

Australian Church Women



WORLD COMMUNITY DAY

October, 1976

Theme: ENCOUNTER

MEDITATIONS

*"A tree is born, a tree dies,
the forest lives for ever".*

—(AN ASIAN POLITICAL PRISONER)

*"A grain of wheat remains a solitary grain
unless it falls into the ground and dies;
but if it dies it bears a rich harvest."*

—(JOHN 12: 24. N.E.B.)

*"To be a witness is to live your life in
such a way that it would not make sense
if God did not exist."*

—(AN ASIAN WITNESS)

THE LEADERS ENTER AND GREET THE CONGREGATION

Announcements and information about the Fellowship of the Least Coin and the World Community Day Project may be given.

AN ACT OF PRAISE (people standing)

LEADER Praise and glory and wisdom, thanksgiving and honour, power and might, be to our God for ever and ever.

ALL Holy, holy, holy is God, the Sovereign Lord of all, who was, and is, and is to come.

LEADER For freedom, Christ has set us free.

ALL Allelulia! The Lord our God, Sovereign over all, has entered on his reign!

LEADER We are all one in Christ.

ALL Exult and shout for joy and do Him homage!

LEADER Justice and right are the pillars of His throne.

ALL Allelulia! Victory and glory and power, belong to our God, for true and just, are His judgements.

LEADER Praise and glory and wisdom, thanksgiving and honour, power and might, be to our God for ever and ever.

ALL Holy, holy, holy is God, the Sovereign Lord of all, who was, and is, and is to come.

HYMN

LEADER Together we meet . . .

What does it mean to meet? People meet by chance or on purpose with joy, with fear, with hope. Though they meet, they may be so far apart, neutral or hostile, that they do not meet at all. Then there is cause for sorrow. Sometimes, when they meet, they discover each other, so that the eyes are opened and the hearts touched, and they bring dignity and grace to each other.

What do we look for in our meeting?

ALL Oh God, we begin to see how often we have refused to meet people, refused to trust ourselves to them. We have been insensitive and thoughtless. We have been proud or afraid. We ask you, through them, to forgive us.

LEADER Together we meet before God . . .
As people of faith, we recognize another dimension to our meeting. When we gather in the name of God, He is among us in His holiness and power.
How shall we understand this meeting?

ALL Open our eyes, O God, to your glory, that we may worship in spirit and in truth, and offer you the praise of glad and thankful hearts.

LEADER Together we meet before God to hear His voice . . .
As Moses and the children of Israel came to the tent of meeting before the Lord, and knew His promise that He would speak with them and sanctify the meeting with His glory, so we stand in His presence and await His word,
What will be the word of the Lord?
Shall we hear it or shall we refuse to hear it?

ALL We begin to see how we have refused to meet you, O Lord.
We have been afraid to let your word enter our hearts.
We have been afraid that you would ask of us more than we wanted to give.
Lord, we are sorry. We ask you to forgive us.

LEADER We ask that in this meeting God will help us to hear and to understand, to see and to perceive.

ALL Meet and speak with us, O God, and teach us to desire what you desire for us and for all whom we meet. Give us wisdom and courage, and let us not be weary in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.

HYMN

LEADER We open our minds to hear the Word of God.

FIRST READING ISAIAH 6 1-8.

SECOND READING MATTHEW 25 31-46.

INTERCESSIONS

LEADER Lord, you made the world and everything in it; you created the human race and gave us the earth for our possession.

ALL Break down the walls that separate us and unite us, Lord.

LEADER Lord, we have been divisive in our thinking, in our speech, in our actions; we have classified and imprisoned one another; we have fenced each other out by hatred and prejudice.

ALL Break down the walls that separate us and unite us, Lord.

LEADER Lord, you mean us to be a single people, ruled by peace, feasting in freedom, freed from injustice, truly human, people responsible and responsive in the life we lead, the love we share, the relations we create.

ALL Break down the walls that separate us and unite us, Lord.

LEADER Lord, we shall need ever-new insights into the truth, awareness of your will and for all humanity, courage to do what is right even when it is not allowed, persistence in undermining unjust structures until they crumble into dust, grace to exercise a ministry of reconciliation.

ALL Break down the walls that separate us and unite us, Lord.

LEADER Lord, share out among us the tongues of your Spirit, that we may burn with compassion for all who hunger for freedom and humanness; that we may be doers of the Word and so speak with credibility about the wonderful things you have done.

ALL Lord, direct us in ways we do not yet understand, and equip us for the service of reconciliation and liberation in your world.

ALL Our Father in Heaven, hallowed be your name,
Your kingdom come, your will be done
On earth as in heaven,
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us today our sins as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil
For the Kingdom, the power and the glory are yours
Now and forever . . . AMEN.

Fellowship of Least Coin Offerings to be brought forward.

LEADER Let us now dedicate the offerings of the Least Coin to be used in serving your world.

HYMN

THE ADDRESS

LEADER What we have discovered in our meeting may so easily be lost, overlaid by the ordinary demands of each coming day. It is more comfortable to fall back into step with the "rhythmic drumbeat of the status quo". Let us resolve to seek the grace to persevere.
Alas, I am lost I have seen the King,
but my lips and my people are unclean.

ALL Holy, holy is our God;
the earth is full of His glory.

LEADER Let His words come to you.
Your guilt is taken away;
Your sin is forgiven.

ALL Holy, holy is our God.

LEADER Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?

ALL Here I am, send me.

LEADER Holy, holy is our God.

ALL The earth is full of His glory.

ALL With all our heart we offer ourselves again to your service. Strengthen our resolve and give us grace to persevere in the love and power of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

THE OFFERING — Project — Transmigration program in Indonesia.

HYMN

DISMISSAL

LEADER May the blessing of the Lord rest upon us all and upon His people in every land, of every tongue, now and evermore.

WORLD COMMUNITY DAY PROJECT 1976

Indonesian Council of Churches Transmigration Training Program

Java and Bali are two very densely populated islands in Indonesia. Since other Indonesian islands are sparsely populated, and could support many more people, the Indonesian Government has undertaken a program of transmigration — or moving people to places where they can support themselves and their families and achieve an acceptable standard of living.

Indonesian Christians are amongst the families willing to be transmigrated and the Indonesian Council of Churches is providing a training program prior to migration, which will help settlers adjust to their new life. Prior to departure families are given basic training in agriculture, animal husbandry, carpentry and basic skills.

This year's World Community Day Offering will be used to help the Indonesian Council of Churches carry out this program.

FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN — The money given to this fund goes to assist projects as designated by the Asian Church Women's Conference, the administrating body.

This World Community Day Service has been prepared for Australian Church Women by Rachel Cocks, A.C.W. delegate to the Asian Church Women's Conference, who attended the Asian Church Women's Seminar in the Philippines, June, 1976. Assistance was given by Rev. John May, of Hobart.