 Be thou my Counsellor,
my Pattern, and my Guide;
and through this desert land
still keep me near thy side:
O let my feet ne'er run astray,
nor rove, nor seek the crooked way.

4 I love my Shepherd's voice,
his watchful eyes shall keep
my wandering soul among
the thousands of his sheep:
he feeds his flock, he calls their names,
his bosom bears the tender lambs.

Tune: Darwall's 148th
Music: Melody by John Darwall (1731–
1789)
harmonised by William Henry Monk
(1823–1889)
Words: Isaac Watts (1674–1748)
© Together in Song 1999

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.

O God, eternal Wisdom,
all you have made is beautiful and good.
We thank you for darkness and light,
for this earth and for our bodies,
for growth and change
and all that lies beyond our knowledge and imagination.
In every generation you befriend your people.
You gave us your holy Law, sent the prophets,
and called us back to the truth whenever we turned away.

You were vindicated in your servant Jesus
who came with forgiveness, feasting,
and stories of your grace.
Though we rejected him,
death on a cross could not quench the fire of his love.

You raised him up for us,
the firstborn from the dead,
to build a new community of hope
where all are honoured as Christ's equal friends.
And so we praise you with Mary, mother of the living Word,
and with all your faithful friends,
as we join the angels' song:

**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.**

God of the feast,
your household is hungry
for the bread of heaven
and the cup of life.
Send your Spirit on us and on our celebration,
so that we may eat at this table
and be satisfied with the sacrament
of Christ's body and blood.

On the night before he died,
Jesus shared a meal with the people he loved.
He took the bread, gave you thanks,
broke it to share with them, and said:
"Take and eat this: it is my body."

Then he took a cup of wine.
Again he thanked you and told them:
“Drink this, all of you:
it is my blood, shed for you and for many
so that sins may be forgiven.
Whenever you do this,
do it in memory of me.”

So we delight to remember Jesus:
the faithfulness of his life,
the victory of his cross,
the glory of his resurrection,
† the joy of the Holy Spirit poured out for the Church.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith.
Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

O God, holy Wisdom, merciful and generous,
accept our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving.
Make us good stewards of creation,
with justice in our hearts,
courage in our actions
and power in our speech
to bear witness to the truth.

Protect us with your glory,
unite your church in loyalty and love,
and bring us home with all your saints
to feast with you for ever.

Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ,
and in the Spirit's grace,
with heart and soul and mind and strength
we love and worship you alone, O God,
for ever and ever.

**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

Holy things for holy people, diverse things for diverse people.
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. Households can come forward together if they wish. 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.

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

POST-COMMUNION SENTENCE

Please stand if you wish

**We escaped like a bird from the hunter's snare, the snare broke open, and we were set free. Our help is in the name of the LORD.
(Psalm 124.7-8)**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Gracious God,
we thank you that in this sacrament
you assure us of your goodness and love.
Accept our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving
and help us to grow in love and obedience
that we may serve you in the world
and finally be brought to that table
where all your saints feast with you for ever.

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

May the living God,
who names light out of darkness
and calls each of us into life,
give you courage for holy nonconformity,
grace to honour one another by name,
and joy in giving each person pride of place.

And the blessing of God,
† giver of life, bearer of pain and author of love,
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 476 'IN A WORLD WHERE PEOPLE WALK IN DARKNESS'

- 1 In a world where people walk in darkness,
let us turn our faces to the light,
to the light of God revealed in Jesus,
to the day star scattering our night,
*For the light is stronger than the darkness
and the day will overcome the night,
though the shadows linger all around us,
let us turn our faces to the light.*

- 2 In a world where suffering of the helpless
casts a shadow all along the way,
let us bear the cross of Christ with gladness
and proclaim the dawning of the day.
*For the light is stronger than the darkness
and the day will overcome the night,
though the shadows linger all around us,
let us turn our faces to the light.*
- 3 Let us light a candle in the darkness,
in the face of death a sign of life;
as a sign of hope where all seemed hopeless,
as a sign of peace in place of strife.
*For the light is stronger than the darkness
and the day will overcome the night,
though the shadows linger all around us,
let us turn our faces to the light.*

Tune: Let us light a candle
Music: Richard Shephard (1948–2021)
Words: Robert Willis (1947–2024)
© Common Praise 2001

**ORGAN POSTLUDE: *HIGHLAND CATHEDRAL*, COMPOSED BY MICHAEL KORB
AND ULI ROEVER, ARRANGED BY ANTONY BALDWIN**

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Where there is a † in the liturgy, you are invited to make a sign of the cross if you wish. When the Gospel is read and we say “† Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ”, you are invited to make three small signs of the cross, on the forehead, on the lips and on the chest. This symbolises the Word of God in our minds, our words and our words and our hearts.

A Surprising Wholeness

Cool rain is falling through sunshine today
and the canyon's red walls are radiant
with the contradiction. The world
smells of dry earth mixing with sky,
a rich and generative perfume
that weaves into all that grows.
Witnessing the beauty of this day,
equal parts clear and stormy,
this is how a person might come to trust
the acute aliveness we feel
when we dance with both sorrow
and gladness at the same time,
one partner asking us to crawl, to bow,
the other bidding us raise our arms
to twirl in joyful abandon. In the distance,
thunder. In the foreground, the swallows
are ceaseless in their swirling.
They do not try to avoid the raindrops
nor do they shun the sun.
On the inside, a feeling loops and dives,
swoops and circles back. It says,
This life is not easy. What a gift to be alive.

—Rosemerry Wahtola Trommer