



**AUSTRALIAN CHURCH
WOMEN**

WORLD COMMUNITY DAY

October, 1973



Theme:

**"Where in the World
is my Neighbour?"**



"WHERE IN THE WORLD IS MY NEIGHBOUR?"

If possible, LET THE SETTING FOR WORSHIP INCLUDE MAPS AND MANY POSTERS OF PEOPLE — PEOPLE OF ALL "SHAPES" AND "SIZES" — PEOPLE IN DIFFERENT SITUATIONS — PEOPLE OF STRENGTH AND PEOPLE IN WEAKNESS — PEOPLE OF ALL NATIONS! Let the setting both raise and answer the question: "WHERE IN THE WORLD IS YOUR NEIGHBOUR?"

GREETINGS AND WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS

which will include intimation of provision made for the receipt of "least coin" contributions for the year, also any necessary clarification of particular aspects of the service so that it may proceed without further announcement.

1. OPENING QUESTIONS

QUESTIONS FROM THE WORSHIP LEADER 1:

... Where in the world is my neighbour?
I am called to love him... BUT... I am searching for him...
Where in the world is my neighbour?
I am directed to him... BUT... will you find me there — with him?
... Where in the world is my neighbour?

QUESTIONS FROM THE SOLOIST: (Sung **without** announcement — by soloist "in the midst of" the congregation).

"When I needed a neighbour, were you there?" (by S. Carter).

OR "Lord, who is our neighbour?" (by W. Pearson & R. Boucher).

OR "What people" (by D. Collyer & L. Green — "Hymns for
now II).

OR "Bread in the Wilderness" (by E. J. Bash — "Songs of Faith").

QUESTIONS FROM THE CONGREGATION: PRAYER TOGETHER
(Let us pray)

O Father God, we are surrounded by people — yet we have great difficulty in discerning our neighbours . . . where are they — in terms of the loving action you require of us? We long to serve you — but for whom should we accept responsibility . . . to make best use of the time you have given us? O Father God, we speak in the name of Christ Jesus, Amen.

2. THE CALL TO LOVE HIM

A SYMBOLIC ACTION PERFORMED IN SILENCE: Let a simple action now be performed to "symbolise" the call to love one's neighbour — e.g. Let someone take forward a cross and/or a world globe to a central table OR light a candle before the worshippers OR pin up a poster of a "neighbour" — in a central position OR let "symbolic" neighbours take up positions before the worshippers — to remain there for the worship time. (e.g. 5 participants representing everyday neighbours, people in need, people of power, enemies, and people of other nations).

THE CALL TO LOVE: WORSHIP LEADER II:

"Love your neighbour, Love your neighbour as yourself."

This is the commandment upheld by Jesus.

"Love cannot wrong a neighbour."

This is the responsive word of Paul the Apostle. "LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOUR" LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOUR."

HYMN TOGETHER (without announcement):

1 A man there lived in Galilee
Unlike all men before,
For He alone from first to last
Our flesh unsullied wore.
A perfect life of perfect deeds
Once to the world was shown,
That all mankind might mark his steps
And in them plant their own.

Refrain:

O Son of Man, O more than men,
Canst Thou our comrade be?
Then help us all, who hear Thy call,
To rise and follow Thee.

Refrain:

2 A man there died on Calvary
Above all others brave;
His fellow-men He saved and blessed,
Himself He scorned to save.
No thought can gauge the weight of
woe
On Him, the sinless, laid;
We only know that with His blood
Our ransom price was paid.

3 A man there stands at God's right
hand
Divine, yet human still;
That grand, heroic, peerless soul
In vain death sought to kill.
All power is His; supreme He rules
All realms of time and space;
Yet still our human cares and needs
Find in His heart a place.

Refrain:

Refrain:

(by S. C. Lowry. TUNE: FOREST GREEN — D.C.M. with refrain).

3. THE SEARCH AND THE STRUGGLE

THE QUESTION "WHERE?": WORSHIP LEADER I:

"His fellow-men Christ saved and blessed.
Himself He scorned to save..."
To whom does He call me now?
"WHERE in the world is MY neighbour?"

THE SEARCH IN QUESTION! WORSHIP LEADER II:

Look at your world... and you will see faces — etched with misery,
lined with questions. Listen to your world... and you will hear voices
— heavy with sorrow, hard with power. Move about your world...
and you will find people — anywhere and everywhere! — needing
friendship, encouragement, faith for today and hope for tomorrow.

THE STRUGGLE: WORSHIP LEADER I:

But I wonder! Do they really need ME? and what can I do anyway?
There are so many. The problems are formidable. The needs are never-
ending. YES — I look and I see. I listen and I hear. I move about and
I find — BUT I STILL SEARCH my world for MY neighbour...
MY fellow-man for whom I am the one responsible!

**THE PRAYER: THE WHOLE CONGREGATION: (Join together in prayer
— without announcement).**

We too search our world and we pray: O Lord Our God — our world
grows bigger in its opportunities for relationships and service yet we let
it become smaller — our vision is limited and we do so little for others.
We know more people yet we really know fewer; we do not make ourselves
wholly available. We give more yet we are giving less — while the needs of
others have grown we have "needed" more for ourselves — to live in com-
fort! O Lord our God — forgive our reluctance in facing squarely the right
of every man to call us "neighbour" and to be known as our neighbour; for-
give our hesitancy in answering his need as we surround ourselves in
questions or lose ourselves in care for our own well-being. Forgive us
and enable each of us to say in very practical ways to every other man:
'You are my neighbour.' Through Jesus Christ, Amen.

THE WORDS OF RELEASE: WORSHIP LEADER II:

In the midst of your search and struggle know that God in Jesus Christ
has found you... He forgives you and gives His word to direct you into
the future — with Him and with your fellowman as your neighbour! In
His Name, AMEN!

SHORT "BURST" OF JOYOUS MUSIC — from organ or other musical
instrument.

4. THE DIRECTION GIVEN

THE WORD FROM THE SCRIPTURES:

READER 1: Micah 4: 2b-4. — N.E.B.

READER II: 1 John 4 : 19-20. — N.E.B.

READER I: Matthew 5 : 23-24. N.E.B.

THE WORD MADE FLESH: TO GIVE US OUR DIRECTION:

HYMN TOGETHER: (Without announcement)

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 Son of the Lord most high Who gave the worlds their birth, He came to live and die The Son of man on earth. In Bethlehem's stable born was He, And humbly bred in Galilee. | 3 Then, when His hour was come, He heard His Father's call; And leaving friends and home, He gave Himself for all; Glad news to bring, the lost to find, To heal the sick, the lame, the blind. |
| 2 Tossing by night and day, Himself oft burdened sore, Where hearts in bondage lay, Himself their burden bore; Till, scorned by them He died to save, Himself in death, as life, He gave. | 4 O lowly Majesty, Lofty in lowliness! Blest Saviour, who am I To share Thy blessedness? Yet Thou hast called me, even me, Servant Divine, to follow Thee. |

(by G. W. Briggs. TUNE: LAWES PSALM XLVII, 66.66.88).

5. THE IMPERATIVE

THANKSGIVING: WORSHIP LEADER II:

Give thanks for the significance Christ has given you — as His fellow-worker.

Give thanks for the significance He has given all men — through His death and resurrection.

Give thanks for your significance together as fellow-men: neighbours and brothers before God as Father.

GIVE THANKS. AMEN!

CONGREGATION: AMEN. AMEN!

~~AFFIRMATION: WORSHIP LEADER I: (Leader can move about as she says this — pointing to posters or to 5 "symbolic" neighbours or to various parts of the worship centre)...~~

I have looked again and I have seen. I have listened again and I have heard.

I have moved on and I have found... **MY NEIGHBOUR** (1) Here: beside me — someone just like me — my neighbour! (2) Here: both near to me and far from me — the needy one — **MY NEIGHBOUR**. (3) Here: in places of authority — the powerful one — **MY NEIGHBOUR**. (4) Here: with his back toward me — my enemy — **AND MY NEIGHBOUR!** (5) Here: in any land — "wherever," **HERE IS MY NEIGHBOUR!**

- (1) Where there is life ...
Where there is everyday activity —
THERE is my neighbour.
- (2) Where there is need ...
Where there is poverty and homelessness —
THERE is my neighbour.
- (3) Where there is strength ...
And decision-making authority —
THERE is my neighbour.
- (4) Where there is hate ...
Where there is enmity and estrangement —
THERE is my neighbour.
- (5) Where there is MAN ...
No matter what his race or his colour —
THERE is my neighbour.

THE IMPERATIVE: SOLOIST OR VERSE SPEAKER. (Again from the midst of the congregation, if possible).

"WHERE?" (by B. Mickie & M. Lavelle — tune by P. D. Smith, in "FAITH, FOLK AND FESTIVITY" — A Collection of SONGS. Gaillard 1969).

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF THE RESPONSE ALREADY MADE BY WORSHIPERS: As the music continues... WITHOUT ANNOUNCEMENT, let a worship leader take up her position to receive the Fellowship

of the Least Coin offerings and let the congregation stand as representatives bring forward the 1972-73 offerings of their groups. As they remain standing together the worship leader will pray a short prayer of dedication. All are then to be seated.

THE WITNESS OF THE PREACHER: An ADDRESS pointing to

- (1) every man's responsibility to God — for every other man as his neighbour
- and (2) every man's responsibility to decide JUST WHERE HE will lay down HIS LIFE for the sake of the other.

The first question "WHERE in the world is MY neighbour" leads to a second — "like unto it" — "WHERE in the world will I lay down MY LIFE FOR my neighbour?"

How is such a decision to be made?

PRAYERS OF SUPPLICATION AND INTERCESSION: (Let us pray).

WORSHIP LEADER I: Almighty and eternal God — you are the God who comes to us as we live our lives with others. Help us to understand how we may best respond to your love for us and for all your people. Open our hearts and our minds that we may truly grasp that all the world is your neighbour-hood and enable us to decide with wisdom where to fulfil OUR responsibility as neighbours.

WORSHIP LEADER II: O Lord of all who are in existence — we pray for those who have a great claim upon us because they are near to us in our homes and in our day-by-day activities.

CONGREGATION: And we pray for those both "near and far" who have a great claim upon us because of their need and their alone-ness.

WORSHIP LEADER II: O Lord of all who make history with you, where your people are using their gifts and moving forward with a sense of achievement may the pressures of life neither deter nor overwhelm them;

CONGREGATION: and where your people find it very difficult to work creatively and peaceably together, may the spirit of reconciliation move powerfully amongst them.

WORSHIP LEADER II: O Lord of all who are involved in the story of life, it is our prayer that less and less will be written in that story about the barriers of race and sex and status and "whatever."

CONGREGATION: and it is our prayer that more and more emphasis will be placed upon the value of the different gifts of "neighbours."

ALL: "Our Father, who art in heaven . . . AMEN."

THE RESPONSE FOR NOW AND THE COMMITMENT FOR ALWAYS:

WORSHIP LEADER I: THE OFFERING for the 1973 World Community Day Project chosen by Australian Church Women will be received as we remain seated to sing OUR WORDS OF COMMITMENT FOR ALWAYS . . . 'Son of God, Eternal Saviour — Source of Life and Truth and Grace':-

HYMN TOGETHER:

1 Son of God, Eternal Saviour,
Source of life and truth and grace,
Son of Man, whose birth amongst us
Hallows all our human race,
Thou, our Head, who, throned in
glory,
For Thine own dost ever plead,
Fill us with Thy love and pity,
Heal our wrong and help our need.

2 As Thou, Lord, hast lived for others,
So may we for others live;
Freely have Thy gifts been granted,
Freely may Thy servants give.
Thine the gold and Thine the silver,
Thine the wealth of land and sea,
We but stewards of Thy bounty,
Held in solemn trust for Thee.

ALL TO STAND FOR LAST VERSE

3 Come, O Christ, and reign above us,
King of Love, and Prince of Peace;
Hush the storm of strife and passion,
Bid its cruel discords cease;
By Thy patient years of toiling,
By Thy silent hours of pain,
Quench our fevered thirst of pleasure,
Shame our selfish greed of gain.

4 Son of God, eternal Saviour,
Source of life and truth and grace,
Son of Man, whose birth amongst us
Hallows all our human race,
Thou who prayest, Thou who wiltest
That Thy people should be one,
Grant, O grant our hope's fruition:
Here on earth Thy will be done.

(by S. C. Lowry. TUNE: BETHANY — 87.87.D).

THE SENDING FORTH AND THE BENEDICTION:

**THE GOING FORTH
OF THE WORSHIP LEADERS
AND ALL WORSHIPPERS**

"CROSS-EXAMINE" YOUR SPEAKER AND ONE ANOTHER

- WHEN YOU GO HOME** **INDIVIDUALLY AND WITH OTHERS...**

- NOW WHAT WILL YOU DO ? ? ?**

The establishment of Australian Church Women was authorized by the Australian Council of Churches, to co-ordinate the work of women in the member churches throughout Australia. It operates through the State units and prepares two services annually, Fellowship Day (July), and World Community Day (October); it encourages support of the Women's World Day of Prayer, and promotes the Winifred Kiek Scholarship and Fellowship of the Least Coin. Through the Committee on Co-operation of Men and Women in Church, Family and Society, it is linked with the Department of this name in the World Council of Churches in Geneva.

Printed by Abell & Co., 717 Ann Street, Valley, Brisbane, Queensland.