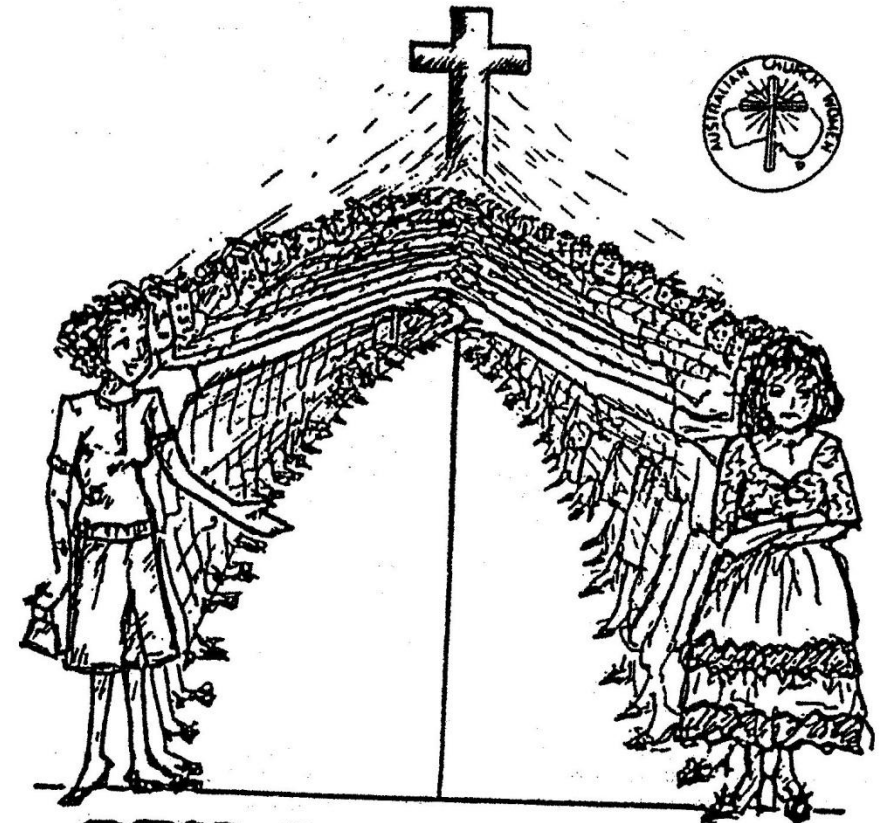


WORLD COMMUNITY DAY 1989



BRIDGING THE GAP

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BUILDING THE BRIDGE BETWEEN GOD AND MANKIND

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Isaiah 61: 1-3 & 11

The love of God that Christ demonstrated by His coming to earth, His sacrifice at Calvary and His resurrection, is the means we have of reaching out in love to others. The in-dwelling presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives, reconciling us to God, enables us to bridge the gap between individuals and groups, encouraging forgiveness and growth in the Christian way.

HYMN "Build us a Bridge" Tune Cambridge ANB 487

Build us, dear Lord, a bridge
With such a mighty span
That from your throne of light and love
It reaches sinful man.

Lord of all hope and peace,
Build us a bridge so wide
That every creed and class and race
Can cross it side by side.

Lord of all truth and right,
Build us a bridge so strong
That all mankind may safely cross
The seething flood of wrong.

Christ Jesus is our bridge!
He lived and loved and died
That we, each one, may dwell with God
And none be left outside.

Reader: John 3: 16-18

Response: We praise you, O God, for Jesus who made it
possible to have a right relationship with You.

Reader: 2 Corinthians 5: 16-21

Response: We thank you, O God, that ours is the privilege
of building bridges of reconciliation between
people from all walks of life because of your
love for us all.

BRIDGING THE GAP BETWEEN CHRISTIAN AND CHRISTIAN THAT
THEY MAY BE ONE

Speaker 1: May they also be in us, so that the world may believe that You have sent Me. I have given them the glory that You gave Me, that they may be one even as we are one. I in them and You in Me! May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that You sent Me and have loved them even as You have loved Me.

Speaker 2: Unity! Oneness, at one with each other! Complete! - that is what Jesus prayed for us and yet we are divided. We are fragmented in our presentation of the Good News, each so often caught up in the non-essentials, failing to show the world a united people, loving and living the Gospel.

Speaker 1: Jesus also said, "I have given them the glory that they may be one" even as He and God are one. His gift is a unifying power that through us He might be lifted up and glorified so that, through Him, there might be salvation for all.

Speaker 2: What do people see, then? Do they see us as a united Church or do they see us as splinters, each in competition with the other, each trying, alone, to become the beam.

Speaker 1: Is that why the Church today has to strive so hard to be credible? Only in our unity will the world really understand His saving, reconciling love expressed most vividly on a cross.

Speaker 2: It's much like the mighty ocean. It rolls and pulsates with life and power. Yet, lift a handful of water from the sea - and it's lifeless. Only as it lives in union with the rest of the water, bound together by an unseen power that gives it life, does it become part of the mighty ocean.

Speaker 1: Remember what the apostle Paul said, "There is one body and one spirit, one hope, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all who is all and through all and in all."

Speaker 2: Therein is the future of the Church. Only one message - love and reconciliation. What a force in the world if we could show a united face making every

effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.

Speaker 1: A challenge today, as the Church united strives to be as Christ to a hurting, frightened, searching world. One in union with Him and with each other expressing God's love through the presence of His Holy Spirit in our lives and in our Churches.

HYMN "One Flock, One Shepherd" Tune To God be the Glory ANB 85

The will of the Father, the prayer of the Son,
Hear Him all ye people, "Now let them be one!"
Be done with divisions and folly and pride.
In witness and worship let nothing divide!

REFRAIN:

Make us one! Make us one as Christ prayed we should be
Make us one! Make us one, Lord, together yet free!
In worship, in service, in spreading His word,
O let us be one in the name of the Lord!

Made one in our service, and one in our care,
Wherever there's need, let Your people be there --
The poor and the hungry, the sick and alone,
Come, join in the task that God gives to His own.

We are not our own. We are bought with a price,
And all are redeemed by the one sacrifice,
And Jesus, the Shepherd, calls now as of old:
"I have other sheep which are not of this fold."

Then let us reach out, open heart, open mind,
Who knows what new truth a true seeker may find?
So humble and hopeful and loving and strong,
We follow the Shepherd to whom we belong.

BRIDGING THE GAP BETWEEN RACES

Reader: Ephesians 2: 14-20

Left side of Congregation: We pray for the peoples of America, North, Central and South, that they may grow in understanding of each other.

All: Lord hear us.

Right side of Congregation: We pray for the people of Africa that they may communicate with each other and so overcome their racial prejudices to live in peace.

All: Lord hear us.

Left side: We pray for those people in European countries who are the victims of oppression, may they find consolation in your love.

All: Lord hear us.

Right side: We pray for Asian people, may they come to know your love and find peace.

All: Lord hear us.

Left side: We pray for people in Australia, Aboriginal and white, may they grow together in wisdom and understanding.

All: Lord hear us.

Right side: We pray for refugees, no matter which race, colour or creed, that they may be free from persecution and live in peace.

All: Lord hear us.

Left side: We pray that our love for you and for each other may join our divided world.

All: Lord hear us.

Right side: Lord Jesus, you have called us to be one, help us to bridge the gap between races.

All: Lord hear us.

WORLD COMMUNITY DAY OFFERING. Music while offering is received.

Leader: By the bridging of the gap we are sisters in Christ and work together to offer assistance to Asian Church Women's Conference and special projects.

All: Lord, you call us to assist your people and this we gladly do. We ask your blessing on our gifts and on your people.

BUILDING THE BRIDGES - OUR RESPONSIBILITY

Reader: Romans 12: 13-18

Leader: Lord, give us knowledge, understanding and wisdom.

All: Help us to observe and listen and read all we can of those on the other side, so that, understanding

them better, we may have the wisdom to approach them with friendship and trust.

Leader: Lord, give us a longing for peace, and make us peace-makers and bridge-builders.

All: Help us to see and stress those things in which we are alike, and those interests in which we share. Make us humble to accept differences, knowing that truth has many aspects, and you fulfil yourself in many ways.

Leader: Lord, give us a real love and concern for those who are different from us.

All: Help us to cast off prejudice, whether inherited or our own. Open our hearts to warmth and friendship with all from whom we differ for we are all your children.

Leader: Lord, give us the grace to see the tasks which you have for us to do, and enable us to do them together.

All: Help us, in serving you, to come closer to one another, so that, sharing one purpose, we may build bridges of understanding, reconciliation and friendship, to the glory of your Holy Name.

MUSICAL INTERLUDE OR SOLOIST

ADDRESS: "BRIDGING THE GAP"

FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN OFFERING: Music while offering is received.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION:

Leader: Lord Jesus, accept our love and response to your great gift of bridging the gap between all your children, we ask.

All: And accept these offerings of The Fellowship of the Least Coin gifts gathered from far and near. May they truly reflect our love for you and our concern for all your children and to Your Name be all the glory, Lord Jesus Christ, Amen.

HYMN "Bridge-building" Tune Regent Square AHB 339

Lord we have so split asunder
Man from man and race from race,
Silence now our angry thunder
By the power of Your grace.
Make us wise and understanding
In the lovelight from Your face.

Prejudice and hatred linger
In the hearts that should be free.
Let the writing of Your finger
Shame us into unity.
Make us wise and understanding,
All mankind one family.

Lord, have pity on our blindness!
Bid us seek, as seek we must,
Justice, courage, simple kindness,
Humbled pride and fearless trust.
Make us wise and understanding,
Souls that rise above our dust.

Tolerance and acceptance,
Steadfast truth and will to share,
Make to every man and nation
Love's great bridge from everywhere.
Make us wise and understanding,
Safely gathered in Your care.

CLOSING PRAYER

PASSING OF THE PEACE

This Service has been prepared by the South Australia Unit of Australian Church Women. The hymns were written by Mrs. Margaret Knauerhase. Cover design by Mrs. Alison Lockett.

Our offering today will go to needed office equipment and associated projects for women for the Kiribati Protestant Church.