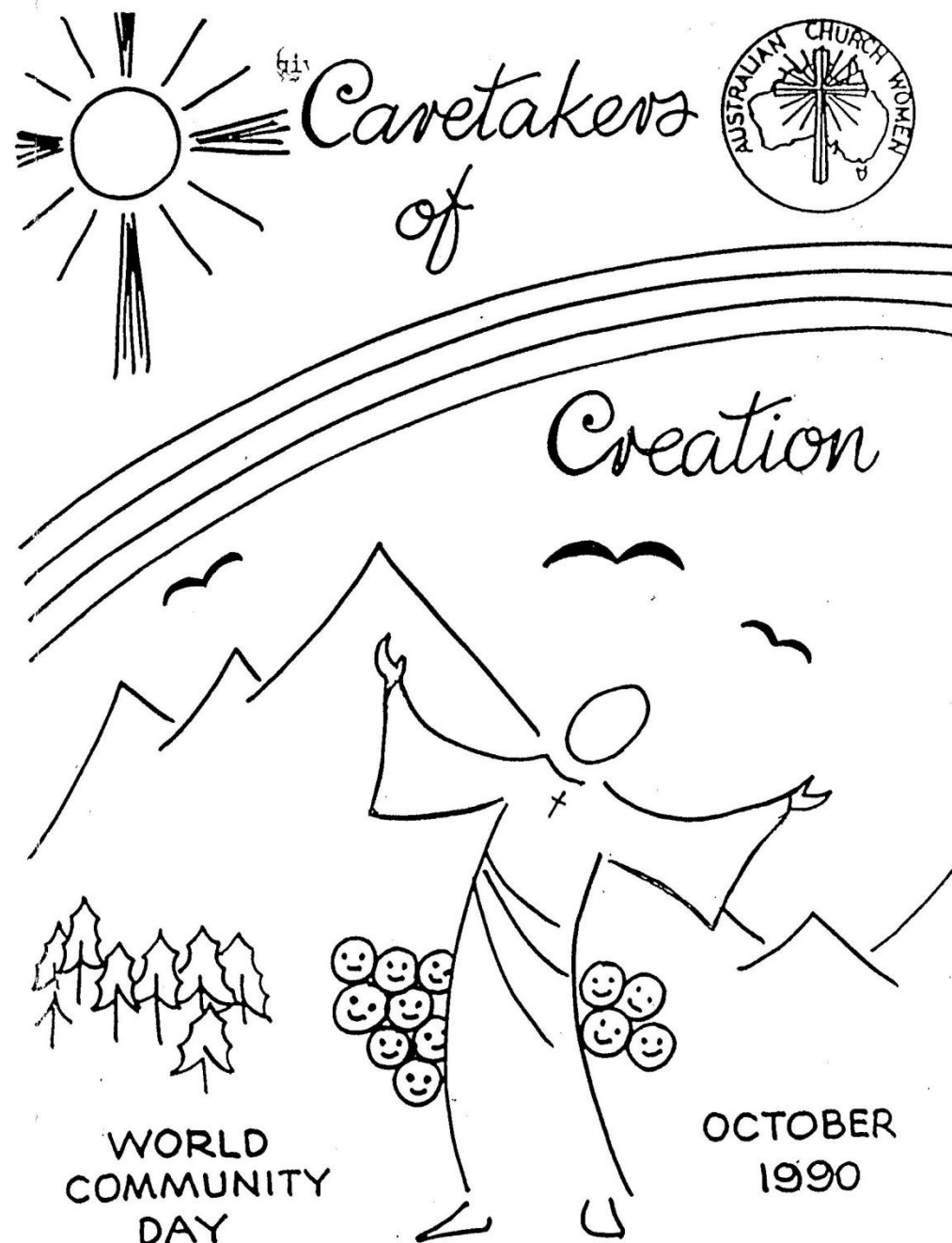


STATE UNIT INFORMATION.



Fellowship Day, July, 1991, will be prepared
by the N.S.W. Unit.
THEME: "Praise the Lord with gladness."

WORLD COMMUNITY DAY -- CARETAKERS OF CREATION.

INTRODUCTION.

LEADER 1. God said "I put my rainbow in the clouds. It shall be a symbol of the covenant between myself and you and every living creature."

READING: Genesis 9: 8-17.

LEADER 2. The covenant God made with Noah and symbolised by the rainbow is a continuing reminder that His gracious love includes everything that lives on earth. It also reminds us that harmony should exist between humans and the rest of the natural world.

ALL: Help us, Lord God, to understand clearly the inter-dependence of all creation and enable us, through the power of the Holy Spirit, ever to be CARETAKERS of CREATION.

HYMN No. 112. AHB. Tune: Austria 374 AHB. (i) 87.87.D.
GOD WHO STRETCHED THE SPANGLED HEAVENS.

OR

O WORSHIP THE KING ALL GLORIOUS ABOVE.

10 10. 11 11.

GOD'S LAND.

READING: Leviticus 25: verse 23.

LEADER 1. In the Scriptures God reveals our right relationship with all the things of His created world. This relationship brings responsibility, and, as Christians, we must be vigilant in caring for His creation, that it may not be destroyed by selfishness or thoughtlessness.

LEADER 2. As Christians, we acknowledge our responsibility as we hear the words of your servant Moses:

READING: Deuteronomy 11: 11-12.

ALL: We pray, Lord, that you will enable us, through the power of the Holy Spirit, ever to be CARETAKERS of CREATION.

GOD'S PEOPLE.

READING: Genesis 1: 26-31.

2.

LEADER 1. "God saw everything He had made and behold, it was good."
The goodness of creation, the beauty of flowers, the songs of birds, the companionship of men and women, the careful provision for their needs, reveals the goodness of God.

LEADER 2. O God, the Creator of all things, who made mankind in your own image, open our eyes to see you everywhere and glorify you in all your works.

ALL: We pray, Father, that you will enable us, through the power of the Holy Spirit, ever to be CARETAKERS of CREATION.

LEADER 1. "The Lord God placed man in the garden of Eden to cultivate and guard it."
O Lord God, who appointed all human beings to work and be guardians of this earth, may we be faithful stewards of all creation, co-operating with the processes of the natural world in order to increase and preserve its fruitfulness.

ALL: According to our stewardship the Kingdom of God on earth will be either enhanced or degraded. We pray, Lord God, that you will enable us, through the power of the Holy Spirit, ever to be CARETAKERS of CREATION.

HYMN No. 70. Tune (ii) 76. 76.
ALL THINGS BRIGHT AND BEAUTIFUL.

ACT OF THANKSGIVING.

READING: James 1: 17-18.

LEADER 1. Let us give thanks and praise to the Lord our Maker for His many gifts to us. For the colours of flowers and the songs of birds:

ALL: Lord, we THANK you.

LEADER 2. For the seasons with their changing splendour,

ALL: Lord, we THANK you.

LEADER 1. For the wealth and resources of our land which you have provided for our use:

ALL: LORD, we THANK you.

3.

LEADER 2. For your workmanship on land, in the sea and in the sky:

ALL: Lord, we THANK you.

LEADER 1. For the beauty and wonder of creation and for the mystery of your unfailing love:

ALL: Lord, we THANK and PRAISE you.

READING: Romans 11: 33-36.

HYMN No. 116 AHB. Tune Richmond (ii) 141 AHB 86.86.
HOW DEEP THE RICHES OF OUR GOD.

or

IMMORTAL, INVISIBLE, GOD ONLY WISE. 11 11. 11 11.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION.

LEADER 1. The beautiful world you made and with which you were pleased, is being spoiled through ignorance and greed.

ALL: Forgive us our sins, O Lord.

LEADER 2. You made the seas and the creatures that live in them which are now being choked by filth and oil. You made the creatures that live on the land and those that fly in the air. You looked at them and said "Good!" Many of these creatures have disappeared.

ALL: Forgive us our sins, O Lord.

LEADER 1. Gracious God, you also made us; made us with the ability to think and learn. Now people try to improve on your work; they make a great deal of noise and smoke, indestructable refuse and waste products. We are spoiling your world with pollutants and effluents.

ALL: Forgive us our sins, O Lord.

LEADER 2. Wonderful gifts we have received from you, Father, riches beyond imagination. Now we have dangerous roads, speeding cars and fast aeroplanes; thousands killed, maimed and bereaved every day - in a second, in a pile up, with enormous noise, in considerable indignity.

ALL: Forgive us our sins, O Lord.

LEADER 1. Heavenly Father, every spring you make the earth new again; every summer everything grows; every autumn you show us colours that catch the breath; every winter you remind us of regeneration in all you have made, you remind us that earth is sleeping.

LEADER 2. We need this reminder, Lord. We misuse and mar your creation. Even worse, many of us do not even notice or care. We are truly sorry. You forgive our sins, Lord. Forgive us now for our failures and our sins of indifference.

ALL: You forgive our sins, Lord. Forgive us now for our sins of indifference. Amen.

Music voluntary, during which the offerings for the FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN will be brought forward.

LEADER 1. Heavenly Father, accept these offerings, gathered from far and near; may we demonstrate our concern for all your children.

ALL: May they help to bring peace and reconciliation among all people; may they truly love one another, as you, our Father, love us, through Jesus your Son, our Saviour and Lord. Amen.

HYMN No. 106 AHB. Tune Darwall. 147 AHB. (ii) 66.66.88.
LORD BRING THE DAY TO PASS.

or

THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD (23rd Psalm)

Tune: Crimmond.

ADDRESS: CARETAKERS of CREATION.

Music Voluntary during which the offerings for WORLD COMMUNITY DAY will be received.

DEDICATION OF OFFERINGS.

LEADER 2. Father, we give back to you in thankfulness what you have given us in your kindness. We acknowledge that the world and its resources are not ours, but yours, and that you have given us charge as your trustees.

5.

Help us to exercise responsibly the authority and stewardship you have given us. May Jesus, your Son, be our example in dealing with one another, and with the rest of creation.

Of all your wonderful gifts, the greatest is Jesus Christ, who by His sacrifice on the cross and His resurrection, offers New Life to all who believe in Him. Jesus is truth; so help us to take seriously our quest for truth. He is life; give us reverence for life. Give us His joy in life, for He saw that everything that He had created was good. We ask, too, for His compassion and care for all life, so that in everything you will be glorified.

ALL: Praise and victory to Him from all and in all, for ever and ever.

Amen.

OUR GOAL.

READING: Phillipians 4: 8-9.

LEADER 1. If we follow Christ's standards of truth, honour, justice, purity and love, we will have strength and courage to influence those who do not understand your works and whose eyes are not open to the bounty of your love in your created beauty which surrounds us.

LEADER 2. O Lord, we pray that we and all mankind will hold in reverence all created things, for the sake of Him who made and sustains us all.

ALL: By Christ's example may we be CARETAKERS OF CREATION.

OUR CHALLENGE.

LEADER 1. We are faced with ever increasing loss of species in animal and plant life throughout the world. This often irreversible destruction is one of the most important challenges of our time.

LEADER 2. Lord, help us to respond to this challenge; to realise that many of the processes of modern technological-consumer-throwaway society are responsible for changing the chemistry of the air, poisoning the water and causing massive soil erosion.

ALL:

Lord, help us to respond to this challenge by enabling us, through the power of the Holy Spirit, ever to be CARETAKERS of CREATION.

OUR DEDICATION.

LEADER 1. God who created this beautiful world, must surely be grieved by the destruction which is taking place in our time. He calls everyone of us, each in his or her own way, some in special ways, to dedicate ourselves to the healing and caring for the earth.

ALL: We acknowledge this call and dedicate ourselves to be CARETAKERS of CREATION.

LEADER 2. We give thanks and praise for those who have dedicated themselves, in the face of danger and ridicule, to protect our environment as they stand for what they believe to be the right.

ALL: We rejoice in their dedication as CARETAKERS of CREATION.

LEADER 1. O Lord God, Creator of the world, who is ever re-creating with marvellous order and beauty, give us the grace to understand, acknowledge and appreciate your workmanship and wisdom that we will all become CARETAKERS OF CREATION.

ALL: We pray, Lord, that you will enable us, through the power of the Holy Spirit, ever to be CARETAKERS of CREATION,

HYMN: "FOR AUSTRALIA" Tune" Westminster Abbey.
343 AHB. (ii) 87.87.87.

Lord of earth and all creation
Let your love possess our land;
Wealth and freedom, far horizons,
Mountains, forest, shining sand;
May we share in faith and friendship,
Gifts unmeasured from your hand.

People of the ancient dreamtime
They who found the country first,
Ask with those, the later comers,
Will our dream be blessed or cursed?

7.

Grant us, Lord, new birth, new living
Hope for which our children thirst.

Lord, life-giving healing spirit,
On our hurts your mercy shower:
Lead us by your inward dwelling,
Guiding, guarding, every hour.
Bless and keep our land Australia
In your will, her peace and power.

Michael & Honor Thwaites, Canberra.
(Permission granted).

ALL:

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God, and the fellowship and
guidance of the Holy Spirit, be with us
all, now and forever.

AMEN.

ooooOoooo

As requested by those who do not have the AHB
available for their use, alternative hymns have
been suggested.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS: (Optional - Use if desired)

1. As part of God's great creation of the universe, how can we restore and beautify our small section of His world?
2. What does the vast distance of space, the wonder and immensity, mean to us in our Christian witness?
3. We read how Francis of Assisi had a great love for all living creatures. In a world where there is so much disregard for other life-forms what is our role in helping to upgrade these standards?
4. Surrounded by lust for power and possessions, how can we maintain and encourage the humble dignity of those who share God's creation with us?
5. How did Christ show by example his love and concern for creation and how can we show that same love and concern?

Today's Service was prepared by the
AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY UNIT
of Australian Church Women

Cover Design by Bernadette Hogg, Chapman A.C.T.

The Offertory from this Service is to be divided between our 1981 Winifred Kiek Scholar, Malini Weerasinghe (Mrs. Devandanda) for the publishing of simple Bible Stories for children through the Church of Sri Lanka, and Administrative Funds of Asian Church Women's Conference, of which Australian Church Women is a member organisation.