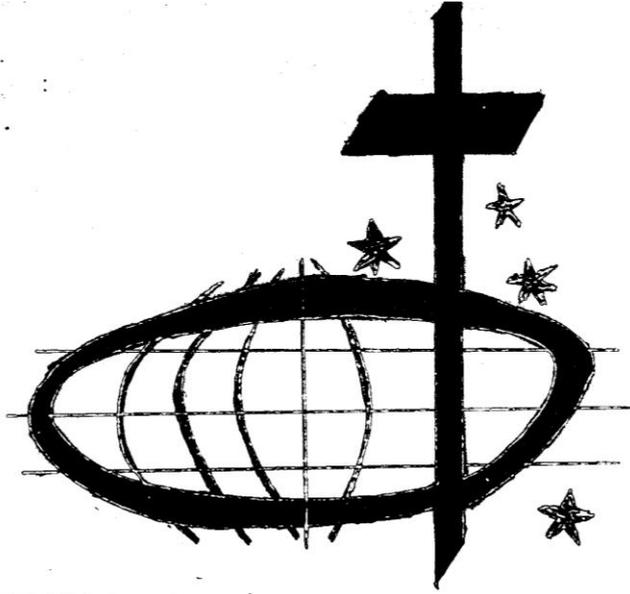


WORLD
COMMUNITY
DAY

1964



CHRISTIANS AND WORLD PEACE

WORSHIP SERVICE:

Call to Worship: Be still and know that I am God.

I will be exalted in the earth and I will be exalted among the nations.

Let us come before God to pray for peace among the whole family of nations remembering that He is the Father of all men,

That He has sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to teach us how we may glorify Him and live in goodwill towards one another, and,

that He seeks continually to inspire all who will receive His Spirit of Truth and Love.

Prayer of Adoration:

Eternal God, our loving Heavenly Father, who made the world and all things in it, and art Lord of Heaven and Earth, we worship Thee. In Thee we live and move and have our being, and our hearts are restless until they find their rest in Thee.

We ask that Thy Holy Spirit of power may come into our lives today and that our hearts may burn with love for Christ and all men so that there may be peace in the world and Thy Kingdom come on earth, through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.

PRAISE: Psalm 100 tune "Old 100th".

All people that on earth do dwell,
Sing to the Lord with cheerful voice.
Him serve with mirth, His praise forthtell,
Come ye before Him and rejoice.

Know that the Lord is God indeed!
Without our aid He did us make:
We are His flock, He doth us feed,
And for His sheep He doth us take.

O enter then His gates with praise,
Approach with joy His courts unto:
Praise, laud and bless His name always,
For it is seemly so to do.

For Why? The Lord our God is good,
His mercy is for ever sure;
His truth at all times firmly stood,
And shall from age to age endure.

SCRIPTURE: Micah 4: 1 - 5

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND SUPPLICATION.

Almighty and merciful God who dost grant forgiveness
through the death of our Lord Jesus Christ, we confess
our shortcomings and our sins.

Forgive us if we this day have done anything to
increase the pain of the world.

Pardon the unkind word, the impatient gesture, the
selfish deed, the failure to show sympathy and kindly
help.

Our Father, who hast given us all things that pertain
to life, in Thy Son, grant us, we beseech Thee, in all
our occupations the aid of Thy strength, and Thy blessed
forgiveness of all our sin, for the sake of Jesus Christ.
O God Who art the central Peace of all creation, help us
to inward serenity.

Grant us the peace of adequate resources that come from
Thy Holy Spirit.

Grant us the peace of a disciplined life that obey Thy
will.

Grant us the peace of a clean heart and a conscience
undefiled.

Grant us the peace of fellowship with Thee,
through Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour. AMEN.

The Lord's Prayer.

PRAISE: "Almighty Father". Tune: Holly.

Almighty Father, who dost give
The gift of life to all who live,
Look down on all earth's sin and strife,
And lift us to a nobler life.

Lift up our hearts, O King of Kings,
To brighter hopes and kindlier things,
To visions of a nobler good,
And holier dreams of brotherhood.

Hear Thou the prayer Thy servants pray,
Uprising from all lands today,
And o'er the vanquished powers of sin
O bring Thy great salvation in.

MEDITATION:

Let us remember;

- . "The whole world's in His hand".
- . God is the Father of all mankind.
- . There are some who do not confess Christ, but still seek and work for peace: The Dalai Lama of Tibet has said -
' You cannot force men of ill-will into peace. You must win them. '
- . In the bedroom of Mahatma Ghandi, there was only one picture on the wall, that of Jesus Christ on the Cross, and underneath the words, 'He is our Peace'.
- . As Christians, we must help to preserve and promote those things which belong to God's peace;
- . To overcome hatred,
- . To establish friendly relations,
- . To secure for all people freedom from hunger and disease,
- . To provide for all people education to develop resources, their minds and creative arts,
- . To give an opportunity for all men to follow Jesus Christ,

Who said:

"I am the Way, the Truth and the Life."

SCRIPTURE: Ephesians 2: 11 - 18

RESPONSIVE PRAYER:

Leader: Almighty and everlasting God, for all the enriching things of life and for the beauty of the world

Response: We praise Thee, O God, and bless Thy Name.

Leader: For all who have spoken for Thee, prophets, apostles, teachers and the wise of every land and age,

Response: We praise Thy Name. O God.

Leader: For all who have laboured and suffered for freedom, justice and the welfare of mankind,

Response: We praise Thee, O God and bless Thy Name.

Leader: For all who spend their lives in service to their fellowmen in dark places of the earth

Response: We praise Thy Name, O God.

Leader: For personal greeds and inconsiderate assertions creating a spirit of ill-will

Response: Lord have mercy upon us.

Leader: For ignorance, intolerance, thoughtlessness and lack of sympathy.

Response: Lord have mercy upon us.

Leader: For our trust in force, boastfulness, pride and the spirit of revenge,

Response: Lord have mercy upon us.

Leader: Cleanse and transform our wills, O God, that we may not sow seeds of salamity, and enlarge our trust in the things that make for peace, that we may help to establish Thy Kingdom and be numbered among the peace-makers, who are called the children of God,

through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour,

AMEN.

PRAISE: "O Lord our God, Arise" Tune: Doncaster.

O Lord our God, arise!
The cause of truth maintain,
And wide o'er all the peopled world
Extend her blessed reign.

Thou Prince of Life, arise!
Nor let Thy glory cease:
Far spread the conquests of Thy Grace,
And bless the earth with Peace.

Thou Holy Ghost, arise!
Expand Thy quickening wing,
And o'er a dark and ruined world
Let light and order spring.

All on the earth, arise!
To God the Saviour sing;
From shore to shore, from earth to heaven,
Let echoing anthems ring.

ADDRESS: "Christians and World Peace"

OFFERING: For Freedom From Hunger.

DEDICATION OF OFFERING:

O Lord, of Thy Hands have we received these gifts, which we now bring to Thee for blessing.

Look graciously upon our work for Thee, help the needy, the hungry and all who are being drawn to Thee through our efforts.

Give peace, O Lord, in their hearts, and this we ask in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

AMEN.

PRAISE:

Turn back, O men, forswear thy foolish ways:
Old now is earth and none may count her days,
Yet thou, her child, whose head is crowned with flame,
Still wilt not hear thine inner God proclaim -
"Turn back, O man, forswear thy foolish ways".

Earth might be fair and all men glad and wise;
Age after age their tragic empires rise,
Built while they dream and in that dreaming weep;
Would man but wake from out his haunted sleep,
Earth might be fair and all men glad and wise.

Earth shall be fair, and all her people one;
Nor till that hour shall God's whole will be done,
Now, even now, once more from earth and sky,
Peals forth in joy man's old undaunted cry -
"Earth shall be fair, and all her folk be one".

BENEDICTION:

Be perfect, be of good courage, be of one mind, live in peace;
And the God of love and peace shall be with you,
The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and
the communion of the Holy Ghost be with you all,

AMEN.

<p>It is suggested that the offering be sent to Women's Inter-Church Council in your State for the Freedom from Hunger Projects.</p>
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STUDY MATERIAL:

CHRISTIANS AND WORLD PEACE

This study should be used in groups of 10 - 12, with a leader who has had the opportunity to prepare for the discussion.

Readings: 1) Micah 4: 1 - 5
2) Ephesians 2: 11 - 18

- (A) 1. Micah expresses an age old aspiration of man.
Can you think of other leaders through the ages who have made a plea for peace?
What have been the significant peace movements in the 20th century.
2. Plowshares and pruninghooks are both agricultural instruments. What is the significance of this in relation to hunger today?
3. "They shall sit every man under his vine and under his fig tree and none shall make them afraid."
What does this mean for us as citizens? Does it go far enough? Is peace merely the absence of conflict?
- (B) 1. In Ephesians, Paul speaks of the relationship between Jews and Gentiles. How can we apply his words to inter-racial problems?
2. Is there any connection between peace in the soul or serenity of spirit and peace between nations?
3. What can we do as individuals or church groups to promote peace?

Produced by Australian Church Women from a Service arranged by the Women's Inter-Church Council of Victoria for use on World Community Day, 1964. (C/o 3rd Floor, 511 Kent Street, Sydney. N.S.W.)