



Australian Church

Women



FELLOWSHIP DAY

July, 1967



Theme:

Let The Church

Be The Church

In Daily Living

ORDER OF SERVICE
FELLOWSHIP DAY, 1967

LET THE CHURCH BE THE CHURCH.
IN DAILY LIVING

INTROIT:

Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise Him all creatures here below;
Praise Him above ye heavenly host,
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

LEADER: Be still and know that I am God:

SILENT MEDITATION

We turn our thoughts quietly O God away from self to Thee,
We adore Thee, We praise Thee
We thank Thee.

Go thou with us, O Lord, as we enter into Thy holy house; and go Thou with us,
as we return to take up the common duties of life.

In worship and in work alike let us know Thy presence near us; till work itself
be worship, and our every thought be to Thy praise; through Jesus Christ our
Saviour.

—Amen.

HYMN: Lobe den Herren 14/14/478. (No. 22 Presb.) (No. 64 Meth.)

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation;
O my soul, praise Him, for He is thy health and salvation;
All ye who hear,
Now to His temple draw near,
Joining in glad adoration.

Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth,
Shieldeth thee gently from harm, or when fainting sustaineth;
Hast thou not seen
How thy heart's wishes have been
Granted in what He ordaineth?

Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper they work and defend thee;
Surely His goodness and mercy shall daily attend thee;
Ponder anew
What the Almighty can do,
If with His love He befriend thee.

Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore Him!
All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before Him!
Let the Amen
Sound from His people again:
Gladly for aye we adore Him.

READING: Psalm 96 v. 1-13.

BEING THE CHURCH AT WORSHIP

"For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I, in the midst of them." (Matt. 19 v. 20).

This is the Church at worship. Together its worshippers praise God, for His goodness, acknowledge Him as Father, Saviour and Lord, and remember Christ in the sacraments. We receive strength to face all that life offers, and learn of God's way and will for each of us, as members of His church. As we give ourselves in worship, so will we receive blessing and strength sufficient to our need.

"Give unto the Lord, O ye mighty, give unto the Lord glory and strength.

Give unto the Lord the glory due unto his name; worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.

The Lord will give strength unto his people; the Lord will bless his people with peace."

(Psalm 29 v. 1. 2. 11).

PRAYER:

O God, you are the Lord of all good life; help us to be faithful in everything which you have given us to do.

Help us to be conscientious and honest in our work, that nothing we do may be less than our best.

Help us to be diligent and careful in our study, that we may be able to understand, to remember and to use that which we read and discover.

Help us to be regular in the reading of your word.

Help us to be faithful in our attendance at church, that we may find joy in worshipping and in talking with others who are trying to follow Jesus.

Help us never to forget each day to pray, that we may begin, continue and end each day in thinking of you.

So help us to make of life what you meant it to be.

PRAYER IN UNISON:

Speak to us

The word of encouragement when we are discouraged and depressed;

The word of warning when we are likely to go astray;

The word of comfort when life has hurt us;

The word of guidance when we do not know what to do and where to go;

The word of strength to enable us to resist our temptations;

The word of power to make us able to work and ready for any burden.

Whatever word we need, speak it to us now.

READING: Matthew Chap. 5 v. 38-48 (New English Bible).

BEING THE CHURCH IN THE COMMUNITY

"With unflagging energy, in ardour of spirit, serve the Lord."

(Romans 12 v. 11, N.E.B.).

This is the Church in the world. The Church lives in the community, in all situations where we come into contact with others; in home, in industry, in commerce, in shops, in factories, in schools, in clubs, in cultural centres. At all times, let us show in our attitudes to others Christ's love and His way of life. Co-operation should be the keynote for employers and employees. On one hand, understanding and fair treatment, and on the other hand good workmanship and conscientious labour.

"Thou shalt love the Lord Thy God with all thy heart, with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind." (Luke 11, v. 27).

PRAYER: This to be selected by each group — impromptu by leader.

Lord's Prayer in unison.

HYMN:

Fill Thou my life, O Lord my God
In every part with praise,
That my whole being may proclaim
Thy being and Thy ways.

Fill every part of me with praise;
Let all my being speak
Of Thee and of Thy love, O Lord,
Poor though I be and weak.

So shalt Thou, Lord, from me, e'en me,
Receive the glory due;
And so shall I begin on earth
The song for ever new.

So shall no part of day or night
From sacredness be free;
But all my life, in every step,
Be fellowship with Thee.

OFFERING AND DEDICATION:

READING: Matthew: 25 v. 35-40.

BEING THE CHURCH IN HUMAN RELATIONSHIPS

"A new commandment I give unto you, that ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another." (John 13, v. 34).

The Church if in the neighbourhood, is the Church, that is you and I, available to all people, at all times, at any cost? There are sad, sick, lonely people, and those facing difficult situations in our neighbourhood, who need our love and understanding. In humility and self-forgetfulness, depending on Christ's strength, and the power of the Holy Spirit we must serve our fellow men and women with love.

"The Church should accept the person and the problem without passing judgement (at the same time without condoning behaviour) and should take prime responsibility for helping those who have been rejected by the community, e.g. the alcoholic, delinquent, problem families." (David Scott—"The Challenge").

"If I then your Lord and Master, have washed your feet, ye also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you." (John 13 v. 14-15).

SOLO OR ANTHEM (Optional).

ADDRESS (Optional).

HYMN: Intercessor 11, 10, 11, 10. No. 485 Presb. No. 911 Meth.

O Brother man fold to thy heart thy brother!
Where pity dwells, the peace of God is there;
To worship rightly is to love each other,
Each smile a hymn, each kindly deed a prayer.
For he whom Jesus loved hath truly spoken;
The holier worship which He deigns to bless
Restores the lost, and binds the spirit broken,
And feeds the widow and the fatherless.
Follow with reverent steps the great example
Of Him whose holy work was doing good;
So shall the wide earth seem our Father's temple,
Each loving life a psalm of gratitude.
Then shall all shackles fall; the stormy clangour
Of wild war-music o'er the earth shall cease;
Love shall tread out the baleful fire of anger,
And in its ashes plant the tree of peace.

PRAYER AND BENEDICTION:

Lord, make us instruments of Thy peace.
Where there is hatred, let us sow love;
Where there is injury, pardon;
Where there is discord, union;
Where there is doubt, faith;
Where there is despair, hope;
Where there is darkness, light;
Where there is sadness, joy;

For Thy mercy and for Thy truth's sake. Amen.

Now unto Him that is able to keep us from falling, and to present us faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy, to the only wise God, our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen.

SUGGESTED QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION GROUPS:

1. Is it necessary for people to worship together in Church? If so, why?
2. So many people have the fixed idea that the Church is a separate "Holier than thou" Community. How can we hope to change this?
3. (a) Where is our neighbourhood?
(b) How can we show real neighbourliness?
(c) To what extent should we go in being neighbourly at our own inconvenience and expense?
4. (a) Many people find dishonesty pays.
Why should we hold to Christian standards?
(b) How should the Christian (Church member) act in business, group meetings, etc.? Give actual ways. (Background reading — Romans 12).

The service has been prepared by the Canberra Church Women, and produced by Australian Church Women, C/- Victorian Council of Churches, 37 Swanston Street, Melbourne.

The Australian Church Women was established 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 on the fourth Wednesday of July, and World Community Day on the fourth Friday of October. The Australian Church Women 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.

The offering taken at this Service will be used for the work of the Australian Church Women, and in particular the Winifred Kiek Scholarship. Money collected should be sent to the treasurer of the State Unit in your own State.