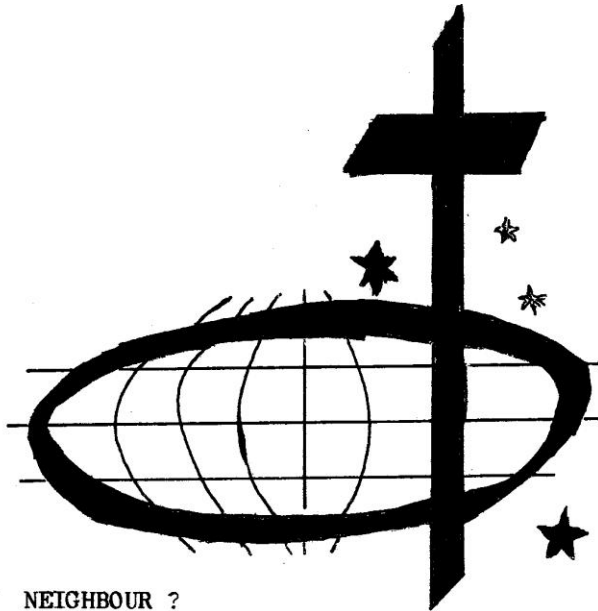


COMMUNITY

DAY

WORSHIP

SERVICE



WHO IS MY NEIGHBOUR ?

Organ Prelude.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Open our lips, O Lord, and purify our hearts that we may offer thee service worthy of thy holy name.

"... rend your hearts and not your garments." Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful.

(Joel 2: 13)

Response: I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son . . ."

(Luke 15: 18-19)

Leader: Let us confess our failures unto Almighty God.

All: We confess unto Thee, O heavenly Father, as thy children our hardness, indifference, and impenitence toward thy commandments of love of thee and of our fellow men. We confess our timorousness as thy Church to be thy witness before the world. We lament the suffering and bitterness which has resulted from our omissions. Grant that we feel contrition. Give us grace to amend our ways, and, by the inspiration of thy holy spirit, to accept with our minds and feel with our hearts, the meaning of love to heal the hurts of our present society.

Leader: "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me." as we pray the Lord's Prayer.

Statement on the Significance of Community Day

HYMN: "Once to Every Man and Nation".

RESPONSIVE READING

Leader: The Lord looks down from heaven, he sees all the sons of men;

Response: From where he sits enthroned he looks forth on all the inhabitants of the earth, he who fashions the hearts of them all, and observes all their deeds. (Psalm 33: 13-15)

Leader: Show us thy steadfast love, O Lord, and grant us thy salvation.

Response: Let me hear what God the Lord will speak, for he will speak peace to his people, to his saints, to those who turn to him in their hearts.

Leader: Surely his salvation is at hand for those who fear him, that glory may dwell in our land.

Response: Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet; righteousness and peace will kiss each other.

Leader: Faithfulness will spring up from the ground, and righteousness will look down from the sky.

Response: Yea, the Lord will give what is good, and our land will yield its increase. Righteousness will go before him, and make his footsteps a way. (Psalm 85: 7-13)

THE LESSONS

First Reader: Old Testament, Isaiah 11: 1 - 9

Second Reader: New Testament, John 3: 14 - 24

HYMN: "In Christ There is no East or West"

RESPONSIVE READING

Leader: As individual members of God's family we now affirm

All: I believe in God.

Leader: God, Creator, Law-Giver, Redeemer, Indweller, Judge. God the Father of us all.

All: I am, therefore, the child of God.

Leader: We love him because he first loved us and while we were sinners sent his only begotten son to redeem us, to the end that all who believe on him should be saved.

All: I know that all men everywhere are the children of God, loved by him.

Leader: And if children, then heirs and inheritors of his kingdom.  
All: As I am loved by God, so must I love my fellow men.  
Leader: If we separate ourselves from others of God's family, we separate ourselves from God from whom we derive the gifts of individual dignity and worth, freedom, and personality. We cut ourselves off from his love and power by our disobedience and suffer the futility of human endeavour without his grace. Let us pray that his inestimable love may shine through us in his ministry of reconciliation.

A LITANY FOR GOD'S FAMILY.

Leader: O eternal Father, who has shown the way thy family should walk in righteousness, turn us from paths of prejudice and privilege, from indifference and indolence, from superiority and selfishness; redirect our desires and labours in accordance with thy will for which thy son was content to die, even Jesus Christ, our Lord. AMEN.

Response: Thy kingdom come on earth, O Lord.

Leader: From refusing to share the sufferings of others, from ignoring the pain of unjust rejection,

Response: Good Lord, deliver us.

Leader: From indifference to those in doubt, to those who are oversensitive or afraid, to those who are handicapped in the race of life by the accident of birth,

Response: Good Lord, deliver us.

Leader: From vainglorious pride of heritage, education, and money which lead us to forget the source of human talent and growth,

Response: Good Lord, deliver us.

Leader: Grant, O Lord, that we may recognize loving kinship deeper than mere tolerating fellowship.

Response: O Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: That we welcome those of other lands who seek the blessings of this nation,

Response: O Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: That those who by hostility, arrogance, or indifference to their fellow men have been separated in our society from God's family be cleansed from bitterness and hostility.

Response: O Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: That all people exercise their freedoms in combating false doctrines, and be given the understanding to distinguish between truth and the error of those who distort truth,

Response: O Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: And let our cry come unto thee.

HYMN: "Rise up, O Men of God".

SPEAKER: "Who is my neighbour?"

LEADER: Our Father, we thank thee for every evidence of the awakening realization of thy holy kinship of all mankind; for the contributions of all racial groups to our daily life in education, the arts, and recreation; in government, business and industry. We thank thee for the prophetic voices raised against the evils of exclusiveness in our time. We thank thee for the kindling affection which visions an undivided Church. We thank thee for thy immeasurable love which created us and saves us. Let us respond to thy grace.

OFFERTORY: Organ or vocal solo.

PRESENTATION OF OFFERING.

HYMN: "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow."

BENEDICTION

Leader: Peace be to the family, and love with faith, from God the father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Grace be with all those who love our Lord Jesus Christ with love undying. (Ephesians 6: 23-24)

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This service was written by Mrs. Milton Farmer.  
Prepared for the United Church Women of the USA.

COMMUNITY DAY is built around the belief that all men are children of God, that life is of one piece, that all humanity is bound up together, and that neither segments of life nor branches of the human family can be divided off for separate treatment.

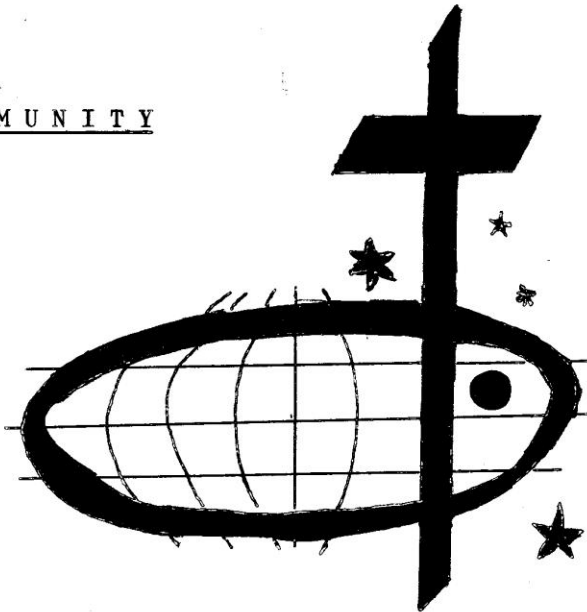
COMMUNITY DAY SEEKS

- . to unite church women in a new understanding of the world and its needs, which when seen in the light of Christian principles and responsibilities will result in positive constructive action;
- . to promote work together among church women which will speed progress toward lasting world peace;
- . to express the concern of the churches for the welfare of the peoples in other countries, and for the building of a Christian world order based on justice under law.

Produced by Interim Committee of Australian Church Women  
511 Kent Street, Sydney.

C O M M U N I T Y

D A Y



W H O   I S   M Y   N E I G H B O U R ?

This study has been prepared for use  
on Community Day 1963.

It is suggested that the study be used  
in groups of 10 - 12 with a leader who  
has had the opportunity of preparation  
by having had the material prior to  
the day.

Prepared by the Interim Committee  
of  
Australian Church Women.

W H O . I S M Y

STUDY MATERIAL:

Luke 10: 25 - 37

Mark 12: 29 - 31

A short commentary on the first passage:

William Barclay has an interesting chapter on 'Who is my neighbour?' in his book, The Gospel of St. Luke. He writes:

"Jesus' answer to the lawyer involves three things. (i) We must help a man even when he has brought his trouble on himself, as the traveller by his recklessness had done.

(ii) Any man of any nation who is in need is our neighbour. Our help must be as wide as the love of God.

(iii) The help must be practical and must not consist merely in feeling sorry."

Each member is asked to read the Bible passages and commentary above in quiet meditation.

As questions are studied allow time for individual members to read them and then share their discoveries with their neighbours sitting next to them. Then ask the group to share their findings and their further questions.

## NEIGHBOUR ?

### QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. There are three different objects of love as stated in the Bible - self, neighbour, God.  
What is the common order of precedence?  
What is the Christian order?  
Why did Jesus make the love of self the standard of love of neighbour?  
Is there a difference between love of self (self respect) and self love?
2. "Who is my neighbour?" "Which was neighbour unto him that fell among the thieves?"  
What is the significance of Jesus' turning of the question and asking? "Which was neighbour?"  
Does not Jesus suggest that the lawyer's question should be, "To whom am I neighbour?"  
Similarly he could have asked, "To whom am I enemy?"
3. To whom am I neighbour?
  - (a) How would such an attitude of neighbourliness on the part of all church women affect the two million migrants in Australia?
  - (b) How far can we be neighbours to the Aborigines in our capital cities, in the towns and in the country district of Australia?
  - (c) How can we be neighbours to the people living in South East Asia, Africa and Russia?

NOTES

Enquiries c/o Room 2, 3rd floor, 511 Kent Street  
Sydney