

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN N.S.W. STATE UNIT

P R A Y E R R A L L Y

11 a.m. MONDAY 28th May, 1979

at

WESLEY CHAPEL, 139 CASTLEREAGH STREET,
S Y D N E Y

INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE CHILD 1979

LEADERS

Mrs. Marie McCann	President, Australian Church Women New South Wales State Unit
Mrs. Marie Robinson	Anglican
Mrs. Linda Perriam	Baptist
Mrs. Marjorie Baker	Churches of Christ
Mrs. Jean Sticpewich	Presbyterian
Dame Monica Gallagher	Roman Catholic
Mrs. Colonel Bernice Cairns	The Salvation Army
Mrs. Nancye O'Reilly	The Uniting Church

The Choir of the Lane Cove - Longueville
Women's Inter-Church Fellowship.

Conductor: Mrs. Beatrice Debus

Organist: Mrs. Gwen Macindoe

ORDER OF SERVICE

ENTRANCE:

CHOIR: A new command I give unto you
That you love one another, as I have loved you.
By this shall all men know that you are my disciples
If you have love one for another.

GREETING:

Mrs. Marie McCann

PRAISE TO GOD:

Mrs. Nancye O'Reilly

We bless Thee O God, for the greatness and wonders
of this life.

For the round world girt about Thy feet in prayer.

For the common tasks and needs which bind our human
hearts to each other - and to Thee.

For the wide vision and the warm heart that reaches
out to other members of the world family

We thank Thee.

So let the strong share the burdens of the weak and
brotherhood be more than a word on our lips.

In this place made quiet and beautiful by Thy Presence,
O Lord, we would forget ourselves and our sins and
littleness, and find ourselves again in Thee.

In Thy Will is our peace.

In Thy keeping is our security

In Thy Call, our challenge.

Accept us anew, we pray, in this quietness, at the
busy day's beginning. Sustain us that we may be
ever aware of Thy nearness.

To Thee be all the honour and the glory.

Amen.

LEADER: Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord God Almighty,
who was, who is and who is to come (Revelation 4:8)

ALL: Lord, we are silent before your Holiness.
There is a greatness beyond our understanding;
a greatness to be seen only by love.

LEADER: Holy, Holy, Holy
The Lord Almighty is holy!
His glory fills the earth (Isaiah 6:3)

ALL: Lord, we look and only begin to see the loveliness,
the caring and the glory and, beginning to see,
we adore.

LEADER: To Him who sits on the Throne, and to the Lamb,
be praise and honour, glory and might, for ever
and ever. (Revelation 5:13)

ALL: We give you thanks and praise, our Father, for all
you have done for the world.

HYMN:

Come, Holy Ghost, our hearts inspire, Let us Thine influence prove, Source of the old prophetic fire Fountain of life and love.	3	Expand Thy wings, celestial Dove; Brood o'er our nature's night; On our disordered spirits move And let there now be light.
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2. Come, Holy Ghost, for moved by Thee The prophets wrote and spoke; Unlock the truth, Thyself the key Unseal the sacred book.	4	God through Himself we then shall know, If Thou within us shine, And sound, with all Thy saints below The depths of love divine.
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(Charles Wesley 1707-88)

READINGS:

Mrs. Linda Perriam

SERVE IN GOD'S NAME:

'Whoever serves must serve with the strength that God gives him'
(1 Peter 4:11)

Romans 12: 1 - 8.

LOVE ONE ANOTHER.

'You are loved by God, therefore put on the garments that suit God's chosen people, his own, his beloved; compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, patience. Be forbearing with one another; where any of you has cause for complaint, you must forgive as the Lord forgave you'. (Col: 3:12)

Philippians 2: 1-11.

CHOIR:

Lead me Lord, lead me in Thy righteousness
Make Thy way plain before my face
For it is Thou, Lord, Thou only
That maketh me dwell in safety.

Samuel Wesley 1810-76.

LITANY OF RECONCILIATION:

Mrs. Marjorie Baker

LEADER: We have - in the past and until today - not always served one another, but fought against one another, ignored one another, and thus contributed to the scandal of the division of Christ's body.

Pray therefore for God's forgiveness.

Lord, when we were still sinners, you loved us first and you took pity on us. With the words of Peter the apostle, we call to you:

Lord, you know everything,

ALL: You know that I love you.

LEADER: Lord, like the apostle Peter, we have also trusted more in ourselves than in your grace; but you, Lord, turn to us and have pity.

Lord, you know everything.

ALL: You know that I love you.

LEADER: We have been proud, and we have considered ourselves better than the rest; but you, Lord, turn to us and have pity.

Lord you know everything.

ALL: You know that I love you.

LEADER: We have often been unfaithful to the gifts of the Spirit in our communities; but you, Lord, turn to us and have pity.
Lord, you know everything.

ALL: You know that I love you.

LEADER: Let us pray that God may forgive our faults, especially those which have separated us from our fellow Christians and have provoked or maintained divisions among us.
(Silent prayer for forgiveness, reconciliation and unity).

LEADER: Because we are loved and forgiven, we forgive each other by the sign of peace:
The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

ALL: And also with you.

THANKS TO GOD: Mrs. Jean Sticpewich

LEADER: Let us give thanks to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ; for he has blessed us in our union with Christ by giving us every spiritual gift in the heavenly world.

ALL: Before the world was made; God had already chosen us to be his in Christ so that we should be holy; and without fault before Him.

LEADER: Because of his love; God had already decided that through Christ Jesus he would bring us to himself as sons; this was his pleasure and his purpose.

ALL: Let us praise God for his glorious grace; for the free gift he gave us in his dear Son. Glory to God; Father Son and Holy Spirit; As in the beginning so now and for ever. Amen.

LEADER: Let us pray,
God our Father, let the Spirit you sent on your Church to begin the teaching of the gospel continue to work in the world through the hearts of all who believe. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

(From 'An Australian Prayer Book')

LEADER: We thank God for the Message He has given us; we pray for help to pass it on in a manner which is clear and understandable.

ALL: Father, you show the world the way to live through the words, life, death and resurrection of your Son Jesus; grant us your grace, that we who follow him may unite to proclaim by word and deed your way to the people of our country; through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

(adapted from 'Call to the North')

LEADER: We thank God for the opportunity to serve Him and to share in preparing His Kingdom; that we are able to manifest our unity in Christian service, despite our divisions.

ALL: Lord Jesus, teach us to be generous,
to serve You as You deserve;
to give without counting the cost;
to fight without heeding the wounds;
to work without seeking rest;
to spend our lives without asking for any reward
except that of knowing that we do your holy will.

Amen.

(St. Ignatius Loyola)

HYMN

All people that on earth do dwell
Sing to the Lord with cheerful voice;
Him serve with love, His praise forth tell,
Come ye before Him, and rejoice.

Know that the Lord, is God indeed;
Without our aid He did us make;
We are His flock, He doth us feed
And for His sheep He doth us take.

Enter then His gates with praise,
Approach with joy His courts unto;
Praise, laud and bless His Name always,
For it is seemly so to do.

For why, the Lord our God is good;
His mercy is forever sure;
His truth at all times firmly stood
And shall from age to age endure.

To Father, Son and Holy Ghost,
The God whom earth and Heaven adore
From men and from the angel-host
Be praise and glory evermore.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION:

Mrs. Marie Robinson.

LEADER: To the glory of God, and following the example of Jesus, we pray together:

ALL: Our Father in Heaven, hallowed be your name;
Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as in Heaven,
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are Yours,
Now and forever.

LEADER: In the Spirit of Christ, we pray for our local Christian communities and churches which belong to different traditions:

ALL: Lord hear our prayer.

LEADER: For those who suffer, out of your great riches supply the need of those distressed in body, mind or heart.

ALL: Lord hear our prayer.

LEADER: For our families, that they may know and love you,

ALL: Lord hear our prayer.

LEADER: We pray also for ourselves that we may keep courage as we work for the unity of Christ's Church.

ALL: Lord hear our prayer.

LEADER: We ask God to deepen our senses of the one thing needful; to deliver us from our disunity and unite us in the service of His Kingdom; to send His Spirit to create in us a childlike heart wholly turned towards the Father.

ALL: Lord, hear our prayer.

LEADER: We ask God to grant us greater charity in our community, and in those of our Christian brothers and sisters, so that the churches may attain a more perfect unity with each other.

ALL: Lord, make us instruments of Your peace,
Where there is hatred, let us sow love;
Where there is injury, pardon;
Where there is doubt, faith;
Where there is despair, hope;
Where there is darkness, light;
Where there is sadness, joy.

LEADER: O Divine Master, grant that we may not so much seek
to be consoled, as to console,
to be understood as to understand,
to be loved as to love.

ALL: For it is giving that we receive,
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

St. Francis of Assisi

LEADER: O God, our Father, you have told us that we must not
judge others, if we ourselves do not want to be judged.

ALL: Help us to never be too critical of each other.

LEADER: Lord God, we trust in You. Let our work be acceptable
to You. Let us be servants to your glory.

ALL: Amen.

OFFERING:

CHOIR: O Brother man, fold to thy heart thy brother;
Where pity dwells, the peace of God is there;
To worship rightly is to love each other,
Each smile a hymn, each kindly deed a prayer.

For he whom Jesus loved hath truly spoken;
The holier worship which He deigns to bless
Restores the lost, and binds the spirit broken,
And feeds the widow and the fatherless.

Follow with reverent steps the great example
Of Him, whose holy work was doing good;
So shall the wide earth seem our Father's temple,
Each loving life a psalm of gratitude.

Then shall all shackles fall; the stormy clangour
Of wild war-music O'er the earth shall cease
Love shall tread out the baleful fire of anger,
And in its ashes plant the tree of peace.

John Greenleaf Whittier.

PRAYER: Mrs. Marie McCann.

These are but symbols of the gifts of our lives that we bring to You this morning, O Father, praying that Your Eternal Love, working through us and others, may bring Christian women toward one another in understanding and trust. We ask humbly that you accept both them and us, through Jesus Christ.

Amen.

DEDICATION

President & State

Executive Members: We affirm the aims of the Australian Church Women, N.S.W. State Unit.

To unite Australian Church Women in their allegiance to their Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ,

To promote co-operation of men and women in the Church family and Society;

To help Christian Women to take a more effective place in the total life and mission of the church;

To provide opportunities for Christian women of different denominations to worship, study and serve together;

To encourage fellowship and service across national boundaries.

ALL: Consecrate to Your Service, O Lord, all Members of Australian Church Women, N.S.W. State Unit, with their offerings of personality, character, talent and ability, that the lives so dedicated may be channels through which Australian Church Women will be used to bring blessing to Christian Women throughout the State.

A.C.W. Council Members: Support us we pray from day to day, that we may all work together in harmonious co-operation to the end that we may glorify our Maker and Redeemer. However Your Glory may best be served, O Lord, grant to us, Your servants, in that way to serve.

ALL: Pour out your Spirit in full measure on all members, O God, that wisdom, strength and direction may be theirs as they need.

Amen.

Dame Monica Gallagher.

'Bring children to Jesus, care for them, the greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven is the one who humbles himself and becomes like a child; and the person who welcomes in My Name one such child as this, welcomes Me'. (Matthew 13:5)

READING: Mark 10: 13-16.

A LITANY FOR CHILDREN: (Litany based on the Rights of the Child as recited at the New York I.Y.C. Service)

Hear our Children.

LEADER: Children watch us to learn from what we do and say. They see more than we imagine. Children call to us, openly and in silence. They ask our help and understanding.

ALL: As individuals of diverse religious traditions, we join together in our shared concern.

LEADER: Let us hear our children; let us celebrate their presence with thanks. Let us commit ourselves to achieve for them the rights they need for life.

ALL: Millions of children are hungry and sick. We reaffirm their 'Right to adequate nutrition and medical care'.

LEADER: Many grow up in ignorance. We reaffirm their 'Right to a Free Education'.

ALL: Thousands are bound to labor which stunts their growth. We reaffirm their 'Right to full opportunity for play and recreation'.

LEADER: There are those who are nameless, and rootless. We reaffirm their 'Right to a home and nationality'.

ALL: Some who are handicapped struggle alone. We reaffirm their 'Right to special care if handicapped'.

LEADER: Children suffer first in disaster and suffer most. We reaffirm their 'Right to be among the first to receive relief in times of disaster'.

ALL: Young people often cannot find a place to be and grow. We reaffirm their 'Right to be a useful member of Society and to develop individual abilities.

LEADER: Across all our differences of thought, outlook and religious allegiance,

ALL: Unite us, Jesus.

LEADER: O God, for Thy greater glory

ALL: Gather together the separated Christians.

LEADER: O God, for the triumph of goodness and truth,

ALL: Gather together the separated Christians.

LEADER: O God, that there may henceforth be one flock and one Shepherd,

ALL: Gather together the separated Christians.

LEADER: O God, to confound the pride of Satan and his assaults,

ALL: Gather together the separated Christians.

LEADER: O God, that peace may reign in the world at last,

ALL: Gather together the separated Christians.

LEADER: O God, for the greater joy of the heart of Thy Son.

ALL: Gather together the separated Christians.

(A Prayer of Fr. Couturier of Lyons, France)

ALL: Lord Jesus Christ, at Your Last Supper You prayed to the Father that all should be one. Send Your Holy Spirit upon all who bear Your Name and seek to serve You. Strengthen our faith in You and make us love one another in humility. May we who have been re-born in one baptism all be united in one faith under one shepherd. Amen.

LEADER: Let us pray that the unity of the Church may be accomplished so that Christ may be recognised as our Saviour, and God be glorified by all peoples.

ALL: God, our Father, You can make all things new.

LEADER: We commit ourselves to you.

ALL: Help us:
to live for others since your love includes everyone;
to seek those truths which we have not yet seen;
to obey your commands which we have heard but not yet obeyed;
to trust each other in the fellowship which you have given us;
and may we be renewed by Your Spirit through Jesus Christ your Son, our Lord. Amen.

(WCC Uppsala Assembly)

As for my friends, they are not lost;
the several vessels of thy fleet,
Though parted now, by tempst tossed,
shall safely in the haven meet.

Still we are centered all in thee,
members, though distant, of one head;
In the same family we be
by the same faith and spirit led.

Before Thy throne we daily meet
as joint-petitioners to thee;
In spirit we each other greet,
and shall again each other see.

The heavenly hosts, world without end,
shall be my company above;
And thou, my best and surest friend,
Who shall divide me from thy love?

.....oOo.....

Warm thanks are expressed to the Leaders and the Choir and
to all who participated in the Prayer Rally.

We acknowledge the use of the leaflet 'Week of Prayer for
Christian Unity' - May 24th - June 3rd 1979.

The offering from the Rally today is for Australian Church
Women N.S.W. State Unit funds.

Wesley Central Mission is thanked for the use of the Chapel.

You are invited to the Luncheon and Forum to be held in the
Meeting Rooms on the first floor of The Uniting Church Offices.

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Care
International Year
of the Child 1979



Prayer Rally in Wesley Chapel 28 May 1979

Participants, Executive Members and Lane Cove-Longueville Inter-Church Choir



Participants at the Prayer Rally 28 May 1979 at Wesley Chapel

Mrs M Baker, Church of Christ; Major M Kinder, The Salvation Army;

Mrs J Sticpewich, Presbyterian; Mrs M Robinson, Anglican;

Dame Monica Gallagher, Catholic; Mrs M McCann, President ACW NSW;

Mrs N O'Reilly, Uniting Church; Mrs G West, Baptist.