

Australian Church Women

**World
Community
Day**



**“WITH HOPE IN OUR
HEARTS”**

OCTOBER 1980

WITH HOPE IN OUR HEARTS

CALL TO WORSHIP - All stand.

Leader: *Lord open our lips,*

ALL: And we shall declare your praise.

Leader: *Lord come near to save us;*

ALL: Be present to help us Lord.

Leader: *O God our Father, grant that as we meet together for worship we may meet with You. Let your Holy Spirit make our lives ready for service, beautiful with love, strong in faith, fitted for sacrifice and filled with hope.*

ALL: Lord Jesus Christ, show us how to take up our cross and follow after you, lead us out into life to serve you as Lord, and to serve our fellowman in your name, through the power of your life, death and resurrection. Amen.

READER: *ST. MATTHEW 28:16-20*

Leader: *O God our Father, how uplifting in all its splendour of grace is the thought that the victory won by Christ over sin and death, and all the love revealed on the Cross of Calvary may be known and shared today by us who walk in fellowship with You.*

How uplifting the experience to know we have a Friend whose presence is the secret of all comfort, all fortitude of soul. You share our burdens with us, You make them bearable with Your love, by Your presence You transform our worries to victories. Our comfort is in your promise: "Go ye and lo I am with you always".

HYMN: *What a Friend we have in Jesus.*

2.

1. What a friend we have in Jesus
all our sins and griefs to bear,
what a privilege to carry
everything to God in prayer;
O what peace we often forfeit,
O what needless pain we bear,
all because we do not carry
everything to God in prayer!

2. Have we trials and temptations,
is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged:
take it to the Lord in prayer.
Can we find a friend so faithful
who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our every weakness:
take it to the Lord in prayer.

3. Are we weak and heavy-laden,
cumbered with a load of care?
Jesus is our only refuge:
take it to the Lord in prayer.
Do your friends despise, forsake you?
Take it to the Lord in prayer;
in his arms he'll take and shield you,
you will find a solace there.

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

Leader: *O loving God our Father, we bring to You the women of the world, with our hopes, needs, poverty, affluence, talents, time and ask You to bless us. Especially, we remember the women of Korea who despite sufferings still have the great hope of the Christian before them. Bless those in war-torn countries as they try to cope with bereavement, sadness, loneliness, hardship and devastation. Keep their hopes alive in the knowledge of Your love. Hear us as we pray, O Father. Amen.*

During a musical interlude the Presentation of Fellowship of the Least Coin Offering will be made. At the completion of the offering, everybody will stand and say -

ALL: Accept, Lord, these gifts for your work among women in the world.

READER: COLOSSIANS 1:24-29 (Good News Version)

Leader: *A woman in whom Christ dwells is happy now, she doesn't have to wait till Heaven to be happy. Christ in you is the hope of glory. It is wonderful to know Christ is near, but for the highest spiritual life it is not enough. We do most of our living within.*

Our thinking, feeling, and willing are all within us, external events press upon us, but they have meaning only by our inward interpretation of them. We discover that when we are dealing with the troubles of life, the important thing is not what happens to us, but what happens in us. If we are to be helped in our battle against temptation and in our war of fear, worry, selfishness and greed, we must have help within.

God in Christ is able and willing to come right into the heart of His consenting servants teaching them to do His will. Paul could never explain this mystery, but it does happen, people do become Christ-like.

Three ladies to explain in 50 words each, their hopes since finding Christ.

HYMN: *Onward, Christian Soldiers*

1. Onward, Christian soldiers,
Marching as to war.
With the Cross of Jesus
Going on before!

4.

Christ, the royal Master,
Leads against the foe;
Forward into battle
See His banners go.

Onward, Christian soldiers, Marching as to war
With the cross of Jesus going on before!

2. At the sign of triumph
Satan's host doth flee;
On then, Christian soldiers,
On to victory!
Hell's foundations quiver
At the shout of praise;
Brothers, lift your voices,
Loud your anthems raise.
3. Like a mighty army
Moves the church of God;
Sisters, we are treading
Where the saints have trod.
We are not divided,
All one body we,
One in hope, in doctrine,
One in charity.
4. Crowns and thrones may perish,
Kingdoms rise and wane,
But the church of Jesus
Constant will remain.
Gates of Hell can never
'Gainst the church prevail;
We have Christ's own promise,
And that cannot fail.
5. Onward then, ye people!
Join our happy throng,
Blend with ours your voices
In the triumph song.
Glory, laud and honour
Unto Christ the King,
This through countless ages
Men and angels sing.

OFFERING: *Information on the chosen project is enclosed in this booklet.*

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Leader: *We bring before You the gift of our heart.*

ALL: Use it and us for work in your Kingdom.

Leader: *As we have worked for bread and shelter, we give so that others who also work, but for little return, may have bread and shelter also.*

ALL: Use it and us for work in your Kingdom.

Leader: *Our prayers go to those who will directly benefit from the giving of sisters in Australia.*

ALL: Use them and us for work in your Kingdom.

Leader: *May all come to know Your peace and love in their hearts.*

ALL: Use us for work in your Kingdom. Amen.

SPEAKER: *"With Hope in our Hearts"*

READER: *REVELATION 22:12-21*

Leader 1: The one thing that kept the early Christians going was the invincible hope; Christ was coming to rescue them, only He didn't come soon enough. Christ warned: Of that day and hour no man will know. The early Christians had forgotten that warning and were disappointed. You would have thought that this would have crippled their faith, you would have thought the whole Christian church would have folded up in despair, but it didn't - because as their earlier hope faded a greater hope grew. Little by little they came to realise that what Christ

6.

had done on Good Friday and Easter morning was greater than they thought. What Christ was doing in their lives and in their world was greater than they thought. What Christ was going to do for generations yet unborn surpassed in splendour their wildest dreams. So the early hope of an imminent return of Christ became not just hope deferred, but the door to a larger hope.

- Leader 2: *What about our illusionary hopes? Most of us have had plenty of these: O the things we were going to do and be. You learn by disappointments but the woman who hopes for the wrong things may still get the right things. The woman who hopes for nothing gets nothing. Think of your answered prayers and ask yourself if many of them were answered in ways beyond your imagination.*
- Leader 3: *The hope of this world, the story of mankind, your life and mine, is not just a tale told by cynics, signifying nothing. It has got meaning and purpose in it, because it is working toward a certain end; the fulfilment of God's plan to re-make His creation through Jesus Christ. Even so come Lord Jesus. A hope for this world and for the world to come. How do you talk about that? How do you talk about heaven? You can't except the way John did in Revelation in the picture language of dream and ecstasy.*
- Leader: *"And I, John, saw the Holy City, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of Heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying: Behold the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them and they shall be His people, and God Himself shall be with them and be their God. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes, and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain, for the former things have passed away".*
These words keep hope in our hearts.

HYMN: *Make me a captive, Lord*

1. Make me a captive, Lord,
And then I shall be free;
Force me to render up my sword,
And I shall conqueror be,
I sink in life's alarms
When by myself I stand;
Imprison me within Thine arms
And strong shall be my hand.

2. My heart is weak and poor
Until it master find;
It has no spring of action sure,
It varies with the wind.
It cannot freely move
Till Thou hast wrought its chain;
Enslave it with Thy matchless love
And deathless it shall reign.

3. My will is not my own
Till Thou has made it Thine;
If it would reach a monarch's throne
It must its crown resign;
It only stands unbent
Amid the clashing strife,
When on Thy bosom it has leant
And found in Thee its life.

BENEDICTION:

Christ, our Saviour, come Thou to dwell within
us, that we may go forth with the light of Thy
hope in our eyes, and Thy faith and love in
our hearts. Amen.

This Service was prepared by the Tasmanian Unit of A. C. W.