



AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN



WORLD COMMUNITY DAY

October, 1971



Theme :

"All One in Christ Jesus"

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"ALL ONE IN CHRIST JESUS"

(A Service on the theme of Race and Racism)

This Order of Service has been designed to allow for a period of discussion as an alternative to an address or sermon (approximately twenty minutes). In order that the discussion time may prove interesting, informative and profitable, if it is elected to use the alternative, it is strongly recommended that some preparatory work be undertaken by those appointed to lead. Suggestions intended to help stimulate thought are printed at the end of the Order of Service.

"ALL ONE IN CHRIST JESUS"

MEDITATION: God of Turk and God of Greek,
God of every tongue men speak,
God of Arab, God of Jew,
God of every racial hue,
God of Laos and Palestine —
All the world of men is Thine.

ENTRY INTO WORSHIP (The people seated).

Leader: Let us glorify God by being honest together about race and racialism.

People: May God help us to do so.

Leader: Let us celebrate the benefits of race,

People: Yet repent the evils of racism.

THANKSGIVING (The people standing).

Leader: We celebrate the variety of races which make up humanity,

People: One family of God, many peoples, many cultures,

Leader: Many languages,

People: Different family traditions,

Leader: Many histories, many memories,

People: Diverse expression of art, song and story,

Leader: Many faces,

People: Different graces and customs,

Leader: Many skills,

People: Diverse foods and tastes,

Leader: A world of riches,

ALL: Many homelands — even in our own homeland.

HYMN: (Tune: Warrington. L.M.).

From all that dwell below the skies,
Let the Creator's praise arise;
Let the Redeemer's name be sung
Through every land, by every tongue.

Sun, moon, and stars convey thy
praise
Round the whole earth, and never
stand;
So, when thy truth began its race,
It touched and glanced on every land.

Nor shall thy spreading Gospel rest
Till through the world thy truth has
run;
Till Christ has all the nations blest
That see the light or feel the sun.

Great Sun of Righteousness, arise;
Bless the dark world with heavenly
light;
Thy Gospel makes the simple wise,
Thy laws are pure, thy judgments
right.

A REITERATION OF CHRISTIAN BELIEFS: (The people seated).

Leader: All men are created in the image of God and all are children of the one God.

People: All men are imperfect and all have sinned. All men need redemption.

Leader: Compassion takes no account of human differences.

People: Jesus Christ died for all men, whatever their colour, culture or nation.

Leader: The death and resurrection of Christ introduced a new order in which there is no such thing as Jew or Greek, slave or free, male or female.

People: The Good News is for all.

Leader: It was given to men of many languages and racial origins.

People: It was heard and believed by a diversity of people.

Leader: The gifts of the Holy Spirit are given to different people in different ways.

People: The Church is therefore a fellowship of people who recognise their need of God's grace and their dependence on other Christians. Prejudice, intolerance and injustice can be overcome by the Grace of God in Christ, which reforms and renews men and communities, so that they rejoice in the sharing of their cultural differences.

PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

Leader: Kath Walker, the Aboriginal poet, puts the needs of her people this way:

"We want hope, not racialism,
Brotherhood, not ostracism,
Give us incentive, not restriction,
Give us Christ, not crucifixion.
Though baptised and blessed and Bibled
We are still tabooed and libelled.
You devout salvation-sellers,
Make us neighbours, not fringe-dwellers;
Make us mates, not poor relations,
Citizens, not serfs on stations".

BRIEF PERIOD OF SILENCE.

WHAT IS RACISM?

Leader: Is **this** racism?

1st Voice: When aborigines are denied access to swimming pools, cinemas, hotels and hospital wards because they are aboriginal?

Leader: Is **this** racism?

2nd Voice: When individuals are denied entry to Australia because of the colour of their skin?

Leader: Is **this** racism?

1st Voice: When equal rights and privileges in housing and employment are denied to any section of the community because of their racial origin?

Leader: Is **this** racism?

2nd Voice: When people believe that because they have a white skin they are superior to people with a dark skin, and that they are therefore justified in behaving in an arrogant and discriminatory way towards them.

Leader: Is **this** racism?

1st and 2nd Voices:

When a church practises any kind of discrimination on the basis of race.

BRIEF PERIOD OF SILENCE.

Leader: We will now confess our sins of racial discrimination, person to person, in our society, and between nations —

1st Voice: We each remember that in our daily living how little we try to break through barriers of language, of custom, of ways of thinking, even though we know how these can separate us from others.

People: From others who are also human.

1st Voice: The housewives, the workers, the children are driven back into themselves.

People: Into inner loneliness.

1st Voice: And then we criticise them for being different.

People: But they are only wanting to keep alive traditions of their fathers, their languages, their culture.

2nd Voice: We admit how little we do to help migrants and Aborigines. We know about children who cannot learn in our schools.

People: We have no special English classes for them.

2nd Voice: We think about Aboriginal children whose food, hygiene and housing are so poor, and whose parents don't know what to do.

People: Many of these children die.

2nd Voice: We know of migrants frustrated because they cannot do the job for which they have been trained.

People: We refuse to accept their qualifications.

2nd Voice: We remember Aboriginal men and women living without dignity or purpose.

People: Lost because we have broken down their culture, taken their land, and offer them only menial work, or no work at all.

3rd Voice: We acknowledge our share of guilt for racialism in Australia's immigration policy, where the colour of a man's skin **DOES** matter. We recognise our unwillingness to give even 1 per cent. of our Gross National Product for aid to underdeveloped countries. We admit that our defence policy is geared largely to our own hope for security, while we care little for the rights and aspirations of other nations and peoples.

Leader and People:

O God, hear us.

Forgive us as we are truly sorry.

Strengthen us to fight for better conditions for all men,

And where we are complacent, grant us no peace.

For the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSON: 1 Corinthians 13.

HYMN—(Tune: "Finlandia").

O God of love, Whose heart is ever yearning
To turn men's wayward thoughts again to Thee,
Now grant them grace to live as in Thy presence,
And help them all their erring ways to see.
May love o'ercome the ill in ev'ry nation,
And all to Thee as subjects bow the knee.

O Father God, moved ever by compassion
For children crushed 'neath sorrow's heavy load,
Be swift to aid the downcast and the cheerless,
Lift up the fallen on life's thorny road,
Give calm and strength to overcome with patience,
And safely bring them to Thy blest abode.

O God of Peace, Whose Son with our sins laden,
Died to secure from bondage our release,
Help us to banish hate 'tween man and nations,
To live as brothers, and make wars to cease.
Bring in the reign of friendship universal,
And in Thy mercy grant to us Thy peace.

SERMON or DISCUSSION PANEL.

(If discussion panel is used, period should terminate with brief comment by Leader before continuing with remainder of the service).

OFFERING (1971 PROJECT — ASIAN CHRISTIAN SERVICE).

PRAYER OF DEDICATION — (The people standing).

Leader: Dear Lord and Father of mankind, bless and sanctify this expression of the measure of our love for those of the Christian family who live and serve in Asia. Guide, strengthen and encourage them, dear Lord, and enlarge our vision in the giving, so that we shall spontaneously respond in love to the urgency of the need so close to us. For Thy Name's sake. Amen.

CREED (The people standing).

ALL: We believe in life — a priceless gift, great with possibilities.
We believe in man, who bears the divine image and receives divine grace, and who finds completion only in company with his brother.
We believe in Jesus, son of man and son of God; loyal Jew, brother of all, creator of a new race.
We believe in a future of justice for Jew and Greek, indigenous and immigrant Australian.
We believe in God, wise, loving and long-suffering; we believe that He is making all things new.

(PAUSE)

Leader: Lord, we believe;

People: Lord, we believe; help us in our unbelief.

INTERCESSION and PETITION

Leader: Through our prayers of intercession and petition let us share God's concern for His world.

1st Voice: God our Father, we remember before you the human race created by you with infinite variety of colour, background, culture and opportunity, those who are different and those who are like us. And we bring ourselves.
Our desire is that each may live to the highest degree of which he is capable, choosing his own destiny, free from unreasonable restrictions imposed by others.

2nd Voice: This requires education, vocational opportunity, political freedom — freedom to move into a situation where it is possible to attain these goals; a place to live, a vocation to follow.

People: May prejudice, patronage, discrimination be done away.

1st Voice: Freedom to marry the person of his choice and practise his own religion —

People: Help us, Lord, to accept each person, and to understand how we exaggerate the differences.

2nd Voice: Our desire is that all people should have a worthy social existence,

1st Voice: Having a representative voice in government,

2nd Voice: Making a meaningful contribution to society,

1st Voice: Free from the hurt of cruel jibes, or the stigma of inferiority.

People: God give us tolerance!

People: Lord, help us to listen, to communicate, to share, to give of ourselves, to value each person.

Lord, help us to see each person as one who bears the divine image, who is completed only along with his brother.

All: AMEN!

(During the singing of the next hymn, "Kumbayah", representatives of various groups will present their year's accumulation of "Least Coin Tokens").

HYMN —

Kumbayah, my Lord, Kumbayah,
Kumbayah, my Lord, Kumbayah,
Kumbayah, my Lord, Kumbayah,
O Lord, Kumbayah.

Someone's crying, Lord, Kumbayah,
Someone's crying, Lord, Kumbayah,
Someone's crying, Lord, Kumbayah,
O Lord, Kumbayah.

Someone's homeless, Lord Kumbayah,
Someone's homeless, Lord Kumbayah,
Someone's homeless, Lord Kumbayah,
O Lord, Kumbayah.

Someone's hungry, Lord, Kumbayah.
Someone's hungry, Lord, Kumbayah.
Someone's hungry, Lord, Kumbayah.
O Lord, Kumbayah.

Someone's loving, Lord, Kumbayah,
Someone's loving, Lord, Kumbayah,
Someone's loving, Lord, Kumbayah,
O Lord, Kumbayah.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION:

Leader: Eternal Father, grant that these "Least Coins" presented in token of our participation in the fellowship of prayer of Christian women around the world, shall be transformed to flow out again as love and blessing to others in need. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

BLESSING:

Leader: Go out into the world in peace.

People: Be brave; never pay back wrong for wrong;

Leader: Support the weak; give respect to everyone.

People: Be glad as you serve the Lord Jesus.

ALL: The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ,
And the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
Be with us all. Amen.

SUGGESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION — Likely topics and questions:

What can we do to improve race relations as citizens? as parents and teachers? as individuals? as Church members?

How many migrants are there in your community? European? non-European?

What is being done for them? Housing? Work? Socially? In the teaching of English?

How many overseas students are there in your community? How many live in homes? Hostels?

How many are linked with Churches? What is being done by local Councils?

How many aborigines are there in your community? How are they housed? What jobs have they?

Do the children attend the local school? Can they cope?

(For information, resource material and scriptural background —

Scripture: 1 Cor. 12:13; 15-21. Acts 10:28; 11:18. Rom. 3:3-28-30;
12:5. Rev. 7:9-10; 21:24-6.

Local Council of Churches: Library, Municipal Offices, School Masters).

This service was produced by the Commission of Race Relations of the Australian Council of Churches for the U.N. Year for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, 1971, and adapted by Mrs. F. R. Ashton for use of Australian Church Women for World Community Day, 1971.

The establishment of Australian Church Women was authorized by the Australian Council of Churches, to co-ordinate the work of women in the member churches throughout Australia. It operates through the State units and prepares two services annually, Fellowship Day (July), and World Community Day (October); it encourages support of the Women's World Day of Prayer, and promotes the Fellowship of the Least Coin. Through the Committee on Co-operation of Men and Women in Church, Family and Society, it is linked with the Department of this name in the World Council of Churches in Geneva.

Lois Bartram is an Australian Methodist nursing sister. She has just completed two years of service in Laos where she has been conducting clinics in refugee villages — and this in an area where she almost lost her life soon after her arrival when Pathet Lao forces raided the compound where she was living. Knowing the danger, she chose to return.



Her dedication is typical of the service being given by over 60 skilled Christians from nine Asian countries who work in the *Asian Christian Service* teams in Vietnam and Laos.

Asian Christian Service was set up in 1965 by the churches of 16 Asian countries to meet the needs arising from the Vietnam war. Doctors, nurses, social workers, teachers, youth workers, agriculturalists — all share their skills and faith.

Your offering at this World Community Day will help maintain and extend this ministry of compassion. This year, World Christian Action (formerly Inter-Church Aid) hopes to be able to give \$50,000 to

Asian Christian Service