

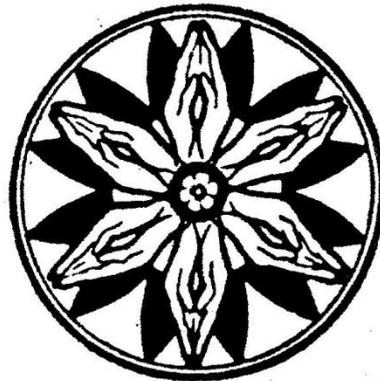
# AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN

(N.S.W. State Unit)

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## A N N U A L S E R V I C E

AUSTRALIAN  
CELEBRATION  
SERVICE  
FOR THE  
SILVER JUBILEE  
OF THE  
FELLOWSHIP OF  
THE LEAST COIN



1956 - 1981

WESLEY CHAPEL  
139 Castlereagh Street, Sydney  
Monday, 25th May, 1981  
at  
10.30 a.m.

Wesley Central Mission is thanked for the use of the Chapel today.

Warm thanks are expressed to our organist Mrs. E. Ridley, our pianist Brig. Ruth Smith and to our solist Mrs. Doreen Moore.

Today's general offering assists the expenses of Australian Church Women (N.S.W. Unit).

The Silver Jubilee coins gathered will go to F.L.C. in New South Wales as part of our special effort this year.

You are invited to a light luncheon in the Meeting Rooms on the first floor, where we shall hear Miss Alison Watson and Miss Sue Newman, speakers for the International Year of Disabled Persons.

CELEBRATING THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN

CALL TO WORSHIP - ALL STAND

PRAY TOGETHER: THANK YOU GOD FOR BRINGING US TOGETHER TODAY.  
FILL OUR HEARTS WITH THANKS FOR THE PAST, JOY  
FOR THE PRESENT AND ANTICIPATION FOR THE FUTURE.  
GRANT OUR FATHER THAT AS WE MEET IN YOUR NAME,  
WE SHALL BE STRENGTHENED BY YOUR HOLY SPIRIT,  
SO THAT OUR SERVICE MAY CONTRIBUTE TO THE BUILDING  
OF YOUR KINGDOM. AMEN.

Leader: This is a special anniversary service. As you know  
this is the Silver Anniversary of our Fellowship of  
the Least Coin. We want it to be a joyous celebra-  
tion. Please turn to your neighbour and greet her  
with joy, saying something like 'Congratulations!  
Thank God for this world organization. Thank God  
for twenty five years of world fellowship. Peace  
be with you.'

Hymn: TO GOD BE THE GLORY

1. To God be the Glory! Great things He hath done;  
So loved He the world that He gave us His Son,  
Who yielded His life an atonement for sin,  
And opened the life-gate that all may go in.

Refrain: Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! Let the earth  
hear His voice!  
Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! Let the people  
rejoice!  
O come to the Father, through Jesus the Son,  
And give Him the Glory! Great things He hath done.

2. O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood,  
To every believer the promise of God!  
The vilest offender who truly believes  
That moment from Jesus a Pardon receives.

3. Great things He hath taught us, Great things He hath done,  
And great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son!  
But purer and higher and greater will be  
Our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see.

Leader: As we celebrate the Silver Jubilee of the Fellowship of the Least Coin, let us look back on the historical highlights of this remarkable movement, beginning with the Gospel reading of the Widow's Mite.

St. Luke 21:1-4 (Good News version)  
A pause to reflect on the reading.  
This is the Word of the Lord.

ALL: THANKS BE TO GOD.

READER: Miss Malini Weerasinghe. Winifred Kiek Scholar.

India: "1956 was a time when Christian women were concerned to heal the hurts of war and to seek reconciliation among people whose nations had been torn by conflict. An International Fellowship Team, sponsored by Presbyterian women in the U.S.A., under the leadership of Margaret Shannon, went to the Pacific to study the Bible with women of Asia and talk with them about these concerns.

The divisions among people and nations became very real when Shanti Solomon of India could not go with the Team to Korea because these two countries did not have diplomatic relations.

As she stayed behind in the Philippines, Shanti Solomon was burdened by two concerns - the need for reconciliation in a divided world and a longing that women everywhere, even those who would never travel, might be aware of belonging to a worldwide fellowship of Christians. As she read again the story of the Widow's Mite, the thought came to her that women everywhere - poor or rich, educated or illiterate, from rural or urban areas - could pray for those in other lands and, as a token of

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prayer as the vital element of the Fellowship, they asked the women of Hong Kong to prepare a 'Circle of Prayer' to be used each month as prayer is offered and the least coin set aside. The Fellowship sign was designed in Hong Kong: it is a circle of praying hands forming a lotus flower, the symbol of Asia."

Reader: Mrs. Marie McCann.

Japan: "The Tenth Anniversary of the Fellowship of the Least Coin was celebrated as women from sixteen Asian countries gathered in Japan in 1966. Now, women of every continent and many countries were part of the Fellowship through both giving and receiving. The Least Coins gathered in creative ways and sent to a common fund, now amounted to thousands of dollars each year. Grants were made to projects in all parts of the world. For the first time delegates from Africa and the Middle East attended the Asian Church Women's Conference."

Syria:  
Lebanon: "Women of Syria and Lebanon have participated in the Fellowship of the Least Coin almost from the beginning and projects in the Middle East have received grants from the common fund. In 1969 a representative from Lebanon was invited to participate in the first All Africa Women's Consultation made possible by a grant from the Fellowship of the Least Coin. These meetings helped build bridges of love and understanding between women of the Middle East and women of Asia and Africa."

SOLO: Mrs. Doreen Moore. 'Because He Lives'.

Reader: Mrs. Dorothy Woodhouse.

Canada: "Women of Asia prepared for their fourth conference to be held in September. Women of Canada have recently become part of the Fellowship of the Least Coin. We have designated our Thanksgiving time to receive offerings for the Fellowship from across Canada. We have received funds from the Fellowship for a project chosen

by Asian Church Women for Indians and Eskimos of the Yukon and Northeast Territories - sometimes called the Forgotten People of our nation."

*Also in 1970* ~~This year~~ Shanti Solomon, the Founder, was named Executive Secretary of the Fellowship of the Least Coin and of the Asian Church Women's Conference.

Reader: Mrs. Glad Bent.

Australia: "In this year of 1972, Women of Australia have been part of the Fellowship of the Least Coin - in receiving and giving - for almost ten years. We were honoured in this year of 1972 by a visit from Shanti Solomon. Asian Church Women have prepared the fourth volume of 'Circle of Prayer' on the theme: 'Who is my Neighbour?' It contains twenty four meditations and prayers by women in various parts of the world."

New Zealand: "When Asian Church Women gathered for their fifth conference in Bangkok, they decided that the central committee for the Fellowship of the Least Coin should have world wide representation, reflecting the world wide nature of the Fellowship and recognition that gifts to and grants from the Fellowship included all countries."

Reader: Mrs. Heather Stevens.

Singapore: "As the Asian Church Women gathered in 1978 for their sixth Assembly, they rejoiced not only in the significant developments in their twenty years of relationship with one another through ACWC but looked forward with great anticipation to the celebration of the twenty fifth anniversary of the Fellowship of the Least Coin, which has demonstrated in a remarkable way the deep significance of small acts of faith and love."

"The year 1980 marked the International Celebration of the Jubilee in the Philippines - the place where the Fellowship of the Least Coin began. Participants included those related in a special way to the history of the Fellowship of the Least Coin and representatives of participating countries were invited to share in this world wide celebration".

Leader: "This year of 1981 marks the twentyfifth anniversary of the Fellowship of the Least Coin. It is a time to look back and ahead, using the experiences of the past to build a better future".

SPEAKER FOR SRI LANKA: Miss Malini Weerasinghe.

HYMN: JOYFUL, JOYFUL, WE ADORE THEE

1. Joyful, joyful, we adore thee, God of Glory, Lord of Love;  
Hearts unfold like flowers before thee, praising thee their sun above.  
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness, drive the doubt of dark away;  
Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day.
  
2. All Thy works with joy surround thee, earth and heaven reflect Thy rays,  
Stars and angels sing around Thee, centre of unbroken praise.  
Field and forest, vale and mountain, blooming meadow, flashing sea,  
Chanting bird and flowing fountain, call us to rejoice in Thee.

3. Mortals, join the mighty chorus which the morning star began;  
 Father love is reigning o'er us, brother love binds man to man.  
 Ever singing, march we onward, victors in the midst of strife,  
 Joyful music lifts us sun-ward in the triumph song of life.

OFFERTORY: General Offering.

Leader: Our special silver coin offering for the Fellowship of the Least Coin Silver Jubilee, will be brought personally to the front for the Dedication.

ALL STAND: DEAR LORD AND MASTER, GRANT THAT AS WE OFFER OUR COINS OUR HEART MAY OVERFLOW WITH LOVE. HUMBLE OUR SPIRITS TO SERVE. MAY WE UNGRUDGINGLY HELP THE NEEDY AND SEEK NO REWARD FOR OUR LABOUR. MOULD US ACCORDING TO THY WILL AND USE US AS WILLING INSTRUMENTS IN THY SERVICE. SEND US FORTH AT THY COMMAND TO DO THY BIDDING. IN JESUS' NAME. AMEN.

#### DEDICATION

President and State

Executive Members: We affirm the aims of the Australian Church Women, New South Wales State Unit.

To unite Australian Church Women in their allegiance to their Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

To promote co-operation of men and women in the Church family and Society.

To help Christian Women to take a more effective place in the total life and mission of the church.

To provide opportunities for Christian women of different denominations to worship, study and serve together;

To encourage fellowship and service across national boundaries.

ALL: Consecrate to Your Service, O Lord, all members of Australian Church Women, New South Wales State Unit, with their offerings of personality, character, talent and ability, that the lives so dedicated may be channels through which Australian Church Women will be used to bring blessing to Christian Women throughout the 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.

ALL: Pour out your Spirit in full measure on all members O God, that wisdom, strength and direction may be theirs as they need. Amen.

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION:

Leader: We present before you, Lord, all of Humanity, with its progress and its vision for the future, together with all its setbacks and clingings to the past.

TOGETHER: LORD, HEAR OUR PRAYER. (This response is repeated after each prayer).

Leader: May our prayers and our desires for peace throughout your world be assisted by each individual here represented, so that Your will may be seen to be done.

- Leader: We pray for understanding and mutual trust, for co-operation between people of different beliefs and cultures.
- Leader: We bring before You all who suffer pain and do not have the possibility of receiving adequate attention; those who suffer from hunger and die because they do not have sufficient food.
- Leader: We pray for all refugees - victims of oppression, injustice, cruel cultural or racial prejudices.
- Leader: For our own country with its particular needs.
- Leader: For Your Church in the world; its mission and ourselves, Your messengers.
- Leader: For our task, as part of the Church where You have gathered us, to be light and the salt.
- Leader: For the sick, the dying, the lonely, the sad, the misunderstood, the bereaved - grant them the Peace of mind found only in and through Your Love.
- Leader: Give all women everywhere the insight required to mould each new generation, to build strong, concerned Christian young people with courage to follow their Lord and stand up for the rights of others.
- Leader: Lord, hear our prayers, both spoken and unspoken. Grant to each of us Your mercy. Give us always the courage and strength to serve You to the best of our ability. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER..

Benediction: And now, may the grace of Christ our Saviour, and the Father's boundless love with the Holy Spirit's favour, rest upon us from above. Amen.

COUNTRIES INVOLVED WITH F.L.C.

AFRICA  
AUSTRALIA AUSTRIA  
BRAZIL BANGLADESH BURMA  
CAMEROON CANADA COLUMBIA CHILE  
CARIBBEAN EGYPT ENGLAND FRANCE GHANA  
GERMANY GUYANA GUATEMALA HOLLAND HONG KONG  
INDIA INDONESIA IRAN ITALY IRELAND JAPAN KENYA  
KOREA LATIN AMERICA LEBANON LIBERIA MALAYSIA  
MEXICO NEW ZEALAND NIGERIA NEW GUINEA NORWAY  
PACIFIC PAKISTAN PHILIPPINES PORTUGAL ROMANIA  
RUSSIA SABAH SPAIN SCOTLAND SIERRA LEONE  
SWEDEN SWITZERLAND SYRIA SRI LANKA  
SINGAPORE TAIWAN THAILAND U.S.A.  
TRINIDAD URUGUAY VIETNAM  
YUGOSLAVIA ZAMBIA  
VENEZUELA WALES  
ZAIRE

AN ASIAN SERVICE ADAPTED FOR AUSTRALIA BY F.L.C. COMMITTEE