



Australian Church

Women



WORLD
COMMUNITY
DAY

October, 1969



Theme:

"Let there be Bread"

WORLD COMMUNITY DAY, 1969

“LET THERE BE BREAD”

CALL TO WORSHIP: Psalm 135: 1-3.

Praise ye the Lord. Praise ye the name of the Lord; praise him, O ye servants of the Lord.

Ye that stand in the house of the Lord, in the courts of the house of our God,

Praise the Lord; for the Lord is good; sing praises unto his name for it is pleasant.

PRAYER:

LEADER: Our God and our Father may your love fill us, and so impel us to give thoughtful understanding to those who ask; to help in the finding of the dignity of loving for the many who seek; to open doors of friendship to those who knock; to do for any child of God what we wish done for ourselves.

CONGREGATION: This we beseech Thee our Father.

LEADER: Place within our hearts the burden of those millions of the world who daily live close to death by starvation. The parents who weep for their children for whom there is no food. Those who are homeless. Those who are lonely, and those who are barred from the many good things they see about them because of the prejudice of fellowmen.

CONGREGATION: This we beseech Thee our Father.

LEADER: Renew in us the love of Thy Son, and help us to share in His suffering as we try to serve others in His name.

CONGREGATION: This we beseech Thee our Father. Amen.

HYMN: “O God of Bethel” — Tune: Tallis’ Ordinal C.M.

O God of Bethel! by whose hand
Thy people still are fed;

Who through this weary pilgrimage
Hast all our fathers led:

Our vows, our prayers we now present
Before Thy throne of grace;

God of our fathers! be the God
Of their succeeding race.

Through each perplexing path of life

Our wandering footsteps guide;

Give us each day our daily bread,
And raiment fit provide.

O spread Thy covering wings around,

Till all our wanderings cease,

And at our Father’s loved abode

Our souls arrive in peace.

Such blessings from Thy gracious hand

Our humble prayers implore;

And Thou shalt be our chosen God

And portion evermore.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING: (Psalm 107: 1-15).

LEADER: O give thanks unto the Lord; for He is good for His mercy endureth for ever.

CONGREGATION: Let the redeemed of the Lord say so, whom He hath redeemed from the hand of the adversary;

LEADER: And gathered them out of the lands, from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.

CONGREGATION: They wandered in the wilderness in a desert way; they found no city of habitation.

LEADER: Hungry and thirsty, their soul fainted in them.

CONGREGATION: Then they cried unto the Lord in their trouble, and He delivered them out of their distresses.

LEADER: He led them also by a straight way, that they might go to a city of habitation.

CONGREGATION: O that men would praise the Lord for His goodness, and for His wonderful works to the children of men!

LEADER: For He satisfieth the longing soul, and the hungry soul He filleth with goodness.

CONGREGATION: Such as sat in darkness and the shadow of death, being bound in affliction and iron:

LEADER: Because they rebelled against the words of God, and contemned the counsel of the Most High:

CONGREGATION: Therefore He brought down their heart with labour; they fell down, and there was none to help.

LEADER: Then they cried unto the Lord in their trouble, and He saved them out of their distresses.

CONGREGATION: He brought them out of darkness and the shadow of death, and brake their bands in sunder.

UNISON: O that men would praise the Lord for His goodness and for His wonderful works to the children of men! Amen.

GOD IN HIS WONDERFUL CREATION PROVIDES FOOD.

LEADER OR MEMBER OF THE CONGREGATION:

And God said, Behold, I have given you every herb bearing seed, which is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree, in the which is the fruit of a tree yielding seed; to you it shall be for meat. (Gen. 1:29).

He causeth the grass to grow for the cattle, and herb for the service of man: that he may bring forth food out of the earth. (Psalm 104:14).

Who giveth food to all flesh: for his mercy endureth for ever. (Psalm 136:25).
Which executeth judgment for the oppressed: which giveth food to the hungry. (Psalm 146:7).

BRIEF PRAYERS FOR PEOPLE IN HUNGER SITUATIONS: Africa, Asia, Middle East.

(Up-to-date information can be obtained from your State Council of Churches).

UNISON: Lord's Prayer.

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION:

LEADER: Help us, our Father, as we pray to comprehend more fully the prayer Thy Son has taught us. We have prayed "Hallowed be Thy name."

PRAYER: May we understand that all our relationships, our struggles and temptations, our dreams and desires must be endowed with reverence. May Thy name always be hallowed in our work, keeping us in remembrance that Thou are the great Doer. Rid us of feverish strain and of arrogance over our own successes. Direct our powers in dignity and quietness: may our every action be in Thy name.

LEADER: Our Father, we have prayed "Thy Kingdom come."

PRAYER: Help us to remember that Thy kingdom will come upon earth as first one soul and then another submits to Thy rule of love. May we offer ourselves completely to Thee, knowing that each unloving gesture, each hard judgment opposes the coming of the Kingdom; that each act of love, each sacrifice, each generous impulse expressed in action helps to bring it to fulfilment. Help us to say unreservedly, "Here am I, use me."

LEADER: Our Father, we have prayed "Thy will be done in earth as it is in Heaven."

PRAYER: Help us to enter into a new and deeper relationship with Thee, knowing that only as our small purposes become part of Thy great purpose can we share in Thy redemption of the world. May we be willing to say "Not my will, but Thine be done."

LEADER: Our Father, we have prayed "Give us this day our daily bread."

PRAYER: Help us to know that Thou wilt supply our every need. May we recognise our utter dependence on Thee, certain that no human need however lowly or however great, is outside Thy power to fulfil. Above all, we pray Thee for Thy rich unailing gifts of the living Water and the living Food.

LEADER: Our Father, we have prayed "Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us."

PRAYER: We need to be reminded that our sins are forgiven only as we forgive others, that the gifts we bring to the altar can be offered only if we are at peace with our brothers. Fill our hearts with the grace of Thy love toward all persons that we may be sensitive to Thy leading, and clear channels for Thy Spirit.

LEADER: Our Father, we have prayed "Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil."

PRAYER: May we know with certainty that in the frictions, the ceaseless demands, the clash of wills that engulf us, we may turn to Thee as our sure bulwark. Lead us, our Father, out of fear and confusion into Thy peace.

UNISON: For thine is the kingdom and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

(Taken from the World Day of Prayer Programme 1961).

HYMN: I heard the voice of Jesus say. TUNE: Vox Dilecti.

I heard the voice of Jesus say,
"Come unto me and rest:
Lay down, poor weary one, lay down
Thy head upon my breast."
I came to Jesus as I was,
Weary and worn and sad;
I found in Him a resting place,
And He has made me glad.

I heard the voice of Jesus say,
"Behold I freely give
The living water, thirsty one,
Stoop down, and drink and live."
I came to Jesus and I drank
Of that life-giving stream;
My thirst was quenched, my soul
revived,
And now I live in Him.

I heard the voice of Jesus say,
"I am this dark World's Light
Look unto me, thy morn shall rise,
And all thy days be bright."
I looked to Jesus and I found
In Him my Star, my Sun:
And in that Light of life I'll walk,
Till travelling days are done.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: Psalm 51.

LEADER: Have mercy upon me, O God according to Thy loving kindness; according to Thy tender mercies blot out my transgression.

PRAYER: Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.

LEADER: For I acknowledge my transgressions; and my sin is ever before me.

PRAYER: Behold, Thou desirest truth in the inward parts: and in the hidden part Thou shalt make me to know wisdom.

LEADER: Purge me with Hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

PRAYER: Make me to hear joy and gladness; that the bones which Thou hast broken may rejoice.

LEADER: Hide Thy face from my sins, and blot out all mine iniquities.

PRAYER: Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.

LEADER: Cast me not away from Thy presence; and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.

PRAYER: Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation; and uphold me with a free Spirit.

LEADER: Then will I teach transgressors Thy ways: and sinners shall be converted unto Thee.

PRAYER: Deliver me from blood guiltiness, O God, Thou God of my salvation; and my tongue shall sing aloud of Thy righteousness.

LEADER: O Lord, open Thou my lips: and my mouth shall shew forth Thy praise.

PRAYER: For Thou delightest not in sacrifice, else would I give it; Thou hast no pleasure in burnt offering.

UNISON: The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and a contrite heart, O God, Thou wilt not despise. Amen.

READING: John 6: 26-36.

HYMN: "Break Thou the Bread of Life."

TUNE: Churches of Christ supplementary Tune Book 17.

Break Thou the Bread of Life, Dear Lord to me,
As Thou didst break the loaves beside the sea;
Beyond the sacred page I seek Thee Lord
My spirit pants for Thee O living Word.

Thou are the Bread of Life O Lord to me,
Thy Holy Word the truth that saveth me;
Give me to eat and live with Thee above,
Teach me to love Thy truth for Thou art love.

Bless Thou the Truth, dear Lord, to me, to me,
As Thou didst bless the bread by Galilee,
Then shall all bondage cease, All fetters fall
And I shall find my peace, my All in All.

OFFERING: Offering in aid of Inter-Church Aid project of Rooftop and Resettlement Outreach in Hong Kong.

DEDICATION OF OFFERING:

ADDRESS: (Brief). (Optional).

"Man does not live by bread alone." Based on John 6:26-35.

HYMN: "Bear the cup of loving service". TUNE: Austria.

(Those presenting the offering of the Least Coin should bring it forward during the last verse of the Hymn. Congregation remain standing.)

Bear the cup of loving service,
Sons and daughters of the King;
Water from the living fountain
To the faint and thirsty bring;
Tendered in His loving spirit,
Blessed will the mission be;
E'en the smallest cup that's offered
Christ, our gracious Lord will see.

Bear the cup of loving service
To the weary and the sad;
For the draught held out to others
Makes the giver more than glad:

So 'twill yield a double blessing,
Waking sweetest chords of praise,
While we strive to follow Jesus
In His pleasant, peaceful ways.

Bear the cup of loving service,
Listening for the Master's voice;
Ready always for His errands,
In the blessed work rejoice.
Yes we know, for He hath told us—
And His word is still the same—
He will bless the cup of water
Humbly offered in His name.

PRAYER:

O Lord, who though Thou wast rich, yet for our sakes didst become poor, and hast promised in Thy gospel that whatsoever is done unto the least of Thy brethren, Thou will receive as done unto Thee; give us grace, we humbly beseech Thee, to be ever willing and ready to minister, as we are able to the necessities of our fellow-creatures, and to extend the blessings of Thy kingdom over all the world, to Thy praise and glory forever. Amen.

(Prayer of St. Augustine).

BENEDICTION:

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all. Amen.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION:

1. Why is there insufficient food for all people? Gen. 3:17-18.
2. Are we involved if we just give money? 1 Cor. 13. 1 Thes. 2:18.
How can we show a loving concern?
3. Many non-Christian groups help the needy. What do we more than they? Matt. 5:47. Gal. 1:9.
4. Which does Jesus consider more important, the giving of spiritual food or food for the body? John 6:27.
5. Does helping a person materially ensure that he or she will be saved?
6. God has made ample provision for both, how have we fallen down in our task of taking both kinds of food to those who need it?

The Service has been prepared by the Australian Christian Women's Fellowship Federal Conference Churches of Christ and produced by Australian Church Women, C/- Victorian Council of Churches, 100 Flinders Street, Melbourne. All offerings for the Inter-Church Aid project should be forwarded to the State Treasurer of the Women's Inter-Church Council of your own State.

The Australian Church Women was established 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 on the fourth Wednesday of July, and World Community Day on the fourth Friday of October. The Australian Church Women encourages support of the Women's World Day of Prayer, and promotes the 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.

Hong Kong -

where more than 3,000,000 live in the 36 square miles of habitable land.



where the birthrate is more than five times that of deaths.

HONG KONG — where the Government is building resettlement blocks at the rate of a new block for 2,000 people every nine days. By 1975, half of the people will live in these blocks.

The Methodist Church is responsible for programmes on the rooftops of seven of these blocks. Staff work on recreation, youth, education, social welfare and hygiene projects.

To expand the programmes, assistance is needed to provide such equipment as a sewing machine, library equipment and books, musical instruments, sports equipment, typewriters and duplicating equipment.

The offering from World Community Day 1969 will help provide the money needed to purchase this equipment.

This is one of 100 projects in 50 countries in which Australian Christians will share in 1969 through the Inter-Church Aid programme of the Australian Council of Churches.