



G O D A T W O R K

W O R L D C O M M U N I T Y D A Y

S E R V I C E

1 9 6 5

I. B E H I N D T H E W O R L D S C E N E

OPENING PRAYER: Let us lift our hearts in prayer to the Holy Spirit, that he will guide and inspire us in our worship. (Silence)

All: O Holy Spirit,
Giver of light and life,
impart to us thoughts higher than our own thoughts
and prayers better than our own prayers,
and powers beyond our own powers,
that we may spend and be spent
in the ways of love and goodness,
after the perfect image
of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

LESSON: Let us renew our faith in God at Work by listening once again to the account of a prophet whose faith could see behind the things outwardly happening.

When the servant of the man of God rose early in the morning and went out, behold, an army with horses and chariots was round about the city. And the servants said, "Alas, my master! What shall we do?" He said, "Fear not, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them".

Then Elisha prayed, and said, "O Lord, I Pray Thee, open his eyes that he may see". So the Lord opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw: and behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha. (2 Kings Chapter 6. Verses 15 - 17)

SILENCE: Let us remain in silence, praying quietly and trustingly that God will open our eyes to see Him at work in the affairs of men.

HYMN:

Breathe on me, Breath of God,
Fill me with life anew,
That I may love what Thou dost love,
And do what Thou wouldst do.

Breathe on me, Breath of God,
Until my heart is pure;
Until with Thee I will one will,
To do and to endure.

3. Breathe on me, Breath of God,
Till I am wholly thine;
Until this earthly part of me
Glow with Thy fire divine.

Breathe on me, Breath of God:
So shall I never die,
But live with Thee the perfect life
Of Thine eternity.

(Ancient and Modern Revised 236)
(Suggested tune: St. Beuno. Metre S.M.)

II. GOD IN HUMAN PROGRESS

MEDITATION:

Let us reflect how human progress is making World Community possible.
(Allow a pause after each of the following thoughts)

Fast communications in travel

Quick communication of news through telegram, telephone and radio

Visual knowledge of other nations through film and television

Interdependence in trade food surpluses and shortages

The physical power in men's hands to use for great enterprises, such as dams to generate electricity, and to irrigate unproductive areas.

The ability of different groups of experts to co-operate in great complex operations.

WE HAVE THE MEANS, IF WE HAVE THE WILL

Let us meditate in silence on all these signs of the times and thank God that these developments are making World Community possible.

PRAYER: O Lord, who hast set before us Thy great hope that Thy Kingdom shall come, and hast taught us to pray for its coming: give us grace to discern the signs of its dawning, and to work for the perfect day when thy will shall be done on earth as it is in heaven; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

HYMN:

From Thee all skill and science flow,
All pity, care and love,
All calm and courage, faith and hope
O, pour them from above!

And part them, Lord to each and all,
As each and all shall need
To rise, like incense, each to Thee,
In noble thought and deed.

And hasten, Lord, that perfect day
When pain and death shall cease,
And Thy just rule shall fill the earth
With health, and light, and peace;

When ever blue the sky shall gleam,
And ever green the sod,
And man's rude work deface no more,
The Paradise of God.

(English Hymnal 525)

(Metre: C.M.)

III. GOD'S PURPOSE OF LOVE

MEDITATION:

Let us now remember God's purposes of love for all mankind:
(Allow a pause after each of the following thoughts)

He is the Creator of all and loves all whom He has brought into being

His promise to Abraham that through Him and His race all nations should be blessed.

His choice of Israel to be a priestly nation, a messenger nation, a servant nation to the world.

His sending of Jesus Christ, to be the Saviour of all, to inaugurate His Kingdom, to bring all men in every generation into it

His founding of the Church to carry on Christ's loving, serving, saving work

His plan to gather all men and the whole of creation into Christ.

Let us reflect in silence on God's great loving plan.

PRAYER: O the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgements, and His ways past finding out!

For of him,
and through him,
and to him are all things:
To whom be glory for ever. Amen.

HYMN:

Praise, my soul, the King of heaven,
To His feet Thy tribute bring;
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,
Who like me His praise should sing?
Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise the everlasting King.

Praise Him for His grace and favour
to our fathers in distress;
Praise Him still the same as ever,
Slow to chide, and swift to bless:
Alleluia! Alleluia! Glorious in His faithfulness.

Father-like, He tends and spares us,
Well our feeble frame He knows;
In His hands He gently bears us,
Rescues us from all our foes:
Alleluia! Alleluia! Widely as His mercy flows.

Angels, help us to adore Him;
Ye behold Him face to face;
Sun and moon, bow down before Him,
Dwellers all in time and space;
Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise with us the God of grace.

(Ancient and Modern Revised 365)
(Suggested Tune: "Praise my soul"
Metre: 8.7.8.7.4.7)

IV. NATIONS AND WORLD COMMUNITY

MEDITATION:

Let us try to see how God is forwarding His purposes through the relationships between nations:

- through the discovery of nuclear energy which makes clear the destructive power of modern war.
- through the struggle for peace and understanding in the United Nations Organisation.
- through the struggle for racial harmony.
- through the growing sense of world compassion, seen in the efforts of the World Health Organisation, and the Food and Agriculture Organisation, and the agencies involved in the care of children and in feeding the millions of undernourished people.
- through International Co-operation Year, focussing attention on areas of agreement and joint action.
- through the efforts for disarmament and control of nuclear weapons.
- through the realisation of the need of becoming world citizens.

PRAYER:

All: Lord, make us instruments of Thy peace
Where there is hatred, let us sow love;
Where there is injury, pardon;
Where there is discord, union;
Where there is doubt, faith;
Where there is despair, hope;
Where there is darkness, light;
Where there is sadness, joy;
For Thy mercy and Thy truth's sake. Amen.

SOLO OR ANTHEM:

I vow to Thee, my country, all earthly things above,
Entire and whole and perfect, the service of my love:
The love that asks no question, the love that stands the test,
That lays upon the altar the dearest and the best;
The love that never falters, the love that pays the price,
The love that makes undaunted the final sacrifice.

And there's another country, I've heard of long ago,
Most dear to them that love her, most great to them that know;
We may not count her armies, we may not see her king;
Her fortress is a faithful heart, her pride is suffering;
And soul by soul and silently her shining bounds increase,
And her ways are ways of gentleness and all her paths are peace.

(Ancient and Modern Revised 579)

V. THE CHURCH IS THE PATTERN

MEDITATION:

Finally let us think of the Church as God's pattern for community living, praying that it may be truly:

- the Body of Christ through which He carries on His loving, serving, uniting work.
- a community of love.

PRAYER: We pray Thee that the Church may be as a city set on a hill and that her light may shine forth in all the dark places of the World.

(Response) We pray Thee, O God.

That the Church may be one with the unity which Christ wills, brought about in the way which He Himself shall choose.

We pray Thee, O God.

That all her members may be deepened in penitence for the sin of disunity, which hinders her mission and delays men from seeing their Lord and Saviour:

We pray Thee, O God.

That the Church may be holy in all her members, in all her branches and in every congregation:

We pray Thee, O God.

That the Church may have the wisdom of the Spirit to present the Gospel so that men may understand, and see in it good news in their own situation:

We pray Thee, O God.

That the Church may have such a compassion and love for men, that they may be drawn to thee the Author of love and mercy:

We pray Thee, O God.

That each local church may be a centre of true worship, a source of grace, a community of love, a fellowship of witness, loving concern and service.

We pray Thee, O God.

That thy Church may be so faithful to her Lord, that her life may be the pattern for the life of the world.

We pray Thee, O God.

(Here may follow an interlude for organ music or an amplified recording in which an offering will be taken for the overseas projects of Australian Church Women.)

HYMN:

God of grace and God of Glory,
On Thy people pour Thy power;
Now fulfil Thy Church's story,
Bring her bud to glorious flower.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
for the facing of this hour.

2. Lo, the hosts of evil round us
Scorn Thy Christ, assail His ways;
From the fears that long have bound us
Free our hearts to faith and praise.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
For the living of these days.

Cure Thy children's warring madness,
Bend our pride to Thy control;
Shame our wanton selfish gladness,
Rich in goods and poor in soul.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
Lest we miss Thy kingdom's goal.

4. Set our feet on lofty places,
Gird our lives that they may be
Armoured with all Christ-like graces
in the fight to set men free.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
That we fail not man nor Thee.

(Tune Cwm Rhondda)

PRAYERS: Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ came to cast fire upon the earth: grant that by the prayers of Thy faithful people a fire of burning zeal may be kindled and pass from heart to heart, that the light of Thy Church may shine forth bright and clear to all mankind; through the same Thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER.

May God pour His love into our hearts: May Christ strengthen us with His grace: May the Holy Spirit knit us together in unity and service. May the blessing of the glorious Trinity rest upon the whole Church, now and always.

Amen.

GROUP DISCUSSIONS

At centres where group discussions are desired, we suggest that following the Service, Groups discuss the material in the Meditations, one meditation only being taken by each group.

Groups could then re-assemble, and the leader of each group answer the question: "What are the main thoughts you will carry away from your study of?" (e.g. God in Human Progress.)

The whole could then be suitably and very briefly rounded off by the leader of the service.

THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN

It is suggested that at the conclusion of the Service offerings for the Fellowship of the Least Coin be received.

During organ music those who belong to this Fellowship could be invited to place their offerings in a suitable bowl on the Communion Table.

This Service has been prepared by Dr. George Appleton,
Archbishop of Perth, at the invitation of the National
Committee of Australian Church Women for use on World
Community Day 1965.

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN - Room 2, 3rd floor, 511 Kent St.
Sydney.