

NEW SOUTH WALES WOMEN'S INTER-CHURCH COUNCIL

ANNUAL SERVICE OF DEDICATION

AND

INSTALLATION OF THE PRESIDENT,

MISS DORIS M. MITCHELL.

ST. ANDREW'S CATHEDRAL, SYDNEY.

MONDAY, 27TH MAY, 1974, AT 10.30 A.M.

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ORDER OF SERVICE

CALL TO WORSHIP:

Leader: O come, let us sing unto the Lord: let us heartily rejoice in the strength of our salvation.
All: Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving: and shew ourselves glad in him with psalms.
Leader: For the Lord is a great God: and a great King above all gods.
All: In his hand are all the corners of the earth: and the strength of the hills is his also.
Leader: The sea is his and he made it: and his hands prepared the dry land.
All: O come, let us worship and fall down: and kneel before the Lord our Maker.
Leader: For he is the Lord our God: and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand.
All: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son: and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: world without end. AMEN.
Leader: This service is of special significance today. It brings to a conclusion another year of service as we members of this Council, sent from our respective Churches, have endeavoured to interpret its aims in all our thoughts, prayers and outreach. It is, therefore, a Thanksgiving Service. It also marks, at the one time, the end of the term of office of one President and the official commencement in office for twelve months of another; - hence it is for Commitment and Dedication. It provides us, again, with an opportunity for public Worship of our God, Who, being able for all things, supplies every need. Let us praise Him.

HYMN 160.

Leader: The Lord be with you.
All: And with thy spirit.
Leader: Let us pray.

Almighty God, unto whom all hearts be open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid; Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.

Grant, we beseech thee, Almighty God, that like as we do believe thy only-begotten Son our Lord Jesus Christ to have ascended into the heavens; so we may also in heart and mind thither ascend, and with him continually dwell, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, one God world without end. AMEN.

O Lord, our heavenly Father, Almighty and everlasting God, who hast safely brought us to the beginning of this day; Defend us in the same with thy mighty power; and grant that this day we fall into no sin, neither run into any kind of danger; but that all our doings may be ordered by thy governance to do always that is righteous in thy sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.

All: THE LORD'S PRAYER.

FIRST LESSON: Isaiah ch. 40: vv. 27-31.

The Choir: "Lift thine eyes".

SECOND LESSON: Philippians ch. 4: vv. 4-8

The congregation will stand for the Installation of the President.

Retiring President: In an act of commitment, we reaffirm the aims of the New South Wales Women's Inter-Church Council:

To promote fellowship and co-operation between women of all branches of the Christian Church; and

To provide an avenue whereby Christian women, as directed and used by God, may unitedly strive to establish His Kingdom on earth by the application of the teachings of Christ to community, national and international relationships.

May the love of God be shed abroad in our hearts and may His power working in us enable us to perform infinitely more than we ask or imagine. Glory be to God for ever. AMEN.

It is but a brief year since I received from the hands of another this President's Bible, which I now pass on: not, O Lord, because the task is done, or even my part in it complete, but because it is an ongoing task which another, in turn, takes up. And now, for the one who is assuming the responsibilities of office; and who will, on behalf of the N.S.W. Women's Inter-Church Council, undertake to keep alive the light of witness in unity and service, we seek a special outpouring of Your Spirit in power and blessing. Enable her, through the use of the talents and abilities which You have given, and which are now dedicated to Your service, to experience the joy and richness of fellowship which that service affords and has been evidenced to me. Grant to her always the constant supply of Your promised strength.

All: You are able for all things, O Lord: supply, we pray, her needs.

Retiring President: Receive this Bible, the Living Word of God, in token and symbol of your acceptance of responsibility as President of this Council, for the next twelve months, to ensure, by the fullest use of your abilities and talents and your willingness to serve, that the light of the Word continues to shine with ever increasing brilliance to the glory of Almighty God, whose children we are.

President: I receive this Bible as an expression of my acceptance of responsibility as President of this Council. Recognising that I have a special charge to keep, acknowledging my complete dependence on God's Grace and His Word, I offer to Him my solemn promise of the best that I can bring in willing service for the fulfilment of His purposes.

All: Consecrate to Your service, O Lord, all members of this Inter-Church Council; with their offerings of personality, character, talent and ability, that the lives so dedicated may be channels through which the Council will be used to bring blessing to Christian women throughout this State.

COUNCIL MEMBERS: Support us, we pray from day to day, that we may all work together in harmonious co-operation to the end that we may glorify our Maker and Redeemer. However Your glory may best be served, O Lord, grant to us, Your servants, in that way to serve.

All: Pour out Your Spirit in full measure on each one, O God, that wisdom, strength and direction may be theirs as they need. AMEN.

P.T.O.

The Choir: "The Lord's my Shepherd". (Brother James' Air)

ADDRESS: The President.

OFFERTORY HYMN 426.

PRAYERS FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY.

Leader: Let us remember the unity which God Himself has given us: One body, one Spirit, one hope of our calling: One Lord, one faith, one baptism: One God and Father of all - over all, through all, in all.

All: Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

Leader: Let us pray that the Lord of the Church will grant to the Church the unity that is His will and in the way that He Himself shall choose.

All: Lord, in thy mercy hear our prayer.

Leader: Into thy hands, our Father, we commit this thy world, this thy family, for which our Lord Jesus Christ was content to be betrayed, and to suffer death upon the cross. Into thy hands we commit thy Universal Church and her unity. Into thy hands we commit all the problems which seem insoluble, in sure and certain hope; for in Thee is our trust.

All: Lord in Thy mercy hear our prayer.

Leader: May the God of peace give peace in our hearts, peace in our homes, and peace among men, now and always. AMEN.

RECESSIONAL HYMN 604.

Warm thanks are expressed to the Choir of the Lane Cove/
Longueville Inter-Church Fellowship for their assistance.

At the conclusion of the Service all are invited to proceed to the Chapter House, adjoining the Cathedral, to meet the office-bearers and members of the Council.

Refreshments will be served by members of the Mothers' Union and the A.B.M. Women's Auxiliary.
