

People of the Kingdom



*You are all one in union with Jesus Christ.
Galatians 3.28*

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN

Fellowship Day 1980

P E O P L E O F T H E K I N G D O M

ORGAN PRELUDE

INTRODUCTION

Leader 1: Come, you that love the Lord
 And let your joys be known.
 Join in a song with sweet accord
 And thus surround the throne.

People: *Glory be to God on high and on earth, peace, goodwill
 among men.*

HYMN: (Suggested tune: IRISH 86.86 - A.H.B. 349)

 Thy Kingdom come! on bended knee
 The passing ages pray,
 And faithful souls have yearned to see
 On earth that Kingdom's day.

 But the slow watches of the night
 Not less to God belong:
 And for the everlasting right
 The silent stars are strong.

 And lo, already on the hills
 The flags of dawn appear;
 Gird up your loins you prophet souls,
 Proclaim the day is near.

 The day in whose clear shining light
 All wrong shall stand revealed,
 When justice shall be throned in might,
 And every hurt be healed.

 When knowledge hand in hand with peace
 Shall walk the earth abroad;
 The day of perfect righteousness,
 The promised day of God.

Leader 1: Come down O Love Divine,
Seek Thou this soul of mine
And kindle it with thine own ardour glowing.

People: *Our Father who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy Name.
Thy Kingdom Come, Thy will be done on earth as it
is in heaven.*

Leader 1: What is this Kingdom that we pray for?

People: *The Kingdom of God is not of this world. The Kingdom
of God is within us.*

Leader 1: What must we do to enter the Kingdom?

People: *Repent, for the Kingdom of heaven is at hand. Our
Father, forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those
that trespass against us.*

Leader 1: And from now on, let us walk worthy of God, who has
called us into His Kingdom.

People: *Let us seek first the Kingdom of God and all our other
needs will be added.*

THE POOR IN SPIRIT

Leader 2: It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a
needle than for a rich man to enter the Kingdom of
Heaven.

People: *Who then shall be saved?*

Leader 2: Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the
Kingdom of Heaven.

People: *When we see ourselves as we really are, so rich in
self-satisfaction, so aware of our own good works,
so unaware of the sufferings of others, so afraid
of the tasks we are called to undertake and so lazy
in the service which is our high calling, we acknowledge
our own bankruptcy, and seek God's mercy, grace and
power in place of our own efforts.*

Leader 2: You are now not far from the Kingdom. Hath not God chosen the poor of this world, rich in faith and heirs of the Kingdom which he has promised to those that love Him?

HYMN: (Suggested tune: Woodworth 88.86 A.H.B. 497 (ii))

*Just as I am, without one plea
But that thy blood was shed for me,
And that Thou bidst me come to Thee,
O Lamb of God I come.*

*Just as I am though tossed about
With many a conflict, many a doubt,
Fightings and fears within, without,
O Lamb of God I come.*

*Just as I am, Thou wilt receive,
Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
Because Thy promise I believe,
O Lamb of God I come.*

*Just as I am - Thy love unknown
Has broken every barrier down -
Now to be Thine and Thine alone
O Lamb of God, I come.*

THE RIGHTEOUS AND THE UNRIGHTEOUS

Leader 3: The unrighteous shall not enter the Kingdom of Heaven, for the Kingdom of God is not meat and drink, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Ghost, for he that in these things serves Christ is acceptable to God.

PEOPLE: *Who of us then can hope to enter, for we know we are not righteous?*

Leader 3: *Jesus came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance. Except you be born again you cannot see the Kingdom.*

PEOPLE: *Not everyone that says "Lord, Lord," shall enter the Kingdom, but she that does the will of the Father.*

Leader 3: THOSE THAT SUFFER PERSECUTIONS AND TRIBULATIONS are worthy of the Kingdom of God.

PEOPLE: *Let us remember with reverence the saints and martyrs who under God and by their own suffering in time past, present the heritage of the Kingdom.*

Leader 3: Let us uphold in prayer, in love and in practical help, those who in our own day still suffer because they follow Christ.

O God our Father, you know the needs of each one of your children and we thank you that in Jesus, your Son and our Lord, there are no barriers of race, nationality, language or creed, and we pray now for our brothers and sisters who need your special help,
for those who have lost their way in life;
for those whose children go to bed hungry each night;
for those who cannot find work;
for migrants in a strange land

Hear us, our Father,
for those whose husbands, sons and daughters are in prison because they made their declaration on behalf of the restoration of Democracy and for Human Rights;
for those many students and workers who spend day after day in their prison cells, longing to see the blue sky;
for those, who although not robbers or murderers, are yet treated more cruelly and callously because they would acknowledge your right to rule in their lives.
Hear us, our Father.

AMEN.

PEOPLE: *Let us in our own small tribulations walk worthy of the Kingdom to which we belong, for we are called to be the leaven in our own society and the light to those about us.*

Leader 4: THOSE THAT PERSIST IN RIGHTEOUSNESS and whose faith is not withered because it has no roots, these also are worthy of the Kingdom.

PEOPLE: *No one having put her hand to the plough and looking back is fit for the Kingdom.*

Leader 4: Yet when we look at our world, our society and our own weakness, we are tempted to give up in despair.

PEOPLE: *The Kingdom of God is not in word, but in power. Let us encourage one another by our unity in faith and love and action, for with God all things are possible.*

Leader 4: Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the Kingdom.

PEOPLE: *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

Leader 4: THOSE WHO HAVE REAL LOVE AND CONCERN shall inherit the Kingdom. For, unless we have love and compassion, no good work or righteousness has any value.

PEOPLE: *I was hungry and you gave me meat; I was thirsty and you gave me drink; I was a stranger and you took me in, naked and you clothed me, sick and you visited me, in prison and you came to me.*

Leader 4: Come, you blessed of my Father, inherit the Kingdom prepared for you, for inasmuch as you did it to the least of these my little ones, you did it to me.

PEOPLE: *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

Leader 4: Only THOSE WHO RECEIVE THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN AS A LITTLE CHILD shall enter therein.

PEOPLE: *Grant us, O Lord, that our love for you may be the love of a child for his parents. Grant that our trust in You may be the trust of a child in his mother and Father.*

PEOPLE: *Grant that we may have the hopefulness and cheerfulness, the forward look and the exuberance of a child, that we may be seen to live the abundant life that Jesus came to bring.*

Leader 5: *Who then is worthy of the Kingdom?*

PEOPLE: *Those who suffer for their faith, those who persist in their faith, those whose faith is expressed in love and concern and those who have the faith of a child.*

Leader 5: *Grant O Lord, that we may walk worthy of our high calling in Christ Jesus.*

HYMN: *(Suggested tune: PATER OMNIUM 88.88.88)*

*Give me the faith which can remove
And sink the mountain to a plain;
Give me the child-like praying love,
Which longs to build thy house again;
Thy love, let it my hear o'er power
And all my simple soul devour.*

*I would the precious time redeem,
And longer live for this alone,
To spend and to be spent for them
Who have not yet my Saviour known;
Fully on these my mission prove,
An only breathe to breathe thy love.*

*My talents, gifts and graces, Lord,
Into thy blessed hands receive;
And let me live to preach thy word,
And let me to thy glory live;
My every sacred moment spend
In publishing the sinners' Friend.*

*Enlarge, inflame, and fill my heart
With boundless charity divine:
So shall I all my strength exert,
And love them with a love like thine:
And lead them to thy open side,
The sheep for whom their shepherd died.*

ADDRESS: THE KING AND HIS PEOPLE: Rule, relationship,
responsibility - (or discussion
suggestions on back page).

HYMN: (Suggested tune: MILES LANE 86.86 extended A.H.B. 159 (i.

*All hail the power of Jesus' name;
Let angels prostrate fall;
Bring forth the royal diadem
To crown Him Lord of all.*

*Crown Him, ye martyrs of our God
Who from His altar call;
Praise Him, whose way of pain you trod
And crown Him Lord of all.*

*Sinners whose love can ne'er forget
The wormwood and the gall,
Go spread your trophies at His feet
And crown Him Lord of all.*

*Let every tribe and every tongue
Responsive to His call
Now shout in universal song
And crown Him Lord of all.*

Leader 5: The offering today is for the Winifred Kiek Scholarship, which enables Christian women from Asia, the islands of the Pacific and even from Africa, who have completed their tertiary education, to further their knowledge and experience, usually here in Australia. Of the 15 women who have held this Scholarship, some have been nurses, some teachers, some church workers, some secretaries, some social workers. All have returned to their own country better equipped to work for the Kingdom of God among their people.

Leader 5: Let us give with generosity of mind, heart and hand
that the Kingdom may spread its bounds still wider.

OFFERING (Suggested music: *Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my
heart*)

OFFERING PRAYER

PEOPLE: *We who are so affluent in things, yet so poor in spirit
bring our material wealth for love of those who have no
money. Take it, O Lord, and use it for the bringing in
of your Kingdom, and, since all things are possible
with you, we beseech you to make use of us also in the
service of that Kingdom.*

ALL SORTS AND CONDITIONS OF PEOPLE

HYMN: (Suggested tune: *ST. BERNARD 86.86 A.H.B. 391 (ii)*)

*In Christ there is no east or west,
In Him no south or north,
But one great fellowship of love
Throughout the whole wide earth.*

*In Him shall true hearts everywhere
Their high communion find,
His service is the golden cord
Close-binding all mankind.*

*Join hands, then, people of the faith,
Whate'er your race may be;
Who serves my Father as a son
Is surely kin to me.*

*In Christ now meet both east and west,
In Him meet south and north,
All Christ-like souls are one in Him
Throughout the whole wide earth.*

Leader 6: The gospel of the Kingdom shall be preached in all
the world for a witness to all nations.

PEOPLE: *Therefore all races and colours, all classes and kinds
of people, are fellow -citizens with us in the Kingdom
of God.*

Leader 6: We must be done with barriers and prejudices, we must recognise fearlessly and accept with joy differences which enrich the Kingdom and do honour to their Creator. In Christ there is NEITHER JEW NOR GREEK.

People: *Let the nations of the world be done with war and the pride, greed and vengefulness which lead to it, and let us welcome as friends all races of the earth.*

Leader 6: In Christ there is NEITHER BOND NOR FREE.

PEOPLE: *Let us be done with the tensions, snobbery and injustices which exist between class and class, the rich and the poor, the educated and the uneducated, the employer and the employee, the criminal and the respectable. Christ died for us all, and the thief and the prostitute may well enter the Kingdom before us.*

Leader 6: In Christ there is NEITHER MALE NOR FEMALE.

PEOPLE: *Let us not be vindictive over injustices which are yet to be righted, nor in conflict with one another over our tasks and privileges, but let us co-operate as daughters and sons of God in the service of that Kingdom which we all seek.*

Leader 6: For the Kingdoms of this world are becoming the Kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign for ever and ever.

HYMN: (Tune: New Commandment - Irregular A.H.B. 571)

A new commandment I give unto you
that you love one another as I have loved you
that you love one another as I have loved you.
By this shall all men know that you are my disciples
If you have love one for another
By this shall all men know that you are my disciples
If you have love one for another.

Leader 6: Now may the hope of a better world, a worthier life,
a holier morrow and a sweeter thanksgiving inspire us
all with patient continuance in well-doing,

People: *And O, Lord Jesus, may your Kingdom come in our hearts
and in all the world.*

ORGAN POSTLUDE: THE HALLELUJAH CHORUS!

SUGGESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

The Old Testament talks much of the "Kingdom of God" but Jews disliked using the sacred name and Matthew seems to prefer to interpret Christ as referring to the "Kingdom of Heaven". Heaven, where God is, must be the place (any place?) where He rules, and people of the Kingdom are obviously those who acknowledge His rule.

We tend to regard the beatitudes, culminating in the "Golden Rule" as the standard by which humanity must live to attain "the Kingdom". Yet Jesus says the "Kingdom is within you". Is there conflict in these ideas?

"Blessed are the poor in Spirit". What do we mean by "poor in spirit"? How does this apply to us?

"Not every one that says Lord, Lord, ... but he who does the will of the Father". Is it possible to acknowledge the Lordship of Christ and not accept His rule in one's life? Is it possible to accept His rule and not acknowledge His Lordship?

*This Order of Service has been prepared by the South
Australian Unit of Australian Church Women.*