

6.

LEADER: (or elocutionist)

*Into your hands, O God, into your hands!
Reach down O patient Father of mankind;
Clutch me, for I am restless, wild of heart,
Impatient, fretful, selfish, vain of mind,
Angered by hurts and hurting clumsily,
Too swift of tongue, too slow to penitence,
Still slower to admit humility,
Forever clutching rags of self-pretence.*

*Into your hands, dear God, those quiet hands,
Take my unquiet mind and fluttering will,
My restless, crowded life, and build in me
The gentleness that comes from being still.
Loosen the tensions in my troubled mind,
Untie the twisted tangle of my heart,
And let me be at rest and know myself,
And cease to justify and play a part.*

*Into your hands, dear God, those mighty hands
Which hold me when I cannot hold them fast.
Be strong for me. I do not trust myself;
I strive and pray and plead and fall at last.
I try to answer half my prayers myself,
And cannot meet my desperate demands.
Let me be done with all this foolishness,
And lay me down in peace within your hands.*

CONGREGATION (standing)

Now unto Him who is able to keep us from
falling, and to present us faultless
before His presence with exceeding joy,
to the only wise God, our Saviour, be
glory and majesty, dominion and power,
both now and forever. (Jude 24, 25 K.J.V.)

THREEFOLD AMEN (Australian Hymn Book)

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*This Service was prepared by Mrs. Margaret Knauerhase,
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of the Winifred Kiek Scholarship 1985/87.*

Australian Church Women



Fellowship Day
Service 1986

THE COMMITTED LIFE

- LEADER Welcome and Introduction.
- READER 1: "Commit your way unto the Lord, trust also in Him, and He shall bring it to pass" (Psalm 37:5 K.J.V.)
- LEADER: What then is commitment?
- READER 1: Commitment is the ultimate act of faith. It is the proof that you really believe. It is the end of doubt, distrust and hesitation.
- READER 2: "I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that He is able to keep that which I have committed unto Him." (2 Timothy 1:12 K.J.V.)
Commitment is the surrender of your own small self to Someone beyond you and greater than you. It is the active participation in a cause from which there is no withdrawing.
- READER 3: "And Jesus said to them, 'Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.' And they straightway left their nets and followed Him. (Matthew 4:19,20. K.J.V.)
Commitment is the final and complete response to a call, an opportunity to be and do more than you have ever been or done.
- LEADER: How then do we commit ourselves to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ?
- READER 4: First, we acknowledge Him in worship, not because He wants to be adored, but because we need to adore. If we see the sunset and feel no glow of delight, we do not diminish the sunset, we reveal a blindness in ourselves.
If we do not worship God, we do not lessen His greatness, but we reveal the poverty of our own spirit. Therefore let us worship Him to whom we would commit ourselves and our lives.

Acknowledgment -

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UNISON: Psalm 8 (R.S.V.)
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*O Lord, our Lord,
how majestic is thy name in all the earth!
Thou whose glory above the heavens is chanted
by the mouth of babes and infants,
thou hast founded a bulwark because of thy foes,
to still the enemy and the avenger.
When I look at thy heavens, the work of thy
fingers,
the moon and the stars which thou hast
established;
what is man that thou art mindful of him,
and the son of man that thou dost care for him?
Yet thou hast made him little less than God,
and dost crown him with glory and honour.
Thou hast given him dominion over the works of
thy hands;
thou hast put all things under his feet,
all sheep and oxen,
and also the beasts of the field,
the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea,
whatever passes along the paths of the sea.
O Lord, our Lord,
how majestic is thy name in all the earth!*

CONGREGATION: Hymn 557 Australian Hymn Book
"Lord of Creation, to you be all praise."

LEADER: If we are truly committed, we OBEY Jesus our
leader, because we trust Him utterly. We are
sure that He knows what is for our good and the
good of His world.

First, He bids us love God.

Matthew 22: 37 and 38 (R.S.V.)

ALL: It is hard, Lord, to love the invisible more
than the visible, yet you became visible in Jesus
Christ, and we love Him a little and would like
to love Him more. Take from us our passion for
possession and give us a passion to be possessed
by your Spirit. We commit ourselves to you as
Jesus did.

READER 1: Jesus bids us love our neighbour.
John 13: 34 and 35 (R.S.V.)

CONGREGATION: Lord, it is easy to love those who are
lovable. Help us to love the unlovely, the
repulsive, the criminal, the pervert, the
terrorist, and those who do not love us. Some
people need so much more loving than others, but
we are committed to loving all. Help us, O Lord!

READER 2: Jesus bids us to forgive our enemies.
Matthew 5: 43-48 (R.S.V.)

CONGREGATION: With your help, Lord, we will strive to be
done with ideas of retaliation, with grudge-
bearing, and with keeping account of wrongs done
to us, and, even more difficult, to our loved
ones. We will seek not to harbour resentment,
but commit ourselves to seeking the good of any
who wrong us.

READER 3: Jesus bids us go out and spread the Gospel.
Matthew 28: 19-20 (R.S.V.)

CONGREGATION: When we discover something new and beautiful
and exciting, we want to tell others of it. The
truly committed Christian will find her or his
own ways of communicating in word and action.

LEADER (or elocutionist)

*I'd rather see a sermon than hear one any day.
I'd rather one would walk with me than merely show the way.
The best of all the preachers are the ones who live their
creeds,
For to see good put in action is what everybody needs.
I soon can learn to do it if you let me see it done;
I can watch your hands in action, but your tongue too
fast may run.
The lecture you deliver may be very wise and true,
But I'd rather get my lesson from observing what you do.
I may not understand at all the high advice you give,
But there's no misunderstanding how you act and how
you live.*

- READER 4: Jesus bids us trust Him
 Though He slay me, yet will I trust Him.
 (Job 13: 15) (K.J.V.)
 Trust in the Lord; wait patiently for Him.
 (Psalm 37: 3 and 7) (K.J.V.)
 I will both lay me down in peace, and sleep:
 for Thou, Lord, only, makest me to dwell in
 safety. (Psalm 4: 8) (K.J.V.)
- CONGREGATION: Lord, to whom else can we go? You alone are
 great enough, strong enough and loving enough
 to ask of us nothing but what is right and
 good. Because we trust you, we obey you;
 because we trust in your love, fear is cast
 out. Lord, we commit ourselves to trust
you.
- LEADER: Commitment demands knowledge and wisdom.
- CONGREGATION: But where is wisdom to be found, and how
 shall we get understanding?
- READER 5: Jesus said, "Take my yoke and put it on you
 and learn from me." Paul said, "Everything
 written in the scriptures was written to
 teach us, in order that we might have hope,
 through the patience and encouragement which
 the scriptures give us." Paul also said,
 "Teach and instruct each other with all
 wisdom. Sing psalms and sacred songs."
- CONGREGATION: So our learning comes from Jesus himself,
 from the Scriptures and one another.
 We commit ourselves to this learning as the
 natural outcome of our commitment to God.
- CONGREGATION: Hymn No. 520 Australian Hymn Book
 "Take my life and let it be"
- LEADER: But where is the "world" to which we must take
 our commitment?
- CONGREGATION: It is our next-door neighbour and the starving
 in Africa; it is our own family and the violent
 Middle East and Ireland. It is our own Sunday
 School class, our fellow Australians, and the
 teeming millions of China and India.
 The task is beyond us.

- SPEAKER 5: But not beyond the power of God through His
 Church, beloved of Christ and pledged to do
 His will. Let us give our commitment in our
 own lives and in the life of the Church, and
 the way will be opened.
- LEADER: Our offering on this day is for the Winifred
 Kiek Scholarship. This was founded in 1965
 and named after the Rev. Winifred Kiek, first
 ordained woman in Australia, whose concern for
 inter-denominational and international Christian
 women led her to see the need for the tertiary
 training and spiritual enrichment of the women
 in Asian and the Pacific area. The governments
 of most of these countries discriminate against
 Christians, and especially Christian women.
- A succession of twenty-four fine scholars of
 all denominations and from many countries have
 had the benefit of this Scholarship, and have
 returned to their own country to serve their
 Lord and His Church with energy, efficiency,
 and commitment. Let us give with gratitude
 for what we have and with understanding of what
 they have not.
- OFFERING: ANTHEM or ORGAN PRELUDE.
- LEADER: Commit these gifts, O Lord we pray, to the
 service of learning, trusting and obeying.
 Bless past and present holders of this
 Scholarship and extend our commitment through
 their's, for Christ's sake. AMEN.
- ADDRESS: "THE COST OF COMMITMENT"
- CONGREGATION: Hymn No. 528 Australian Hymn Book
 "Make me a captive, Lord."