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World Community Day Service 2011



Reflecting the Light of Christ

Psalms 112:4

The light shines in the darkness for those who are merciful, kind and just.

Australian Church Women Inc came into being in 1965 when Women's Inter-church Councils from all states and territories came together to form a group to foster ecumenism and undertake action on behalf of Church women. Australian Church Women Inc now forms a network of committed Christian women, dedicated to encourage fellowship and service across denominational, national and international boundaries.

Fellowship of the Least Coin encourages everyone to pray for justice and reconciliation and offer their least coin as a token of prayer. Monies collected during each year are brought to World Community Day Services by groups and individuals, and are dedicated. These funds are then sent to State/Territory Treasurers who forward them to the National Treasurer of ACW Inc who in turn sends the funds to International Committee of the Least Coin (IFLC) where up to 50 grants are given to programs, supporting and encouraging women in particular, in all regions of the world.

The Special Day Project for 2011 is the Red Cap Anger Management/Breakfast Clubs run by the Salvation Army in various primary schools in the ACT. The Breakfast club provides a healthy breakfast for children (and sometimes teachers) who for various reasons arrive at school without having eaten. Red Cap is an early intervention anger management program for primary school children. The children are identified as needing assistance to deal appropriately with their emotional responses in stressful situations. The program teaches children to identify their emotions and develop skills to recognise their anger triggers and deal with their feelings in a positive manner.

The General Offering from this service will be divided between Asian Church Women's Conference, with which ACW Inc is affiliated and supports annually, and the 2011 Special Day Project.

Today's order of Service has been prepared by the South Australian Unit Inc of
Australian Church Women Inc

Hymns have been chosen from *Together in Song* and *Altogether Now*
Acknowledgement is made to the Asian Church Women's Newsletter July-September 2010 for the Creed

Cover: The cover of the Order of Service contains a photograph taken by Rev Nita West – this is copyright and may not be reused or otherwise altered without written permission.

Note: The Order of Service is copyright and may not be rewritten or otherwise altered, except for additional prayers where relevant for the current situation. The hymns have been carefully chosen and should only be altered if a local situation makes it very difficult to retain the set hymns.

Reflecting the Light of Christ

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

Opening

Prayer

I watch this morning
for the light that the darkness has not overcome.
I watch for the fire that was in the beginning
and that burns still in the brilliance of the rising sun.
I watch for the glow of life that gleams in the growing earth
and glistens in sea and sky.
I watch for your light, O God,
in the eyes of every living creature
and in the ever living flame of my own soul.
If the grace of seeing were mine this day
I would glimpse you in all that lives.
Grant me the grace of seeing this day.
Grant me the grace of seeing.

HYMN

Tis 111 *Praise to the Lord*

PRAYER

Reflection on Creation (Confession)

Leader When the sun shines brightly,
All God encourages us to make the most of our days and to fill them with family and friends.
Leader When the thunder rolls across the sky and the rain pours down,
All God reminds us that there are storms in life, but, with faith, the good times will return.
Leader On days when the sky is black,
All God is there for us; God provides a glimmer of light in the darkness.
Leader When we see a rainbow in the sky,
All we know that God's eternal hope is there for us; our doubts and lack of confidence come to nothing.
Time of Reflection

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Leader O God, you are there for us on our bright and sunny days,
and you are there for us when the dark tempting forces
surround us.

All You give us strength to come through the storm unafraid.
In the turmoil and stress of new beginnings, you are there
for us.

Leader We give you thanks for the reality of your peace,
All O forgiving God!

Amen

CREED (please stand) We say together in faith

All Holy, holy, holy
is the Lord God almighty
who was, and is, and is to come.

Leader We believe in God the Father,
who created all things:

All for by his will they were created and have their being

Leader We believe in God the son, who was slain:

All for with his blood, he purchased us for God,
for every tribe and language,
for every people and nation.

Leader We believe in God the Holy Spirit:

All the Spirit says 'Come!'

Even so, Come Lord Jesus!

Amen

Asian Church Women's Conference Newsletter July-September 2010

HYMN Tis 239 Jesus the Lord said

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Isaiah Chapter 9 Verses 2 - 3

This is the Word of the Lord

All Thanks be to God.

Matthew Chapter 5 Verses 14 -16

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE

Reflecting the Light of Christ

HYMN Lambeth Praise 133 Longing for light, we wait in darkness

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Leader Lord, open our mouths for those who cannot speak for
themselves, for the rights of all who are left desolate and
defenceless.

Proverbs 31:8

Response **Lord, you give us light, you dispel our darkness.**

Leader For our world:

Gracious God,
Through your Son you have taught us that nothing in life or
in death is able to separate us from your love.
Look in mercy on all to whom great sorrow has come
through tragedy and natural disaster,
Help those who are injured, support those who are dying.
Strengthen the members of the emergency services.
Console and protect those who have lost loved ones.
Give your light in darkness to all who are near despair, and
assure them that you hold all souls in life;
through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.

Response **Lord, you give us light, you dispel the darkness.**

Leader For the nations:

Gracious God, we remember before you the world's great
needs and its un-noticed sorrows:

- the countries where some are intoxicated with war,
but most are desperately weary of it.
- the countries where silent slaughter is still happening,
while the world's gaze has moved on.
- the countries in deep need where children die for want
of clean water and a spoonful of sugar.

Give your light in darkness to all who suffer violence, and
assure them that you hold all souls in life;
through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.

Response Lord, you give us light, you dispel the darkness.

Leader For Australia:

Gracious God, we give you thanks for this ancient and beautiful land,
a land of despair and hope,
a land of wealth and abundant harvests
a land of fire, drought and flood.

We pray that your Spirit may continue to move in this land and bring forgiveness, reconciliation, and an end to all injustice.

Give your light in darkness to all of this land and assure them that you hold all souls in life;
through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.

Response Lord, you give us light, you dispel the darkness.

Leader For sisters and brothers in Christ:

Gracious God, we thank you for the communities from which we come; our spiritual family, a household of faith.
May it be a place where people are welcomed and nourished.

Our social community of which we are a part.

May it be a place where all can flourish and the weak be cared for.

Our ecumenical community where we come together in Christ.

May it be a place of acceptance and love.

Give your light in darkness to us all and assure us that you hold all souls in life;
through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.

Response Lord, you give us light, you dispel the darkness.

Let us repeat together the Lord's Prayer (in the version with which you are familiar)

OFFERINGS

The Fellowship of the Least Coin

(Those participating come forward with their offerings – standing together for the prayer of Dedication)

OFFERING PRAYER

Leader Let these gifts bring light, O God!

All The light of companionship, when journeys are taken;
the light of confidence, when evil is encountered;
the light of fulfilment, when our goal is reached;
the light of Christ, when confusion threatens;
the light of generosity, when needs come clear.

Leader Bless these gifts, and bless us, the givers, as we use them in Christian service.

Amen

HYMN

Altogether Now 83 Pass it on

OFFERING Asian Church Women's Conference/Special Project

BLESSING

All to Share

May the light of God guide us
May the love of God enfold us.
May the power of God protect us
May the presence of God watch over us
For wherever we are, God is.

Amen

Leader Go in the power of the Holy Spirit
Reflecting the light of Christ to all you meet.
Amen

Pass it on

It only takes a spark
to get a fire going,
And soon all those around
can warm up in its glowing;
That's how it is with God's Love,
Once you've experienced it,
You spread the love to everyone
You want to pass it on.

What a wondrous time is spring,
When all the trees are budding
The birds begin to sing,
the flowers start their blooming;
That's how it is with God's love,
Once you've experienced it.
You want to sing, it's fresh like spring,
You want to pass it on.

I wish for you my friend
This happiness that I've found;
You can depend on God
It matters not where you're bound,
I'll shout it from the mountain top
I want the world to know
The Lord of love has come to me
I want to pass it on.

I'll shout it from the mountain top
I want the world to know
The Lord of love has come to me
I want to pass it on.

Praise to the Lord

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation;
O my soul, praise him, for he is your health and salvation.
Come all who hear, brothers and sisters draw near,
praise him in glad adoration.

Praise to the Lord who in all things is wondrously reigning
and, as on wings of an eagle, uplifting, sustaining:
have you not seen all that is needed has been
sent by his gracious ordaining?

Praise to the Lord, who will prosper our work and defend us;
surely his goodness and mercy shall daily attend us:
ponder anew what the Almighty can do
as with his love he befriends us.

Praise to the Lord, who when darkness of sin is abounding,
who, when the godless do triumph, our best hopes confounding,
sheds forth his light, scatters the horrors of night,
saints with his mercy surrounding.

Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him!
All that has life and breath, come now with praises before him.
Let the Amen sound from his people again:
gladly for ever adore him.

Jesus the Lord said

Jesus the Lord said, 'I am the bread,
the bread of life for the world am I,
the bread of life for the world am I,
the bread of life for the world am I'.
Jesus the Lord said, 'I am the bread,
the bread of life for the world am I'.

Jesus the Lord said, 'I am the door,
the way and the door for the poor am I,
the way and the door for the poor am I,
the way and the door for the poor am I'.
Jesus the Lord said, 'I am the door,
the way and the door for the poor am I'.

Jesus the Lord said, 'I am the light,
the one true light of the world am I,
the one true light of the world am I,
the one true light of the world am I'.
Jesus the Lord said, 'I am the light,
the one true light of world am I'.

Jesus the Lord said, 'I am the shepherd,
the one good shepherd of the sheep am I,
the one good shepherd of the sheep am I,
the one good shepherd of the sheep am I'.
Jesus the Lord said, 'I am the shepherd,
the one good shepherd of the sheep am I'.

Jesus the Lord said, 'I am the life,
the resurrection and the life am I,
the resurrection and the life am I,
the resurrection and the life am I'.
Jesus the Lord said, 'I am the life,
the resurrection and the life am I'.

Longing for light

Longing for light, we wait in darkness.
Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people,
light of the world to see.

*Christ be our light! Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today.*

Longing for peace, our world is troubled.
Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has pow'r to save us.
Make us your living voice. *Christ be our light!*

Longing for food, many are hungry.
Longing for water, many still thirst.
Make us your bread, broken for others,
shared until all are fed. *Christ be our light!*

Longing for shelter, many are homeless.
Longing for warmth, many are cold.
Making us your building, sheltering others,
walls made of living stone. *Christ be our light!*

Many the gifts, many the people,
many the hearts that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants to one another,
making your kingdom come. *Christ be our light!*