

Benediction:

Leader: Go out into the world in peace;
have courage, hold on to what is good;
return no man evil for evil;
strengthen the fainthearted;
support the weak;
help the suffering; honour all men;
love the unloved;
serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power
of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Unit News and Information

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Australian Church Women Fellowship Day 2006

I
am
the
Bread
of
Life



*Whoever comes to me
will never be hungry,
and whoever believes in me
will never be thirsty.*

John 6:35

Australian Church Women

Australian Church Women was established in 1965 when women's interchurch councils from all states and territories came together to form Australian Church Women, fostering ecumenism and undertaking action on behalf of the churches.

Australian Church Women forms a network of committed Christian women dedicated to encourage fellowship and service across denominational, national and international boundaries.

Winifred Kiek Scholarship

The offerings at Fellowship Day Services throughout Australia go to this scholarship, which Winifred Kiek, the first woman minister ordained in Australia, was influential in founding. The scholarship is offered to Christian women of multicultural Australia, Pacific Island nations and member countries of the Asian Church Women's Conference.

Today's Order of Service was prepared by the Queensland Unit of Australian Church Women.

Preferred Scripture translation—New International Version (NIV)

Abbreviations:

AHB Australian Hymn Book
TIS Together in Song

Please Note:

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I am the Bread of Life

(Preparation:

Display a loaf of bread and a jug of water on a table.)

Welcome and Greetings:

Call to Worship:

Psalm 100

Leader: Be joyful in the Lord, all you lands;

*All: serve the Lord with gladness
and come before his name with a song.*

Leader: Know this: the Lord himself is God;

*All: he has made us, and we are his;
we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.*

Leader: Enter his gates with thanksgiving;
go into his courts with praise;

All: give thanks to him and call upon his name.

Leader: For the Lord is good;
his mercy everlasting;

*All: and his faithfulness endures from age to age.
Amen.*

Hymn: Immortal, invisible, God only wise (AHB 80)
(TIS 143)

Prayer of Thanksgiving:

Leader: Give thanks to the Lord;

All: *his love lasts forever.*

Leader: Give thanks to him, the God of Gods:
give thanks to him, the Lord of Lords:
for God alone works miracles:

All: *his love lasts forever.*

Leader: The skies were made at his command:
he spread the seas upon the earth:
he made the stars to shine at night:
he made the sun to shine by day:

All: *his love lasts forever.*

Leader: He brought us out from slavery:
he leads us onward by his grace:
he saves us from our enemies:

All: *his love lasts forever.*

The Lord's Prayer:

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. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen. (ecumenical version)

Scripture Reading: John 6:1–15

Hymn: I heard the voice of Jesus say (AHB 500)
(TIS 585)

Solo:

Offering:

Prayer:

Leader: Our gracious Heavenly Father, we bring to you our gifts from willing hearts. We pray that these offerings be used effectively by the Winifred Kiek Scholarship Trust for the purposes that bring glory to your Holy Name. We thank you for the women whose lives have been enriched in the past and present by being recipients of the Winifred Kiek Scholarship. We think of those who will be recipients in the future and pray that wise decisions will be made in making these selections. We look to you our Father, that you will guide us all as we in turn support these scholars. We pray for all who work to spread your good news of love and redemption as we give you thanks and praise.

All: *In the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.*

Reading: adapted from John 6:25–40

Leader: When the people saw Jesus on the other side of the lake, they said to him:

Reader 1: Teacher!

Reader 2: When did you get here?

Jesus: I tell you the truth, you are looking for me, not because you saw miraculous signs but because you ate the loaves and had your fill. Do not work for food that spoils, but for food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. On him God the Father has placed his seal of approval.

Reader 1: What must we do to do the works God requires?

Jesus: The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent.

Reader 2: What miraculous sign then will you give that we may see it and believe you?

Reader 1: What will you do? Our forefathers ate manna in the desert; as it is written; he gave them bread from heaven to eat.

Jesus: I tell you the truth, it is not Moses who has given you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.

Readers 1 & 2: Sir, from now on give us this bread.

Jesus: I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty. But as I told you, you have seen me and still you do not believe. All that the father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away. For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me. And this is the will of him who sent me, that I shall lose none of all that he has given me, but raise them up at the last day. For my Father's will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day.

Speaker:

Hymn: Guide me O thou great Jehovah (AHB 478)
(TIS 499)

Prayer of Confession and Forgiveness:

Leader: Our Father, we ask you to forgive us when we do not place you first in our lives.

All: *Forgive us, we pray.*

Leader: We acknowledge that we often make idols of power and possessions and often damage others with our words.

All: *Be merciful to us, we pray.*

Leader: May you who are the Bread of Life receive our prayers for those who hunger for freedom and justice; for all who struggle for peace and the welfare of the world.

All: *In your mercy, hear us, O Lord.*

Leader: Jesus, our True and Living Bread, receive our prayers on behalf of our community, our neighbours and our families.

All: *Hear the prayers we offer, Lord Jesus.*

Leader: As you fed your people of old, feed today those who hunger to hear your Good News of grace and forgiveness.

All: *Loving God, hear our prayer.*

Leader: We pray for those in trouble and distress; for the friendless and unwanted; for those who are frail, ill or confused.

All: *Father, make us agents of your transforming grace and in your mercy, hear us.*

Hymn: Jesus thou joy of loving hearts (AHB 420)
(TIS 499)