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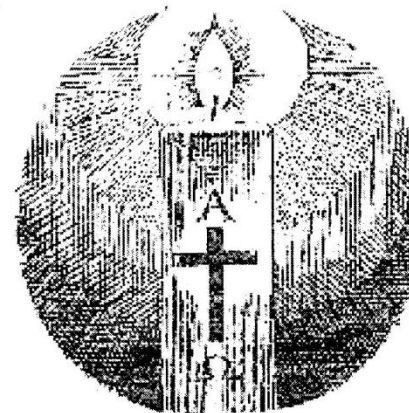
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## ***WORLD COMMUNITY DAY 2009***



***'Faith – Yesterday Today and Tomorrow'***

I am the Alpha and the Omega says the Lord God,  
Who is and who was, and who is to come,  
the Almighty.

**Rev 1: 8**

## AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN

Australian Church Women was established in 1965 when women's interchurch councils from all states and territories came together to form Australian Church Women, fostering ecumenism and undertaking action on behalf of the churches.

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 supports annually, and the **2009 Special Project** which is **'Kairos Outside' Perth**. This is a weekend for women who may have a loved one in prison, or been in prison themselves. During the weekend this support is provided in a safe environment with Christian people and the chance to interact with other women who are in similar situations.

**Today's Order of Service** was prepared by the Western Australian Unit of Australian Church Women.

**Preferred Scripture translation** – New International Version (NIV)

### Abbreviations:

AHB - Australian Hymn Book, TIS - Together in Song

### Please Note:

This order of Service is copyright and may not be rewritten or otherwise altered, except for additional prayers where relevant for the current situation, and the substitution of hymns that are considered to be more suitable and available locally. ©2009

## ***'Faith – Yesterday Today and Tomorrow'***

### ***World Community Day 2009***

#### **Leader: Greetings and Welcome**

God our Loving Father, bless all of us gathered here today to praise and worship you. May we become a channel to all hearts to see the vision of God and so treat each other, in peace with love and respect for human dignity. Amen.

***Let us pause to acknowledge the original inhabitants of this land.***

This service emphasises Faith which is all encompassing:

- the enduring faith of yesterday,
- sustaining faith for today,
- confident faith for tomorrow.

#### **CALL TO WORSHIP**

**Psalm 117**

**All: *Extol him, all you peoples!***

***For great is his steadfast love towards us,  
and the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever.  
Praise the Lord!***

**HYMN: "Praise to the living God"**

**TIS 102**

**PRAYERS OF PRAISE:**

**Leader:** Lord God the Almighty, we give you our thanks, praise and glory for your creation of earth and its many varied peoples.

**All:** *May the Spirit deepen our faith.*

**Leader:** For the seasons as they come and go in an orderly manner. The rise of the sun in the mornings and its going down as night falls.

**All:** *May the Spirit deepen our faith.*

**Leader:** For the prophets, priests and martyrs through the ages who have stood firm in the faith and carried your word to the coming generations.

**All:** *May the Spirit deepen our faith.*

**Leader:** For the promises in your Word for your people to live by faith today and to hand on to our children and their children, the love of your beloved son, Jesus Christ.

**All:** *May the Spirit deepen our faith.*

*A READING from the Book of Hebrews* 11:1-2

**Leader:** The Word of the Lord.

**All:** *Thanks be to God.*

**PRAYERS OF RECONCILIATION:**

**All:** *"I long for your salvation, O Lord, and your law is my delight. Let me live that I may praise you, and may your laws sustain me. I have strayed like a lost sheep. Seek your servant, for I have not forgotten your commands."*

Psalm 119:174-176

**Leader:** Our God, who knows us better than we know ourselves, we humbly bring ourselves into your very presence, acknowledging that in the past we have failed you and been satisfied to go our own way, even when we have known your will and way.

**All:** *Forgive our failures and self reliance.*

**Leader:** We realise that there are those who today are struggling with the depth of their faith, as life brings them to situations that are unsought and unwelcome.

**All:** *Forgive our unbelief and strengthen our faith.*

**Leader:** We have to confess that so often we ignore your supremacy and choose to live selfishly, unheeding of others or this wonderful world you have made.

**All:** *Thank you because you only want from us obedience for today, and that we live today in the fullness of faith in you and your unfailing faithfulness. Amen*

**A READING from the Gospel of St Mark** 9:14-27

**Leader:** The Word of the Lord.

**All:** *Thanks be to God.*

**HYMN:** *"Have Faith in God my Heart"* AHB 552 TIS 675

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION:**

Loving Lord, as we offer our prayers for the church and the world, we look outwards and forwards with a faith rooted and grounded in all of our yesterdays, alive and vibrant in the life of today, and stepping out into the future in sure and confident hope of the good news of our tomorrows.

And so we dare to pray: for a new heaven and a new earth, that human-kind will so live that the universe may be safe; that pollution and deadly gases and the destruction of the rivers and forests may be averted, and that the richness and beauty of your creation may be renewed, Lord in your mercy,

**All:** *May we live the fulfilment of our prayers.*

We pray for openness and acceptance between all races and nations, a generosity of spirit between all faiths and denominations, all philosophies and teachings, that hatred and war, injustice and intolerance, greed and famine, the cruelty and inhumanity expressed in so much of life on earth, may be overcome, removed and be no more. Lord in your mercy,  
**All:** *May we live the fulfilment of our prayers.*

And we pray for peace in the lives of all your people so that all may be blessed and fulfilled, comforted and upheld, challenged and enabled, so that in word and in truth. Lord in your mercy,  
**All:** *We may indeed live the fulfilment of our prayers.*  
*In Jesus name. Amen.*

**A READING from the Book of Revelation 21:1-7**

**Leader:** The Word of the Lord  
**All:** *Thanks be to God.*

**ADDRESS:**

**HYMN:** *'Lord the light of your love is shining'* TIS 675



#### **FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN OFFERING AND PRAYER**

**Convenor:** All those who have participated in the Fellowship of the Least Coin are invited to come forward with their offerings, standing together for the prayer of dedication.

**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 humankind that we may know the joy of giving and receiving.

Dear God, accept this least coin 'token of love', make us mindful of the miracles of these coins. Let us honour your creation with love, as shown through the life, death and resurrection of your son, Jesus the Christ.  
Amen.

#### **MUSICAL ITEM**

#### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

#### **GENERAL OFFERING AND DEDICATION:**

**Leader:** As a symbol of God's love for us and our commitment to help our Project - 'Kairos Outside' Perth, for this year, and our ongoing support for the Asian Church Women's Conference, we will now have our General Offering.

**ALL:** We bring our gifts to you dear Lord in gratitude and hope. We ask your blessing on the Asian Church Women's Conference, where women from many nations and cultures gather to support each other in your name. We pray that you will bless the project for this year which is 'Kairos Outside' Perth. May our funding and prayers give them encouragement to continue their wonderful work. We ask this in God's name.  
Amen.

#### **BLESSING:**

God has called you to share your joys, your faith, your hope, and most of all your love for Him and each other.

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us now and always.

**All:** *Amen*