

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION (Optional)

- How can I help to create peace in my neighbourhood or community?
- If people in my church fellowship are at loggerheads, how can I help to bring harmony?
- When a family disintegrates, can peace be preserved? How?
- Serenity and peace are achieved when barrier are broken down; do you see such barriers as a health hazard? Discuss.

STATE UNIT NEWS



**AUSTRALIAN
CHURCH WOMEN**

*"We are called to
Peace....."*



**WORLD COMMUNITY
DAY**

OCTOBER 1994

INFORMATION

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN came into being in 1965 when existing Women's State Inter-Church Councils came together, prepared to share common tasks and to undertake united action. AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN is a network of committed Christian women, dedicated to encouraging fellowship and service across denominational, national and international boundaries.

FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN offerings are brought to World Community Day Services in October, by groups or individuals, to be dedicated; these are then sent to State Treasurers, who forward them to the National Treasurer.

THE GENERAL OFFERTORY from this year's Services is to be divided between Asian Church Women's Conference with which Australian Church Women is affiliated, and Shalom College, in Townsville. Shalom is a Christian community and college, hopefully to be a pilot project for all over Australia, for aboriginal people but not only for them...the concept is for a multi-cultural community, where students and people of any race may learn together - from Pre-School to Retirement Village as well as infants, primary and secondary schools and involvement by parents and grandparents as well as by teachers. This is truly a most suitable project for this, the International Year Of The Family.

This 1994 SERVICE was written by a committee of the NSW Unit comprised of representatives from each affiliated denomination. The FLC Prayer on page 3 was written by Shirley Wells, State FLC Convenor; Cover design by Lucelle King, State President.

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* WE ARE CALLED TO PEACE *

PREPARATION: Psalm 85: 8-13 (NIV)

"I will listen to what God the Lord will say; he promises peace to his people, his saints-but let them not return to folly. Surely his salvation is near those who fear him, that his glory may dwell in our land. Love and faithfulness meet together, righteousness and peace kiss each other. Faithfulness springs forth from the earth and righteousness looks down from heaven. The Lord will indeed give what is good and our land shall yield its harvest. Righteousness goes before him and prepares the way for his steps."

HYMN: "Let Us With A Gladsome Mind" AHB 11(2nd Tune). Tune "Monkland" 77.77

* THE OFFER OF PEACE *

READER 1: The Peace Of God Philippians 4: 4-9

READER 2: The night before Jesus died he bestowed a farewell gift on his disciples, the gift of peace, the kind of peace which can come from him alone. In Philippians Paul reminds us that it is as we enjoy communion with God in prayer that this wonderful peace becomes a reality. May we all respond to his invitation and enjoy his peace in our minds and in our lives.

READER 1: Peace With God. Isaiah 53: 3-6; Romans 5: 1-12

READER 2: The greatest need of our souls is to know peace with God, to know his forgiveness, his acceptance, his restoration. Jesus has done what was necessary to make this possible. He calls us to come in repentance and faith, that by his death on the cross we may know the fullness of salvation, which leads into peace with God.

ALL: A Prayer of Thanksgiving:

We thank you, Lord, for life; not just this earthly life, but for the promise of life everlasting, of the paradise to come. We thank you for all we have experienced, the pains as well as the joys. Through the pain we have come to know the strength - your strength - on which to draw, and the joys we know we can share with you because they are your gift to us. We thank you for loved ones, close or far away; for shelter and food; for

people and things we enjoy every day, and simply take for granted, but which we would miss if they were taken away. We thank you for times of busyness and bustle, and for times of peace and quiet. We thank you for the gift of your son, our Saviour Jesus, for his life and example of devotion and dedication, as we pray together the prayer that he taught us.

The Lord's Prayer.

*** THE RELATIONSHIP OF PEACE ***

READER 3: Peace with Myself. Mark 4: 35-41.

READER 4: Just as Jesus Christ calmed the troubled waters, so he offers to bring peace into our lives. But often we fail to receive this gift, because we are weighed down by our cares and anxieties. We cannot accept ourselves, we have not learned to be content with what we have. Dr. Billy Graham testifies that he is learning, day by day, to keep his mind focused on Christ; then the concerns, worries and anxieties of the world pass away, and perfect peace is left in his heart. This is a lesson each of us needs to learn.

READER 3: Colossians 3: 12-15

READER 4: Christians are all one in Christ and if we live in obedience to his teaching we should be able to be at peace with one another. This will mean that there can be no facades - our lives must be motivated by love, then we will live in harmony.

(OPTIONAL) Time for testimony on experience of personal peace.

ALL: A Prayer of Confession:

O Lord God of peace, we ask your forgiveness for our self-centred attitudes; we have allowed ourselves to be governed by fear and by self-protection instead of truth and faith in the peace-giver. We have been quick to judge and to take offence, to say things we later regret, making turmoil and unrest. Forgive us, Father, and fill us with your peace, the peace that passes all understanding, in Jesus name, Amen.

SOLO: (Suggested) "Master The Tempest Is Raging" or "Let There Be Peace On Earth and Let It Begin With Me"

PRESENTATION AND DEDICATION OF FLC OFFERINGS

(Coins collected with prayer for peace and reconciliation during the past year are brought forward and received).

PRAYER FOR FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN

(All together)

Dear Father of all, we come before you with gratitude for bringing us together in the Fellowship of the Least Coin. We thank you that even by this act of giving, when it is accompanied by prayer, great things can be accomplished. We ask you to help us to become instruments of peace, wherever we are. Accept these gifts we pray. Amen.

HYMN: "Dear Lord and Father Of Mankind: AHB 519 (2nd Tune)
Tune "Repton" 86.886

ADDRESS: "We Are Called To Peace"

GENERAL OFFERTORY: (Details on Page 1) (Devotional Music)

OFFERTORY PRAYER FOR A.C.W.C. AND SHALOM

(All together)

Our Father, we ask you to bless the work of Asian Church Women's Conference, as it brings together women of many nations and cultures, to encourage one another and to be your witnesses as they serve people in their communities. We ask your blessing also on Shalom in Townsville, that its vision may be realised of a multi-cultural community, which may be a light-house, a pattern for other communities to follow, as we seek reconciliation and justice for all Australians. We ask these things in Jesus' name. Amen.

*** THE SERVICE OF PEACE ***

READER 5: Peace With The Community. Romans 12: 14-18

READER 6: It is so very easy to be side-tracked from main issues. A busy background on stage may distract attention from an actor's words, or too much detail or ritual may make one forget the purpose of the performance. To get priorities right is the essence, in life and in Christian worship. Think rightly, speak rightly, live rightly, to be at peace with one's self, and with God. If this is multiplied, it can only build up his church within the life of the community.

READER 5: Peace With The World. Romans 14: 17-19

READER 6: In Romans 14, we are given a clear message - the privileges and responsibilities of being a Christian and being seen to be a Christian. Sometimes the goods inside a package are not up to the standard promised; truth in advertising is not always followed - evidence of this is all around us. The Christian may not hide behind such a facade. The promise of false peace is a false promise - supplying true and lasting peace is like striving to produce a quality product. Striving for, and pursuing peace is a must for every Christian and just as packaging should truthfully describe the contents, so it should be with us, in order to have peace on earth.

ALL: A Prayer For World Peace.

Our Father, the God of Peace, we bring before you our broken and divided world. We confess our own part in creating disharmony and division, and we ask your forgiveness. We pray that you will arouse the desire for peace in the hearts of the people of all nations, and remove from them the dissatisfaction and anger that lead to conflict and war. Give wisdom to leaders and governments in all parts of the world, and teach them to follow the path of understanding and reconciliation. We ask this in the name of the Prince of Peace, Our Lord Jesus Christ, Amen.

*** COMMITMENT TO PEACE ***

READER 7: 1 Peter 3: 10-11; James 3: 17-18

READER 8: Peter reminds us that we have been called to inherit a blessing. As peace-makers, we will sow the seeds for a harvest of peace. James assures us that as we commit ourselves to peace and pursue it, our lives will be good and righteous. Peter and James continue the promise of Jesus himself, that the peacemakers will be blessed and shall be known as "the children of God."

ALL: A Prayer of Commitment:
(Optional - few moments for silent commitment)

O Lord, help us to be aware that you need peacemakers in every aspect of life today. May we be ready to show compassion, to be prepared to be misunderstood for Christ's sake. We pray that we will make every effort to walk worthy of the life to which you have called us. Take us each one, as we now give ourselves afresh to you; Let your peace control us, both in our personal lives and among those with whom we mix day by day. We give ourselves to you as peacemakers in our tormented and troubled world and may all the glory be yours. IN the name of Christ we pray. Amen.

LEADER: (Optional) Closing Prayer of Commitment.

HYMN: "May The Mind of Christ My Saviour" AHB 537
Tune "St. Leonards" 87.85 - or -
"O Brother Man" AHB 503 Tune AHB 526.

BENEDICTION 2 Thessalonians 3:16 (NIV) (All together)

"Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times and in every way. The Lord be with you all." Amen.

ALTERNATE HYMNS

"Like A River Glorious" Redemption 418; Alexander's 67; Sankey 652; Hymns For Today's Church 463; Golden Bells 274; The Hymnal (Crowhurst) 474; Old Methodist 1008.

"Peace, Perfect Peace" Redemption 437; Alexander's 284; Sankey 726; Hymns For Today's Church 467; Golden Bells 338; The Hymnal (Crowhurst) 476; Old Methodist 404; Baptist 584.

"Oh The Peace My Saviour Gives" Redemption 412, Golden Bells 273.

"It Is Well With My Soul" Redemption 413, Alexander's 150; Sankey 901; The Hymnal (Crowhurst) 707; Golden Bells 274.