

## BLESSING:

May the love of the Lord Jesus draw you to himself;  
May the power of the Lord Jesus strengthen and empower you for service;  
May the joy of the Lord Jesus fill your soul;  
May the blessing of God almighty,  
The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit  
Be with you and remain with you and those you love  
This day and evermore. Amen

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

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Australian Church Women Inc.  
ABN 68 539 329 715



**WORLD COMMUNITY DAY SERVICE 2017**

**Theme: Empowered to Proclaim  
(Love, Liberty and Life)**

### **Australian Church Women Inc (ACW)**

Dating from 1965, Australian Church Women encourages women to act together in fellowship and service across denominational, national and international boundaries.

### **Fellowship of the Least Coin (FLC)**

The least coins symbols of prayer for justice, peace and reconciliation are dedicated at World Community Day services. The funds are channelled through State/Territory Treasurers to the National Treasurer. These funds are allocated internationally.

### **General Offering**

The general offering today supports the work of the Asian Church Women's Conference, **(ACWC)** and the special project for 2017 –**'The Asylum Seekers Centre', which operates from 'Jesus House' Dandenong Vic. An interdenominational Christian Response to the Material needs of Asylum Seekers and Refugees. Wholly Voluntary, No Committees, No Budget, Funded Wholly by your Donations. All current Asylum Seekers are on 'No Work Bridging Visas'.**

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

### **Cover**

Artwork on cover was prepared by Salvation Army Captain Lauriee Arthur. "The topiary tree cannot break free of its cage. However, as it lives in captivity the tree can drop its leaves which float through the open door of the cage. The leaves now living free enjoying **'life'** join to become a heart representing **'love'**. The love hearts beating, finds full expression by growing wings, 'butterflies'. They are now fully free, **'Liberty'**."

**Abbreviation** TIS - Together in Song AHB 11 Harmony Edition

**Bible Readings** from the New International Version

**Meditation** taken from Faithandworship.com resources

**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 or available locally.

**HYMN: TIS 245 We have a gospel to proclaim**

**TUNE: Fulda**

*Silent prayer*

We pray for women and children who are the victims of war. We especially pray for those who are displaced from their homeland and who must seek refugee status in a foreign land. Empower our governments and people in power to seek for a humane resolution to this growing problem.

*Silent prayer*

**ALL:** Father God, hear the spoken and unspoken prayers we have offered this day. In Jesus' name we pray. AMEN

**HYMN: TIS 210 O for a thousand tongues to sing**

**TUNE: Lyngham**

### **Empowered to proclaim Life**

**Scripture Reading: Acts 9:36 to 42**

**GUEST SPEAKER:**

**FLC SEGMENT:**

Fellowship of the Least Coin convener to give a short explanation about FLC

Invite congregation with FLC Offerings to bring them forward as music plays

**Dedicatory Prayer:**

Father God, we thank you today for the vision of Shanti Solomon who longed to see us all live in peace and harmony with each other. May the gifts we offer today help to make this vision a reality in the lives of women and their families all over the world.

In Jesus' name we pray. AMEN.

## OFFERTORY PRAYER

*Heavenly Father, accept our offering. May your love be proclaimed by those who receive these gifts and in us who today have given in love.  
In Jesus name we pray. Amen*

## **Empowered to proclaim Liberty**

**Scripture Reading: Luke 13:10 to 17**

### **Prayers of intercession for those who need to be set free**

#### **LEADER**

We pray for women all over the world who are being held captive against their will. Empower your church to proclaim that this injustice has no part in today's world.

*Silent prayer*

We pray for women violated by rape. May women suffering mental, physical and emotional abuse have opportunity to access safe professional loving care.

*Silent prayer*

We pray for women living in extreme poverty and for those who give birth in squalid conditions. We especially remember the children whose parents lack the resources to care for them adequately.

*Silent prayer*

We pray for our indigenous sisters. Thank you for them. Empower them and us in our efforts to bring about better outcomes in education and health,

*Silent prayer*

We pray for women who find themselves homeless. Empower our leaders to work constructively to provide more affordable shelter to meet this need.

*Silent prayer*

## WELCOME:

### **Invitation to Worship: Psalm 96: 1 to 4a**

*Sing to the Lord a new song  
Sing to the Lord all the earth.  
Sing to the Lord, praise His name  
**Proclaim** His salvation day after day,  
Declare His glory among the nations,  
His marvellous deeds among all peoples.  
For great is the Lord and most worthy of praise.*

### **HYMN: TIS 60 All the earth proclaim the Lord**

**TUNE: All the earth**

#### **Prayer of praise**

**LEADER:** Father God, You are the God who formed us  
**ALL:** *We praise your glorious name*  
**LEADER:** You are the God who loves us  
**ALL:** *We praise your glorious name*  
**LEADER:** You are the God who forgives us  
**ALL:** *We praise your glorious name*  
**LEADER:** You are the God who saves us  
**ALL:** *We praise your glorious name*  
**LEADER:** You are the God who calls us  
**ALL:** *We praise your glorious name*  
**LEADER:** You are the God who empowers us  
**ALL:** *We praise your glorious name*  
**LEADER:** You are the God who sends us  
**ALL:** *We praise your glorious name*  
*Help us to sing your praise with heart  
and soul and at every  
Opportunity, proclaim your name throughout the world.*  
AMEN

## **Empowered to proclaim Love**

**Scripture: Matthew 26: 6 to 13**

## **MEDITATION**

The Scriptures say "Love is patient."

God, how can I be patient when I experience injustice?

God, teach me to be patient without being silent or inactive.

The Scriptures say "Love is kind."

God, how can I be kind as I confront what is evil?"

God, teach me to love my enemy.

The Scriptures say "Love is not jealous."

God, how can I not be jealous

of those who have so much wealth or power or control?

God, teach me to keep my values straight.

The Scriptures say "Love is not pompous."

God, how can I not be pompous when I am speaking truth

to those who seem so wrong?

God, teach me to know how to both speak and listen.

The Scriptures say "Love is not inflated."

God, how can I not be inflated with righteousness in the cause of justice?

God, teach me to know my limits, that I make mistakes

and that I don't always see clearly.

The Scriptures say "Love is not rude."

God, how can I be gracious but also committed to what is right?

God, teach me to respect all my sisters and brothers.

The Scriptures say "Love does not seek its own interests."

God, how can I move beyond my own limits and desires and needs?

God, teach me to understand the needs and perspectives of others, especially the poor.

The Scriptures say "Love is not quick-tempered."

God, how can I learn from my anger?

God, teach me to learn from my strongest emotions.

The Scriptures say "Love does not brood over injury."

God, how can I not get discouraged by all the hurts and injuries in our world?

God, teach me to move forward and get into action for what is right.

The Scriptures say "Love does not rejoice over wrongdoing but rejoices with the truth."

God, how can I stop thinking of what helps my side to win and the other side to lose?

God, teach me to practice a love that wants the truth to win for all people.

The Scriptures say "Love bears all things."

God, how can I bear the stress of trying so hard to do what is right?

God, teach me to let go and to trust in your wisdom.

The Scriptures say "Love believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things."

God, how can I possibly love?

God, teach me that I don't love alone,

but rather in community with you and with all my sisters and brothers.

The Scriptures say "love never fails."

God, how is it that I sometimes feel failure? How can I believe?

God, teach me to love with a heart as big as the world

and to receive love and help with a big heart. Amen.

**GENERAL OFFERING** Today's general offering will be equally divided between Asian Church Women's Conference, where funds support educational scholarships for the disadvantaged and development projects globally. Information to be shared about 2017 Project before offering.

**HYMN: TIS 650 Brother, sister let me serve you**

**Tune: Servant Song**