



Australian Church

Women



FELLOWSHIP DAY

July, 1971



Theme:

Who is a Christian?

ACT OF DEVOTION
FELLOWSHIP DAY, 1971

"WHO IS A CHRISTIAN?"

THEME: "WHO IS A CHRISTIAN?"

COMMUNION.

(a) It is realised that the arrangements for a Combined Communion will involve people from each area where a Fellowship Day Service is held in discussion as to whether this is acceptable in their particular district. Even if in many places it is not included in the Service we felt that the idea will have been introduced and will pave the way for some future occasion.

(b) A suggestion was also made that a simple fellowship meal of bread and cheese could be held immediately following the service and be very meaningful.

LEADER: Let us quieten our thoughts, and lift our hearts to God, praising Him for all that He is, and all that He has done, and all that He wills to do.

He is the Creator of All—the universe with all its wonders, and man with all his gifts of spirit, mind and body.

He is the Redeemer of All—forgiving our sins and failures, drawing us back to Himself, showing His infinite love in the Cross.

He is the Sanctifier and Strengtheners of all—giving wisdom, holiness, love and grace.

HYMN: "Fill Thou my life". Tune: Kilmarnock or St. Fulbert.

Fill Thou my life, O Lord my God,	Praise in the common things of life,
In every part with praise,	Its goings out and in:
That my whole being may proclaim	Praise in each duty and each deed,
Thy being and Thy ways.	However small and mean.

Not for the lip of praise alone,	Fill every part of me with praise;
Nor e'en the praising heart,	Let all my being speak
I ask, but for a life made up	Of Thee and of Thy love, O Lord,
Of praise in every part.	Poor though I be and weak.

So shall no part of day or night
From sacredness be free;
But all my life, in every step,
Be fellowship with Thee.

LEADER: Let us affirm our desire to grow up by increasing harmony among all peoples, all races together, rich and poor together, young and old together.

ALL: Yes, Lord. So says my heart.

LEADER: Let us affirm our desire to grow up in working together for justice and peace in all the world.

ALL: Yes, Lord. So says my heart.

LEADER: Let us affirm our desire to grow up in caring for the weak, the unprotected, the sick, the hungry, those who are in prison.

ALL: Yes, Lord. So says my heart.

LEADER: Let us affirm our desire to grow up in responsibility for citizenship, for guaranteeing human rights.

ALL: Yes, Lord. So says my heart.

LEADER: Let us affirm our desire to grow up in love and respect for members of our family, for the neighbours with whom we live, for the persons with whom we work, for the members of Christ's Church.

ALL: Yes, Lord. So says my heart.

SOLOIST OR GROUP OF SINGERS: "When I needed a Neighbour" (from "Ten New Songs" — Sydney Carter).

A LITANY OF LOVE

LEADER: For God loved the world so much that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him may not die but have eternal life.

ALL: We praise you, Lord.

LEADER: God has shown us how much He loves us: It was while we were still sinners that Christ died for us.

ALL: We praise you, Lord.

LEADER: Hear the first and great commandment: You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind and with all your strength.

ALL: Lord, teach us love.

LEADER: We love Him because He first loved us.

ALL: Lord, teach us love.

LEADER: Hear the second commandment: You must love your neighbour as yourself.

ALL: Lord, teach us love.

LEADER: Love is patient and kind; love is not jealous or conceited or proud. Love is not ill-mannered or selfish or irritable. Love does not keep a record of wrongs.

ALL: Lord, teach us love.

LEADER: Love is not happy with evil, but it is happy with truth. Love never gives up: its faith, hope and patience never fail. Love is eternal.

ALL: Lord, teach us love.

LEADER: Hear the new commandment: A new commandment I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so must you love one another.

ALL: Lord, teach us love.

LEADER: We know that we have left death and have come over into life; We know it because we love our brothers.

ALL: Lord, teach us love.

LEADER: Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Whoever loves is a child of God and knows God.

ALL: Lord, teach us love.

LEADER: Give us grace O God our Father, to keep this day and always the new commandment and the great commandment and all the commandments, by loving You with all our mind and soul and strength, and one another for your sake: in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.

ADDRESS: WHO IS A CHRISTIAN?

(If desired Study material on back page may be used as a basis for address.)

HYMN: "Break Thou the Bread of Life". Tune: Alexanders Hymn No. 3.

Break Thou the Bread of Life,	O send Thy Spirit, Lord,
Dear Lord, to me,	Now unto me,
As Thou didst break the loaves	That He may touch my eyes
Beside the sea;	And make me see;
Beyond the sacred page	Show me the truth concealed
I seek Thee Lord;	Within Thy Word,
My spirit pants for Thee, O living	And in Thy Book revealed
Word.	I see Thee, Lord.

Thou art the Bread of Life,	Bless Thou the truth, dear Lord,
O Lord, to me,	To me, to me;
Thy Holy Word the truth	As Thou didst bless the bread
That saveth me;	By Galilee;
Give me to eat and live	Then shall all bondage cease,
With Thee above;	All fetters fall
Teach me to love Thy truth	And I shall find my peace,
For Thou art love.	My All in All.

OFFERING: For the Winifred Kiek Scholarship Fund.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION (optional).

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION—

Subjects for Intercession to be chosen by the Leader.

HYMN: "God of Grace and God of Glory". Tune: "Cwm Rhondda".

God of Grace and God of Glory	Cure Thy children's warring madness;
On Thy people pour Thy power;	Bend our pride to Thy control;
Now fulfil Thy Church's story,	Shame our wanton selfish gladness,
Bring her bud to glorious flower.	Rich in goods and poor in soul,
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,	Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
For the facing of this hour.	Lest we miss Thy kingdom's goal.
For the facing of this hour.	Lest we miss Thy kingdom's goal.

Lo, the hosts of evil round us	Set our feet on lofty places,
Scorn Thy Christ, assail His ways;	Gird our lives that they may be
From the fears that long have bound us	Armoured with all Christ-like graces
Free our hearts to faith and praise.	In the fight to set men free.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,	Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
For the living of these days.	That we fail not man nor Thee.
For the living of these days.	That we fail not man nor Thee.

AMEN.

BENEDICTION:

Go forth, forgiven, strengthened, and refilled with love, to serve God in your homes, and to spread abroad the compassion and love of God. And the blessing of God go with you and remain with you always. AMEN.

STUDY MATERIAL

Mark and Betty Wendleborn ask:

WHO IS A CHRISTIAN?

ONE WHO SHARES IN WHAT GOD IS DOING.

It's not the kind of answer we usually give, is it? But—

IT'S THE RIGHT ANSWER.

Usually we say you have to belong to a certain club,

If you've gone through the initiation ceremony,

If you've been stamped with the label,

You are a Christian.

THAT'S RUBBISH.

God isn't going round with a little tin filling it with people.

There isn't any tin in His hand with the label "Christian" on it.

So that everyone who happens to be inside is one.

God is at work in the world. He is the working God.

He's not a throne-sitting God, or a Christian-collecting God.

HE IS THE WORKER.

He's at work in the world to heal all of life—

people in families

people at war

people at their jobs

people in their politics

people in their play

He's healing and making strong and beautiful

All these aspects of human existence.

He's not doing it by pushing a heavenly button either.

HE'S IN THERE. SWEATING IT OUT WITH PEOPLE.

It's from the inside that God works.

That's why He became a man

That's why He continues to live and breathe in human form

As the Holy Spirit.

Because He's working.

He's healing.

He's recreating the whole chaotic creation.

YOU CAN CALL IT SERVICE IF YOU LIKE.

But this serving is God's doing.

This healing of man's madness and badness,

Gets to grips with the trouble and explodes it on the cross—

God's own cross.

That's service for you. Caring that much for fools

That you let them crucify you,

And make that your way of helping them.

YOU DON'T DO THAT FROM HEAVEN.

He's in the world doing it

All the time.

Turning the other cheek to disarm sin.

Stirring the nations to bring freedom to the down-trodden,
Speaking peace to each distraught human soul.
**THIS IS HIS CONSTANT CROSS. THE CREATIVE CROSS. THE
RESURRECTION.**

And some He calls to share. Not because He can't manage it.
He just calls.

The few that respond—these are His people.
The workers-along-with-God. These are Christians.
Labels and clubs largely hide the truth.
It's the people who share in what God is doing,
Who are God's people.
WHO ELSE?

Take a few minutes to reflect on this and discuss with your neighbour
what you agree or disagree with.

At what point can we, as individuals and groups, join in God's work with
persons and in organized social and political action for the full human
development of all

- (a) in our neighbourhood?
- (b) in our nation?
- (c) in neighbour countries?

The Service has been prepared by the Western Australia Unit of Australian
Church Women, and produced by Australian Church Women, C/- Mrs. C.
Connell, 15 Burns Parade, Chapel Hill, Queensland, 4069.

The Australian Church Women was established by the Australian Council
of Churches, to co-ordinate the work of women in the member churches through-
out Australia. It operates through the State Units and prepares two services
annually, Fellowship Day in July, and World Community Day in 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.

The offering taken at this Service will be used for the work
of the Australian Church Women, and in particular the Winifred
Kiek Scholarship. Money collected should be sent to the treasurer
of the State Unit in your own State.