

AUSTRALIAN

CHURCH

WOMEN

★  
STRANGERS  
★

★  
WORLD  
COMMUNITY DAY  
★

★  
NO LONGER  
★



LEADER As we gather to celebrate World Community, we would remember from where we have come and at what cost.

Let us worship God

So Christ came and preached the Good News of Peace to all - to you Gentiles who were far away from God, and to the Jews who were near to Him. It is through Christ that all of us, Jews and Gentiles, are able to come in the one Spirit into the presence of the Father. So then, you Gentiles are not foreigners or strangers any longer; you are now fellow-citizens with God's people and members of the family of God.

(Ephesians 2: 17-19)

ALL LORD, WE HEAR YOUR VOICE AND AS YOUR CHILDREN WE WOULD RESPOND TO YOU AND TO WHAT YOU ARE CALLING US TO DO.

HYMN OF THANKSGIVING (Tune Russia 11 10. 11 10) A.H.B. 89

ALL LET US GIVE THANKS TO GOD FOR ALL THAT HE HAS DONE FOR US, FOR ALL THAT HE HAS GIVEN US, FOR THE RICHNESS AND VARIETY OF LIFE AND THE WONDER OF BEING GOD'S PEOPLE. OUR FATHER, WHO ART IN HEAVEN .....AMEN.

READING GENESIS 12: 1-2 & HEBREWS 11: 13-16

PIONEER WOMEN

LEADER In 1788, the women who came to Australia, were mostly convicts from Great Britain and Ireland, and by the time they reached Sydney Cove, many were destitute and desperate after having been forced, by conditions on board ship, to become prostitutes.

There were few, like Mary Reiby, who were able to rise above circumstances and become well respected citizens. The other women who came were wives of officers and free men and they too had to face hardships. They were unable to comprehend the Aboriginal way of life and misunderstanding brought tragedies for both black and white.

In the 1850's migration from England was encouraged but the lot of women at this time was little better

than that of earlier days. Nevertheless the women had a stabilizing influence on the colony; where there were women, the aboriginal women, were better treated; where there were women, comforts came faster; what the pioneer women brought with them was the law by which we live; they brought civilization to the wilderness.

ALL WE THANK YOU GOD, FOR THE WOMEN WHO CAME AND FOR THE CHRISTIAN HERITAGE THEY BEQUEATHED TO US.

VOICE

For they were the women who at need took up,  
And plied the adze or bent above the clodded spade,  
Who herded sheep; who rode the hills and brought  
The half wild cattle home - helpmates of men,  
Whose children lay within their arms,  
Or at the riders saddle pommel hung,  
And at whose knees, by night, were said familiar  
prayers.

(From "Ode to a Pioneer Woman" Mary Gilmore)

LEADER By faith Caroline Chisholm determined to help migrant girls  
She had to contend with opposition from officials and  
friends and no resources but her faith did not falter.  
By faith Catherine Spence worked to help children, black,  
white or half-caste, destitute and neglected.  
She used her pen and her tongue to raise the conscience of  
government and people to prevailing social problems.  
By faith Rosa Scott established the Women's Suffragette  
Movement and the Prisoners Aid Society.  
By faith, Daisy Bates chose to live among the Aborigines  
learning their language and curing their ills.

ALL WE OWE SO MUCH TO COUNTLESS WOMEN,  
WE PRAISE YOU, GOD, THAT YOU ARE ABLE TO WORK THROUGH  
ORDINARY WOMEN TO BRING ABOUT WONDERFUL THINGS.

LEADER By faith, the Nurses of the Inland, enduring hardships,  
gave to the people of the Inland, the only medical care  
available until the Flying Doctor Service "Mantle of  
Safety" was established.

ALL WE THANK YOU, GOD, THAT YOU ENABLE YOUR PEOPLE TO DREAM  
DREAMS AND SEE VISIONS OF BETTER WAYS OF LIFE.

LEADER CONFESSION - Let us think of the Aboriginal people who  
roamed this vast continent from anything up to 52,000 years  
or longer. When our forbears came they did not understand  
these people who had developed a sophisticated way of life  
that related entirely to the care of the land and of their  
people.

VOICE 1 ABORIGINAL CHARTER OF RIGHTS

*We want hope, not racialism  
Brotherhood, not ostracism,  
Black advance, not white ascendance  
Make us equals, not dependants,  
We need help, not exploitation,  
We want freedom, not frustration,  
Not control, but self-reliance,  
Independence, not compliance,  
Not rebuff, but education,  
Self respect, not resignation.*

KATH WALKER.

VOICE 2

There are some Aborigines who have adapted their culture  
to the 20th century. It can be seen in their craft work  
their increasing skills in other than traditional ones,  
their ability to make their voice heard through their Land  
Councils or Co-operatives.

Some have entered the Ministry of the Church.  
For even as there is new hope, much hurt and suffering  
continues to be the experience of many aborigines.  
Too many die too young, or suffer too much,  
Too many are still housed in shanties !  
Too many are still defeated by despair and alcoholism !  
Too many still await recognition of their land !

READING Ephesians 2: 17-19

ALL LORD WE HEAR YOUR VOICE,  
WE HEARD THE VOICE OF THE ABORIGINAL PEOPLE AND SO TO YOU  
AND TO THEM, WE CONFESS THAT WE HAVE NOT ALLOWED THEM TO BE  
PART OF YOUR HOUSEHOLD AND YOUR PEOPLE.  
FORGIVE US AND TEACH US TO WALK IN HUMILITY. AMEN.

VOICE SON OF MINE

*My son, your troubled eyes search mine,  
Puzzled and hurt by colour line,  
Your black skin soft as velvet shine;  
What can I tell you, son of mine ?*

*I could tell you of heartbreak, hatred blind,  
I could tell of crimes that shame mankind,  
Of brutal wrong and deeds malign,  
Of rape and murder, son of mine.*

*But I'll tell instead of brave and fine  
When lives of black and white entwine,  
And men in brotherhood combine---  
This would I tell you, son of mine. KATH WALKER.*

DEVELOPMENT

LEADER So the early days passed. Later generations of women  
pioneered new fields in universities, professions, the arts,  
commerce and trade. Each age has its pioneers who are the  
first, the lonely ones, symbols of endurance and courage.

And what of modern pioneer women ?  
Migrant women who come here and work long hours, endure  
isolation and loneliness in a crowded city.  
Women who go with husbands into isolated mining towns and  
caravan communities. Women who go themselves to work in  
these new industrial outback areas.

ALL LORD, WE GIVE THANKS THAT THERE ARE WOMEN WHO ARE WILLING  
TO VENTURE INTO THE UNKNOWN, WHO HAVE FAITH TO BE IN THE  
FOREFRONT OF PROGRESS.

READING JOHN 17: 9-13

DIVERSITY

LEADER

There are those living in affluence and often emptiness.  
There are those living in poverty and asking --- WHY ?  
There are country people, isolated people, facing problems  
not even imagined by city dwellers.  
There are migrants from European countries who bring so  
much to enrich our community.  
There are Asian people, some who came to study and have  
stayed, others who have come to settle.  
There are Pacific Islanders, Malaysians and Indians.  
There are refugees who come not knowing anything about  
our land, only knowing that they must leave their own  
country.

ALL

GIVE US THE SPIRIT THAT MAKES US OPEN NOT ONLY TO ACCEPT  
PEOPLE BUT TO RECEIVE THEM, THE WAY WE WOULD RECEIVE YOU  
LORD. HELP US TO LIVE TOGETHER IN A RESPONSIBLE AND  
CARING SOCIETY.

LEADER

Today one act reminds us of a thread that draws us together.  
An Asian Woman had a vision of each giving their least  
coin with prayer. As we do this we join in prayer with  
women around the world in the Fellowship of the Least  
Coin.

LEAST COIN TOKENS TO BE BROUGHT FORWARD

ALL

AS WE GIVE AND AS WE PRAY, WE BECOME ONE. GOD TAKES  
SMALL THINGS AND DIFFERENT PEOPLE TO DRAW US INTO ONE  
FAMILY, SO LET US REMEMBER HOW ENRICHED WE BECOME BECAUSE  
SOME ONE ELSE DRAWS US TO GOD IN PRAYER.

ADDRESS ON THEME OR PRESENTATION OF THE PLAY "DIVERSITY"

HYMN OF PEACE (Tune "Tree of Peace" A.E. Floyd) A.H.B. 503

OFFERING      TRAINING PROGRAM FOR RURAL "HARIJAN WOMEN" - PUNTHAMBA

Punthamba is a village about 200 Km from Bombay in an area declared poverty stricken. Many of the people are "Harijans" (untouchables) - landless and victims of economic and political oppression.

The Methodist Church has given land and the program development will take place only after consultation with the villagers.

A core community will help to develop a community spirit, to develop a farm and training centre and to provide a community health centre.

Our money would be designated to provide training programs for Harijan women.

In this way we can enhance the lives of these women empowering them to work to gain self respect and social justice for themselves and their families.

DEDICATION      OUR GOD (An Australian Psalm - Bruce Prewer)

*Your rainbow shines, its hope across all lands;  
Christ's new creation, grasped by loving hands.  
You are the bridge which spans our separation;  
Christ's life laid down the new foundation.  
Your vast acceptance liberates from fear;  
Christ's fellow heirs high spirited appear.  
Full of surprises is Christ's God and ours;  
The weak rejoice in unexpected powers.  
Our roots grow deep, firm in the ground which holds us;  
Christ's subtle strength where love enfolds us.*

NO LONGER STRANGERS - OUR PLACE IN THE WORLD

LEADER

Australia has always been a country of vast spaces with a variety of natural beauty - scattered about the Inland - stretched along the coastline - different, beautiful, loved. We come from countries all around the world, bringing with us cultures and traditions to mingle with the original people - the Australian Aborigines.

ALL WE THANK YOU GOD THAT WE LIVE IN A COUNTRY WHERE PEOPLE  
ARE LEARNING TO LIVE AND SHARE TOGETHER, A PLACE WHICH IS  
NO LONGER DISTANT FROM THE REST OF THE WORLD - GOD'S WORLD  
WHERE WE ARE NO LONGER STRANGERS.

LEADER *Praise the Lord for the things that endure;  
Old things transcending the changing years:  
The solid soil of our ancient land under our feet;  
Incessant seas that wash our shores from Hobart to Darwin;  
The morning sun rising on familiar landscape;  
The westerlies spinning windmills or dispersing city smog;  
After rains, the dry centre blossoming in profusion;  
Trees on the Great Divide reaching tall for the sky;  
Your divine purpose brooding over Australia;  
Loving our land long before we shared it;  
Your divine mercy encircling every person,  
Speaking our names in a hundred different accents.  
Among us the saving deeds of Jesus Christ -  
The same, yesterday, today, and forever !*

*(From "For the New Year" - Bruce Prewer,  
Lutheran Press)*

ALL DRAW US TOGETHER BEFORE YOUR THRONE OF GRACE  
YOUR PEACE IN OUR HEARTS FOR WE ARE NO LONGER STRANGERS.

HYMN OF LOVE (Tune Cresswell 8 8. 9 7 & Refrain) A.H.B.

BENEDICTION LORD WE HEAR YOUR VOICE AND AS YOUR CHILDREN,  
WE ASK YOU TO GIVE US COURAGE TO GO OUT IN THIS  
DIRECTION, KNOWING WE ARE STILL IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD  
BUT KNOWING THAT THE WAY WILL BE STRANGE. AMEN.

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This service was prepared by a committee of the National Working  
Committee of Australian Church Women.

All offerings should be forwarded through your State Treasurer.

Mrs M. Wall, 1 Canterbury Road, CAMBERWELL. VIC. 3124  
Phone 82 6511