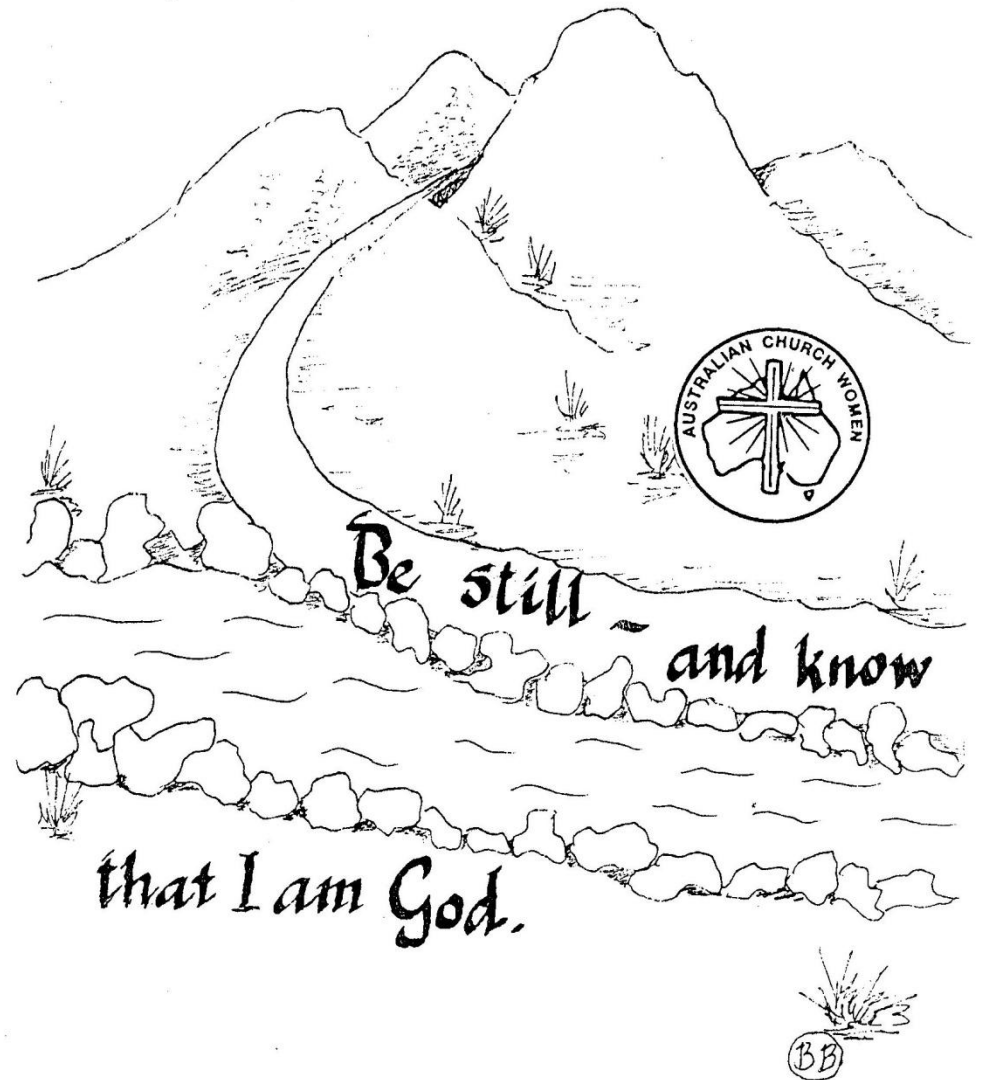


WORLD COMMUNITY DAY
2002



AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN

Australian Church Women came into being in 1965 when women's Inter-Church Councils from all States and Territories came together to form Australian Church Women, fostering ecumenism and undertaking action on behalf of Church women. Australian Church Women forms a network of committed Christian women, dedicated to encourage fellowship and service across denominational, national and international boundaries.

Fellowship of the Least Coin – Monies which have been collected with prayers for peace, justice and reconciliation during the past year are brought to World Community Day services by groups and individuals and are dedicated.

The General Offering from this service is to be divided between **Asian Church Women's Conference**, with which Australian Church Women is affiliated and which it supports annually, and the 2002 Special Community Day Project.

This year we had two applications for support so it was decided to support both projects.

Nungalinya College is a partnership of the Anglican, Catholic and Uniting Churches. Working together, they provide training for Indigenous ministers and leaders throughout Australia. The College plays a significant national role in the education of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. The Family and Community school (FACS) work on campus with adult indigenous women, teaching daily living skills such as gaining confidence, understanding schooling, health, management skills for the family and community.

The Little Kings' Movement for the Handicapped has been in existence for more than 30 years. The Movement is composed entirely of unpaid volunteers. A group of some 90 people with disabilities (many in wheelchairs) attends on a regular basis. No fees are charged for any services.

Today's Order of Service was prepared by the Western Australian Unit of Australian Church Women. Design of cover by Barbara Bourhill.

Please Note: This Order of Service is copyright and may not be rewritten or otherwise altered, except for the substitution of hymns which are considered to be more suitable or available in the local situation.

WORLD COMMUNITY DAY 2002

LEADER: Greetings and Welcome

On this world Community Day we come to stand aside for a while from the tensions and concerns of our restless and crowded lives, to worship and praise God, and to be conscious of His Presence.

God speaks to us in silent spaces, quiet moments gently taken. Soft words and feelings, pictures, music, His true voice. God, we know you have all the time in the world but we your created ones, do not. When we pray to you let us remember we need to make time for the silent places for your "still small voice" to be heard. Amen.

PRAYER:

In praise of beauty in creation, O God we thank you –
for Barrier Reef with rainbow colours;
for sandy white beaches with azure edges;
for craggy cliffs and crashing waves.

In praise of majesty, O God we thank you –
for Cradle Mountain and Kings' Canyon;
for Flinders Ranges and Kosciusko;
and for bee-hive Bungle Bungles.

In praise of wide horizons, O God we thank you –
for endless Nullabor Plain and Wimmera's grasslands;
for Sturts' Stony Desert and Coorong's flooded flats;
and for rolling Darling Downs.

In praise of red-brown Uluru, O God we thank you –
 for a simple strong Rock in a spinifex plain,
 for a sacred place calling our innermost search;
 for a powerful silence beyond the busy and noisy edges of
 life.

Leader: In this busy world we are often pressured to believe that great things are only accomplished by doing, by ceaseless activity. However, some of the most significant happenings have been inspired by being still and listening, observation and reflection..

Pause.....

In seeking peace for his troubled soul, Galileo sat quietly all those centuries ago, and the gentle rhythmic movement of a swinging lamp nearby gave him the idea of a pendulum swinging to and fro as a means of measuring the passage of time.

Isaac Newton was quietly resting when he saw an apple fall and thus he began to grasp the idea behind the law of gravity. James Watt was relaxing in his kitchen when he saw steam lifting the lid of a kettle, and thus the power to drive a steam engine was born.

Mary MacKillop prayed and trusted in the Lord when life was made most difficult for her to carry out her vocation as co-foundress of the Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart in Australia.

READING: Psalm 46, Verses 1 - 11.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Loving Lord, how often we race through life, full of our own plans and anxieties, telling you things, but not waiting to hear what you have to say to us. Forgive us for not listening to your still small voice. Thank you for your compassion, your forgiveness and your acceptance of us. Thank you for your steadfast love and the assurance and for always being present with us.

All: *Have mercy and forgive us Lord, in Jesus name.
 Amen.*

Leader: In both the Old and New Testaments we have examples of how God speaks to us in our quiet times. In Kings 19 verses 11-14 we read of Elijah searching for God on Mount Horeb, but God wasn't in the strong heavy wind; He wasn't in the earthquake which followed; neither was He in the resulting fire. After the fire came a "tiny, whispering sound" and God spoke to Elijah in this stillness. In the New Testament reading from Luke we have another example of the need for quiet reflection in the account of Mary and Martha with Jesus.

READING: Luke 10 verses 38-42.....
 This is the Word of the Lord.

All: *Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.*

INTERCESSIONS:

Leader: Let us pray for those in the world who need our help through our prayers. Heavenly Father, we pray for those in countries threatened or torn apart by war and

violence: For people in the Middle-East, India, Pakistan and Afghanistan we ask that peace be restored to their lands, so that families can return to their homes and resume lives without any more disruption. Lord, hear us.

All: *Lord, hear our prayer.*

We pray that refugees and asylum seekers be treated with respect and consideration in the countries where they seek refuge. Lord, hear us.

All: *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Gracious Lord, we ask that all Australians be reconciled to sharing our country and to working side by side for the good of all. Lord, hear us.

All: *Lord, hear our prayer.*

In this Year of the Outback, we pray for all those who live in rural and remote areas of Australia; those who work on the land, often getting very little reward for their labours, sometimes in very difficult conditions; those doctors and nurses who spend their lives caring for their patients in far flung places without modern amenities; for mothers who have to 'home-teach' their children, help their husbands as well as running the home. Lord, hear us.

All: *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Touch our hearts O God and lead us to give generously to all who do not have the basic necessities of life – food, shelter and clothing. Help us to see You in the faces of the poor and the disadvantaged. Lord, here us.

All: *Lord, hear our prayer.*

FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN PRAYER

All: O loving Creator we present ourselves in your Divine Presence to thank you for all the bountiful gifts of life. We are especially grateful for the Fellowship of the Least Coin which binds us together in love and forgiveness around the globe. Free us from all doubts and prejudices, we pray. Inspire us to live in solidarity with human-kind that we may know the joy of giving and receiving. Dear God, accept this least coin "Token of Love". Make us mindful of the miracle of these coins. Let us honour your creation with love, as shown through the life and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ.

We pray that you bless the projects for this year which are the Nungalinga Aboriginal College in Darwin, Northern Territory, and the Little King's Movement for the Handicapped in Brisbane, Queensland.

May our funding and prayers give them encouragement to continue their wonderful work.

We ask this in God's name.

Amen.

BLESSING

Leader: May the gift of stillness stay with you,
the gift of calm surround you,
and God walk with you in wisdom and grace.

BENEDICTION

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.