

HYMN Hymn for the Third Age by Margaret Knauerhase

Tune Gerontius 86. 86. AHB 79 (i)

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1 Lord of our lives, our years, our<br>Our every passing hour. [days,<br>Help us fill them all with praise,<br>And live them in Your power. | 4 Open our minds to see the good<br>In things both new and strange,<br>Knowing Your love and truth have<br>Secure through every change. [stood     |
| 2 Our bodies are Your temples still,<br>And every age is Yours.<br>Help us to use them as You will,<br>To serve Your timeless cause.        | 5 Gather us in, yet drive us out;<br>Ours be no timid soul!<br>There is no place for fear and doubt.<br>When You are in control.                   |
| 3 No weakness, age or even death<br>Can pluck us from Your hand,<br>Give us a strong, upholding faith!<br>Unshaken let us stand!            | 6 The task You give us, Lord, through<br>Is ours 'til death shall fade. [grace<br>Then may we serve before Your face,<br>Still loved and unafraid. |

All God of the past, we praise You. God of the present, we serve You.  
God of the future, we trust You.

Leader May God bless us and keep us,  
May the Lord Jesus be real to us,  
May the Spirit of God dwell in us richly,  
and give us His peace and power.

All AMEN

---

Please send all offerings to State / Territory Treasurer.  
Thank you for your continued support of World Community Day.

World Day of Prayer - March 1997  
Fellowship Day - July 1997  
Venues to be announced

---



AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN

WORLD COMMUNITY DAY 1996

"OUR UNCHANGING GOD"



AND



FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN

Australian Church Women came into being in 1965 when Women's Inter-Church Councils from all states and territories came together to form Australian Church Women, fostering ecumenism and undertaking action on behalf of Church women. Australian Church Women forms a network of committed Christian women, dedicated to encourage fellowship and service across denominational, national and international boundaries.

Fellowship of the Least Coin monies which have been collected with prayer for peace and reconciliation during the past year are brought to World Community Day services by groups and individuals and are dedicated. These are then sent to State/Territory Treasurers who forward them to the National Treasurer.

**Special Project - Refuge: Rehabilitation & Legal Aid Centre for Rural Women** Under auspices of **Women Development & Service Programme, Raiwind Diocese, Church of Pakistan.**

Pakistan is predominantly a rural country, where 80% of women live in a rural context. It is important to listen to their plight & suffering, & therefore all the more important to provide educational, legal & pastoral care facilities so that they can live with dignity & face the challenges of life with daring & boldness. One objective of the Raiwind Diocese Church is to build awareness of women's rights & privileges.

Part of the programme is to:

- 1 provide a shelter for rural Christian women, who will receive pastoral care, legal aid, & services which will support their rehabilitation into society.
2. identify & equip leaders. 15 - 20 women from rural areas will be trained as Development Workers & Health Promoters. It is anticipated that 600 women will be reached.

Fifty percent of the World Community Day offering from this service will be given towards this project.

This 1996 Order of Service was written by a subcommittee of the South Australian Unit of Australian Church Women. Cover design by Mr Alf Simpson of Trinity Baptist Church, Colonel Light Gardens, Adelaide.

**PLEASE NOTE:** This Order of Service is copyright, and may not be rewritten or otherwise altered, except for the substitution of hymns that are considered to be more suitable or available in the local situation.

Australian Church Women  
World Community Day 1996

Theme: "Our Changeless God"

CALL TO WORSHIP

The Unchanging God of the Past

Leader Come with praise and thanksgiving before our God and Father,  
whose love is unchanging from generation to generation.

By His mighty hand He set creation in place, all things in heaven  
and earth.

He alone is before all things and in Him all things hold together.  
He is majestic and mighty through all time.

Praise Him for all He has done for us. We have seen His glory, full  
of truth and grace.

In Him was our salvation planned before the beginning of time.  
Through Him we have received mercy and forgiveness, unchanging  
and everlasting.

Praise Him for the gift of life; thank Him for the gift of faith and  
benefits He confers; thank Him for the blessings with which He  
visits those whose hearts are open to His love.

When we seek His mercy, He is ready to be found. He longs to be  
gracious and compassionate, for the Lord is a God of justice and  
peace.

In Him, we have been chosen according to His plan and purpose to  
do His will. This is the hope to which we are called. Our  
unchanging God is our strength and power. In Him our weakness is  
changed to strength.

Our prayers of gratitude and praise, like acts of service, rise like  
sweet smelling fragrance to please Him.  
Give thanks to God, His love endures forever and His faithfulness  
continues through all generations.

HYMN Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise. AHB 80  
Tune - St Denio 11 11. 11 11

## PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING

- Leader We thank You, God, for the world we live in. The trees, the flowers, the animals and the food You provide.
- All **We thank You, we praise You, we bless You.**
- Leader We thank You, God, for the sun and the rain which nurture the world You have created.
- All **We thank You, we praise You, we bless You.**
- Leader We thank You, God, for the people we live with and work with, for their gifts and talents.
- All **We thank You, we praise You, we bless You.**
- Leader We thank You, God, for sending Your Son Jesus, to teach us to serve You.
- All **We thank You, we praise You, we bless You.**
- Leader We thank You, God, for sending Your Holy Spirit among us so that we may spread Your Holy Word.
- All **We thank You, we praise You, we bless You.**
- Leader We thank You, God, for the privilege of praying for other women in the world through the Fellowship of the Least Coin, so they will know their sisters in other countries care for them.
- All **We thank You, we praise You, we bless You.**
- Leader We thank You, God, for the vision given to Shanti Solomon, forty years ago, that women from all countries can share their joys and concerns, pray for one another, and study Your Word together, and in so doing, can be of practical support to each other.
- All **We thank You, we praise You, we bless You. We are thankful for all Your gifts: the earth and its abundance, our life, health and loved ones and the Fellowship of the Least Coin. Help us to cherish and nurture Your gifts. AMEN**

OLD TESTAMENT READING Two readers to read alternate verses.

I Chronicles 16: 8 - 10, 27 - 36 (NIV)

THE LORD'S PRAYER: Our Father.....

- SONG The Steadfast Love of the Lord  
'Songs of the Kingdom Vol 2' No 414 (209) by E.McNeill
- OR
- HYMN O God Our Help in Ages Past AHB 46  
Tune - St. Anne 86. 86

## The Unchanging God of the Present

- Leader You did not choose me, but I chose you, and appointed you to go and bear fruit; fruit that will last.  
(John 15: 16 NIV)
- All **The fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self control.**  
(Gal. 5: 22 - 23a NIV)
- Leader So do not worry about your life, what you will eat or about your body, what you will wear.  
(Luke 12: 22 NIV)
- All **Your Father knows that you need them. But seek His Kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well.**  
(Luke 12: 30b - 31 NIV)
- Leader He has shown you .... what is good. And what does the Lord require of you?
- All **To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.**  
(Micah 6: 8 NIV)

## PRAYERS OF PETITION

- Leader Your constant love and faithfulness to Your people through the ages is proclaimed in Your Word, our God. We acknowledge Your love and faithfulness in our own lives as you have guided us thus far. We pray now with confidence for our Christian sisters in the world, claiming Your promise to hear and answer.
- All **Lord, hear and answer our prayer.**
- Leader We pray for peace - in our hearts, in our families, in our communities, in our country and in the world.

All Lord, hear and answer our prayer.

Leader We pray for all whose lives are bowed down with injustices - the poor, the misunderstood, the disadvantaged, the outcasts, the prisoners of conscience, for children left without parents and home, and refugees fleeing from war and certain death by killing or starvation. May they come to know Your justice and righteousness.

All Lord, hear and answer our prayer.

Leader We pray for the many countries that have no diplomatic relations with one another, communities that are divided, families who need the healing love of Jesus. We feel their pain and ask that Your Holy Spirit will come into their lives and homes, so that they will be one with You.

All Lord, hear and answer our prayer.

Leader We pray for the women who are supported by grants from the International Committee for the Fellowship of the Least Coin, that they may be encouraged in their work and ministry for You. We pray also that those who make the decisions on allocations of grants will be given Your wisdom to know those most in need.

All Lord, hear and answer our prayer.

All We pray with Your help, that we may search our own hearts so that we may be willing to be the answer to our own prayers. Then our lives will be more effective for You. AMEN

OFFERING FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN  
(Music during offering)

Dedication of the Offering

All O loving Creator, we present ourselves in Your Divine Presence to thank You for all the bountiful gifts of life. We are especially grateful for the Fellowship of the Least Coin which binds us together in love and forgiveness around the globe. Free us from all doubts and prejudices, we pray. Inspire us to live in solidarity with humankind that we may know the joy of giving and receiving. Dear God, accept these Least Coins our 'Token of Love'. Make us mindful of the miracles of these coins. Let us honour Your creation with love as shown through the life and resurrection of Your Son, Jesus the Christ. AMEN

SOLO or CHOIR (on the theme)

ADDRESS

HYMN Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life  
AHB 532; Tune - Fulda 137 88.88

OFFERING

**Special Project - Refuge: Rehabilitation & Legal Aid Centre for Rural Women** Under auspices of **Women Development & Service Programme, Raiwind Diocese, Church of Pakistan.**  
(music during offering)

Dedication of the Offering

All God our Father, we thank You that You are the same yesterday, today and forever, and that everything we have is a gift from You, to be used for Your praise and glory. We pray that You will bless the project which has been chosen to receive funding this year. Grant that the work done there will prosper and be a source of blessing to all who receive encouragement, support and help. Give all those who are involved in the administration and outreach, wisdom, compassion and patience - may they always seek Your guidance in their decisions and planning.

Leader Loving Father, we thank You that we are called to uphold and assist all those in any kind of need. May we be willing and generous in our service, that Your world may be transformed from one of struggle and suffering, to Your kingdom of joy, peace and love. We ask this in the name of Jesus our Saviour, and in the power of the Holy Spirit.

All AMEN

### The Unchanging God of the Future

Leader None of us knows how long we may live, so we must 'work while it is day', serving God with all the strength and ability we have. We do not know what awaits us round the next corner, but we know that God is there, as He has been throughout our lives. He has many rooms in the home He has prepared for those who love Him.