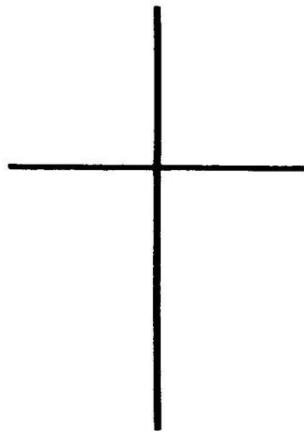


AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN



'BUILDING BRIDGES'

COMMUNITY DAY SERVICE
OCTOBER 1977

While the congregation gathers and prepare themselves for worship, it is suggested that the music of "Bridge Over Troubled Waters" may be played.

LEADER: Let us declare in whose name we meet.

ALL: In the name of the Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit. AMEN

HYMN: Christ is our Corner Stone
(Ancient & Modern Revised No. 243, Meth. 702)
OR Living Lord
(100 Hymns for Today)

LEADER: "GOD WAS IN CHRIST, RECONCILING THE WORLD
TO HIMSELF" (2 Cor.5:19)
THE WORLD OF GOD AND THE WORLD OF MANKIND
MEET IN JESUS - HE IS THE BRIDGE BETWEEN GOD
AND MANKIND, BETWEEN ONE PEOPLE AND ANOTHER. ()
THE UPRIGHT OF THE CROSS SHOWS US THAT BRIDGE
BETWEEN GOD AND OURSELVES.
THE OUTSTRETCHED ARMS OF THE CROSS SHOW US
THAT BRIDGE WHEREBY WE MAY LINK ONE PERSON
TO ANOTHER.

(It is suggested that a cross be held up and the upright and cross pieces be pointed to as the Leader speaks.)

OR

Creative Movement dancers could express this in movement.

READER: AS WE LOOK TO THE BRIDGES WHICH CHRIST GAVE US
BY HIS DYING: LET US LOOK FORWARD TO SOME OF
THE BRIDGES WHICH WE CAN BUILD BY LIVING IN
HIM.

THE BRIDGE OF FAITH

LESSON: Hebrews 11:1-3

PRAYER: Lord, increase our faith that feeling towards
(All) you as children, we may trust where we ()
cannot see, and hope where all seems doubtful,
ever looking to you as our Father, who orders
all things well. May we joyfully do the work
you have given us, according to the word of
your Son, Jesus Christ. AMEN

SOLO: (Following may be sung or read)
Oh Holy Jesus, most merciful Redeemer,
Friend and Brother,
May we know you more clearly, love you more
dearly and follow you more nearly
Day by Day.

A period of silence to reflect upon the Bridge of Faith

THE BRIDGE OF RECONCILIATION

HYMN: When I needed a Neighbor
(Celebration Hymn Book No. 61)
OR When I survey the Wondrous Cross
(Ancient Modern and Revised No. 186, Meth. 182)

LESSON: 2 Corinthians 5:18-21

PRAYER: O Lord, make us instruments of your peace,
(All) Where there is hatred may we bring love;
Where there is injury, forgiveness;
Where there is discord, harmony;
Where there is despair, hope;
Where there is sadness, joy.
May we ourselves seek to understand
Rather than be understood.
To console rather than be consoled,
To love rather than be loved.
For it is in giving that we receive,
It is in forgiving that we are forgiven,
It is through dying that we are born
To eternal life in Jesus Christ, our Lord. AMEN

A short period of silence to reflect upon the
Bridge of Reconciliation

THE BRIDGE OF UNITY

LESSON: Ephesians 4:1-7

PRAYER: LEADER
O God, the Father of everybody: You ask all
of us to bring love where poor are humiliated,
joy where the Church is downcast and unity
where people are divided -
the father with his son, the mother with her
daughter, the husband with his wife,
the believer with whoever cannot believe,
the Christian with his unwanted fellow Christian,
You open this way for us, so that the wounded
body of Jesus, your Church, may be the leaven
of communion for the people of the earth and
in the whole human family. AMEN

LEADER: Let us pray as the whole Christian family has
been taught by our Lord,

ALL: The Lord's Prayer

READER: We are one in faith, by Reconciliation in
Unity, by the bridges we have built through
life in our Lord.
Let us therefore greet one another in gladness
and peace.

THE GREETING: All stand to greet those near them.

THE PEACE OF THE LORD BE ALWAYS WITH YOU

Response: AND ALSO WITH YOU.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (standing)

We believe in God, the Eternal Spirit,
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ and our Father,
and to His deeds we testify:

He calls the world into being, creates man in
His own image, and sets before him the ways of
life and death.

He seeks in holy love to save all people
from aimlessness and sin,

He judges men and nations by His righteous
will declared through prophets and apostles.

In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our
crucified and risen Lord,

He has come to us, and shared our common lot,
conquering sin and death, and reconciling the
world to Himself, He bestows upon us His Holy
Spirit, creating and renewing the Church of
Jesus Christ, binding in covenant faithful
people of all ages, tongues and races.

He calls us into His Church
to accept the cost and joy of discipleship,
to be His servants in the service of men
to proclaim the Gospel to all the world
and resist the powers of evil,
to share in Christ's baptism and eat at His
table,
to join Him in His passion and victory.

He promises to all who trust Him
forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace,
courage in the struggle for justice and peace,
His presence in trial and rejoicing,
and eternal life in His Kingdom which has no
end.

Blessing and honour, glory and power be unto
Him. AMEN.

All now sit.

Symbolic of this Faith in Action, those who have
offerings from the Fellowship of the Least Coin
come forward. In offering their gifts they say:

'ACCEPT, LORD, THESE GIFTS FOR YOUR WORK:
AMONG WOMEN IN THE WORLD.'

ADDRESS: Theme: BUILDING BRIDGES -
between God and ourselves, and
ourselves and others

INTERCESSION PRAYERS

LEADER: Lord of earth we praise you for the Good News
of Jesus in our world.

ALL: GLORY TO GOD.

LEADER: Lord of suffering, we praise you for the power
of the Cross, drawing all peoples to know the
way, the truth and the life.

ALL: GLORY TO CHRIST.

LEADER: Lord of wisdom, we praise you for the Church
in the power of the resurrection.

ALL: GLORY TO THE SPIRIT.

LEADER: Lord Jesus, who by your earthly life gave us
a perfect example.

ALL: Help us to love and follow you.

LEADER: Lord Jesus, who by your earthly ministry, life
and teaching, revealed to us the Father.

ALL: Fill us with your Spirit.

LEADER: Lord Jesus, who by your Cross showed us the
Bridge between ourselves and others.

ALL: Help us to build the Bridges of
Reconciliation and Unity.

LEADER: Lord Jesus, in calling us to deny ourselves
and take up our Cross and follow You.

ALL: Help us to dedicate ourselves to this task.
Father we offer ourselves to You
In Jesus Christ our Lord.

Send us out in the power of your Spirit
To live and work to your praise and glory.

AMEN.

OFFERING HYMN: (Offerings to C.A.S.A. - see back page)

Take My Life and Let It Be.

(Ancient and Modern No. 361, Meth. No. 400)

Lord of all Power I give you my will.

(100 Hymns For Today. No. 62)

LEADER: LET US OFFER THESE GIFTS TOGETHER.

ALL: ACCEPT LORD GOD, OUR GIFTS FOR THE WORK AMONG
THE FAMILIES OF LEPROSY PATIENTS AT LUCKNOW,
INDIA. STRENGTHEN THEM IN THEIR SUFFERING.

MAY THEY RECEIVE COMFORT BY THE GIFTS WE
OFFER, AND A KNOWLEDGE OF YOUR LOVE FOR THEM.

AMEN.

LEADER: Go forth into the world in peace, be of good
courage, hold fast to that which is good;
render to no man evil for evil; strengthen the
faint hearted; support the weak; help the
afflicted; honour all men; love and serve the
Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

ALL: THE BLESSING OF GOD ALMIGHTY, FATHER, SON AND
HOLY SPIRIT BE WITH US ALL. AMEN

A PRAYER FOR PERSONAL USE AFTER THE SERVICE

O, God our Father, we pray you to bless us,
and all Australian Church Women. Help us to bear one
another's burdens, to live not for ourselves but for
others, as members of one family in Jesus Christ.
Cleanse us from our sins through His precious blood;
make us pure and holy by the indwelling of your Spirit;
and bring us all to the joy of your Heavenly Kingdom;
Through Jesus Christ our Lord . . . AMEN.

(Adapted from the Girls' Friendly Society Prayer)

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This service was prepared by the Girls' Friendly Society in Perth, W.A., under the guidance of their chairwoman, Mrs. Joy Holland and their Chaplain, The Rev. T.P. Curtis.

PROJECT INFORMATION

CHURCH'S AUXILIARY FOR SOCIAL ACTION
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CHURCHES - INDIA

A project to assist 500 families of leprosy patients to become an economically self sufficient community over a period of five years. C.A.S.A. is seeking assistance for financing 100 family housing units now, and an additional 400 units later. Project activities include training in agriculture and artisan skills, cottage industries and essential community services on a 75 acre plot near Lucknow.

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OFFERINGS to be forwarded to -
Mrs. A. Krutli, 27 Robeson St. West Presto
3072.

Cheques to be made out to
Australian Church Women, Victorian Unit

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PLEASE NOTE:- The Women's Inter-Church Council of Victoria has changed to AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN, VICTORIAN UNIT.

SECRETARY: Mrs. L. Ackland, 23 Kingsford Ave.,
North Coburg 3058
PHONE: 354.3804