

WORLD COMMUNITY DAY 1966



Australian
Church
Women

ORDER OF SERVICE

OUR COMMON LIFE AND RESPONSIBILITY IN FAMILY AND COMMUNITY

ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND ADORATION:

There was silence in Heaven for a space. Let us quieten our thoughts and recollect the mighty work of God. In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them. Men and women He created in His own likeness and blessed them. In the beginning was the Word, Jesus Christ, and the Word was with God and the Word was God. All things were made by Him and without Him nothing was made. All things were created by Him and for Him: He is the Head of the body, the Church. O God, the Father, Creator of all the universe and of all life, we worship You. O God, the Son, Jesus Christ, ever giving your Life that we may be kept from the power of evil and death and inherit eternal life, we adore You. O God, the Holy Spirit, proceeding from the Father and the Son to accomplish their work in the world, we thank you for your Abiding Presence.

HYMN: (Metre D. S. M.)

Lord God, from whom all life
And all true gladness springs,
Whose love and care shine every-
where
Among earth's common things;
Be present while we lift
Our song to Thee and pay
Heart-gratitude for all things good
About our path today.

We thank Thee for the grace
In friend and brother found;
For human love that points above
To where all love is crowned;
O may such friendship here
Be to thy children given,
We shall endure, deep, fair and pure,
Till all be one in heaven.

We praise Thee for the light
That floats on sea and hill,
The unstinted wealth of joy and
health
With which our pulses thrill;
O may the light of heaven
In us enkindled be,
Heaven's glory roll from soul to soul
And make us strong for Thee.

But most we bless Thee, Lord,
That here Thy Spirit's breath
Blows clear and strong to baffle
wrong
And win our lives from death;
O may each heart accept
The entrance of Thy power,
And take Thee hence for sure defence
And help in evil hour.

ACT OF FAITH: Let us affirm our common faith in The Apostles' Creed.
I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth; And in
Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead,
and buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead;
He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father
Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I
believe in the Holy Ghost, the holy catholic Church, the Communion of Saints;
the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.
Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING: Acts 2: 1 - 11, 38 - 47 N. E. B.
THE SPIRIT OF LIFE GIVEN TO ALL
COMMUNITIES.

CONTRITION AND CONFESSION:

O Lord God, Father Almighty, with contrition we acknowledge our failure

To be thankful for the land and food and shelter you have provided for us.
To help meet the many needs of millions in Asia and other countries
around our shores.
To share with them of our substance, our skills and our knowledge.
To bring to them adequately the Word of Life in their own tongue.
To bring to the light of Christ men and women bound in the bondage of
viciousness, ignorance, mental darkness and religious confusion.
To realise our unity with members of Christian Churches who have
come to us from other lands speaking an alien tongue.
To cast off indifference to the needs of such migrants and to make an
effort to understand them and their beliefs.
To welcome migrants, the lonely, and the handicapped, into our homes
and the fellowship of families.

We confess that we have frequently disobeyed your will and commandments, and have not been channels of your love to those around us; that we have not witnessed as we might to the saving power of the Lord Jesus Christ, nor sought to lead others to know Him. We ask of Thee forgiveness for these negligences, and for our selfish way of thinking.

Leader: Oh, Lord, hear our prayers.

Response: And let our cry come unto Thee.

Leader: God has made of one blood all nations of men to dwell on the face of the earth. It is not the will of God that any of them should perish. All are His children.

Let us join in the Common Prayer which He taught His children, saying

Our Father Amen.

THANKSGIVING:

Let us give thanks to Almighty God

- For the gift of His Love for all people of every race and tongue, shown to us in the giving of Himself in the Lord Jesus Christ.
- For the example of love and devotion given to Him by Saints and workers throughout the centuries.
- For the inspiration He gave to social reformers, explorers and scientists.
- For our fellowship in the Christian Church throughout the world, and the growing together of those from different communions and traditions.
- For the martyrs and saints who have given their lives for Christ in this generation, particularly in China, New Guinea, Kenya, the Congo and the Sudan.
- For the true unity which we experience as we come together to worship God, our Creator, and our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

People: We thank you, Lord.

SCRIPTURE READING: Ephesians 5: 20 - 6: 4
THE LIFE OF THE FAMILY.

CONTINUE IN THANKSGIVING FOR:

Leader: The gift of life with all its privileges and responsibilities, its joys and sorrows, its seedtime and harvest, its wonders of nature, its gaiety and sadness, its laughter and comradeship. The wonder of young love, the sanctity of marriage, the awesome power of creating new lives, and the joy of seeing their unfolding. The blessings of home life, where Christ is pre-eminent, and father, mother, son and daughter love and care for each other in the Lord. The differences between men and women, and their unique gifts and qualities enriching the whole of life, yet being equal in your sight and one in Christ. The magnificent heritage we have in this great continent to share with Old and New Australians alike.

People: We praise you and thank you, O Lord.

Leader: Let us pray:

Almighty and Eternal Father, who didst send Thy Holy Spirit from above to renew Thine image in our souls, Inspire the heart of every husband and father, and of every wife and mother in the land to love and serve Thee. Awaken us all to a full sense of our responsibilities, and take possession of ourselves and of our homes, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, Amen.

We thank Thee, O God, for the children who have grown up in our homes. Keep them faithful, we pray Thee, to Thyself and to us and to one another. Let Thy love protect those who are absent from us; bless those who are married, and fill their homes with peace and love; and make us all to be one in Thy joy and service; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, Amen.

For God's blessing and guidance upon teaching about Holy Marriage and upon efforts to maintain the Christian standard.

For courage and strength for all husbands and wives who are trying to be faithful to their ideals.

For God's blessing and guidance upon efforts to counteract false teaching and evil practices.

For God's grace and strength for all who are sorely tempted to be unfaithful to their marriage vows.

People: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: O God, Who art our Father, we remember before Thee, all orphaned, homeless and unwanted children, all children of loveless homes, and all who suffer from bodily defects and disease. Make our hearts burn within us for the children of our dark places; and teach us how to turn to good account the laws that protect them, and the efforts of all who strive to succour them; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

We pray for the sick in body, mind or spirit.

We bring to you the aged, the lonely; sustain those in need of strength and comfort, those who feel unwanted and unloved; those from whom the faces of their loved ones are veiled by death.

We pray for those who find their greatest difficulties in their own homes. For those who minister to ageing relatives who seem difficult to live with. Give them patience and sympathy.

People: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: For those bringing up young children who are over-anxious about them. Give them a more carefree trust in you. For those in whose homes young people are growing up, self-assertive and hostile to all restraint or advice. Give them a right understanding of liberty and a new belief in youth.

People: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: For those outwardly married but inwardly asunder. Give them a willingness to see the best, and a readiness to talk things out and confess failure and seek for help . . . To all these, reveal yourself as One who knows, understands, cares and loves, who can help them back to inward peace as they know themselves to be your children, at home in your family.

People: Lord, hear our prayer.

HYMN: (Metre 6. 6. 6. 6.)

O Jesus, bless our homes,
And make them like to Thine;
Be bitterness unknown,
Bid love and kindness shine.

Let work be bravely done,
As Joseph toiled of old,
For Thee and Thy reward,
Not only for earth's gold.

Let love of God be first,
And daily prayers arise
As once from Nazareth
Thine own soared to the skies.

Then let Thy blessing bring
Just such prosperity
As Thou shalt deem most fit
To keep us true to Thee.

SCRIPTURE READING: Luke 4: 14 - 21.
THE HOLY SPIRIT'S SUCCOUR.

INTERCESSION: Congregation to respond where underlined.

Let us pray that we may share His divine compassion for the needy and that His healing power may be manifest in the social and economic conditions of our time. "And when one member suffereth all the members suffer with it".

For all who are in distress and want, the hungry, the homeless, the lonely and oppressed - Give us Thy heart of compassion, O Lord.

For the homesick and those separated from others by language barriers; for those for whom life is a bitter struggle, those whose means of living is insecure, the overworked, the downtrodden - Give us Thy heart of compassion, O Lord.

For all who are suffering grief and distress of mind, and for all whose misery is unrelieved by the knowledge of the love of our Lord Jesus Christ - Give us Thy heart of compassion, O Lord.

Let us give God thanks for every sign of His mending power in the life of our own country, and in that of other lands. Let us thank Him for all who are helping to make manifest His mending power and love.

For employers who think of their workers as individuals, and in all their dealings uphold the standard of Jesus Christ - We ask Thy courage and strength, O Lord.

For those who are spending their lives in dreary, difficult surroundings, to alleviate the misery of others - We ask Thy courage and strength, O Lord.
For all in our own country who are giving energy of mind and thought to improve conditions of living and labour, and to help all migrants to feel at

home in strange surroundings - We ask Thy courage and strength, O Lord.
For Christian leaders in other lands who are striving to bring the Spirit of Christ into changing social conditions and an entirely new outlook on life, and for those who are seeking to bring true peace in war-torn nations - We ask Thy courage and strength, O Lord.

For the non-Christian leaders in other countries who are also striving to improve the lot of their common people - We ask that they may have fresh vision and courage.

For those responsible for educating newly independent peoples, and remembering with thankfulness the great contribution of Christian missions in educational work, O Lord, hear our prayer and let our cry come unto Thee.

For many young men and women to offer for service in other countries as teachers, doctors, nurses, agriculturists, social workers and helpers in the Christian Church, particularly in countries which are Australia's neighbours;

For students who come to our own country studying, that they may be received with friendliness and wise counsel;

For all the social agencies which bring help to those in need, such as Homes for the aged and crippled children, schools for the mentally retarded, the blind, the deaf and the dumb;

For Christians in their daily work, that their examples may raise the standards of the nation in politics, business, social and family life, entertainment and the arts, O Lord, hear our prayer, and let our cry come unto Thee.

HYMN: (Metre C.M.)

Help us to help each other, Lord,	Up into Thee, our living Head,
Each other's cross to bear,	Let us in all things grow,
Let each his friendly aid afford	Till Thou hast made us free indeed,
And feel his brother's care.	And spotless here below.

Touched by the loadstone of Thy love,
Let all our hearts agree;
And ever toward each other move,
And ever move toward Thee.

ADDRESS IF DESIRED.

PETITIONS:

As we come together in community worship, let us also remember our individual responsibilities. These petitions are therefore personal.

Lord, I thank you for this reminder that I cannot live only to myself. I ask forgiveness for my frequent failures to consider my neighbours in my own family, my own local Church, my suburb, my country, and in the countries around.

I pray that from now on I may be quick to sense need, prompt to try and alleviate it; That I may be mindful of my duties as a citizen and engage in work for the community as I am able. That, above all, I may be aware of

the privilege I have as your child, thankful for your faithfulness and mercy, and that I may ever show by word and deed your loving-kindness to all whom I meet.

DEDICATION in unison:

In the presence of one another, we re-dedicate ourselves to the worship and service of God our Father, to active expression of our faith in His Son Jesus, to continual reliance on the strength and guidance of the Holy Spirit in our daily living; in unity with those who seek to serve Him throughout the world; in prayerful remembrance of those who know Him not.

OFFERING.

HYMN: (Metre L. M.)

Lord, speak to me, that I may speak In living echoes of Thy tone; As Thou hast sought, so let me seek Thy erring children lost and lone.	O fill me with Thy fulness, Lord, Until my very heart o'erflow In kindling thought and glowing word, Thy love to tell, Thy praise to show.
---	---

O teach me, Lord, that I may teach The precious things Thou dost impart And wing my words, that they may reach The hidden depths of many a heart.	O use me, Lord, use even me, Just as Thou wilt, and when and where, Until Thy blessed face I see, Thy rest, Thy joy, Thy glory share.
---	---

THE BENEDICTION.

SUGGESTED QUESTIONS FOR STUDY GROUPS

1. The Spirit of Life given to all communities (Acts 2: 1 - 11, 38 - 47)
 - a) Are we more interested in Asian cooking and in Continental breads than in "breaking bread with gladness" in the fellowship of the Church?
 - b) What steps can we take to realise our fellowship in Christ with Asian neighbours and European migrants?
Do we believe that in our Australian setting the Holy Spirit can enable us to overcome the difficulties of communication?
2. The Life of the Family (Ephesians 5: 20 - 6: 4)
 - a) How do we interpret St. Paul's general principle in chap. 5, verse 21 as applied to human relationships - husband and wife, parent and child, employer and employee?
Might people from other cultures have a different interpretation?
 - b) Chap. 6, verse 1. Can we try to balance our familiarity with the phrase "obey your parents" with an understanding of "in the Lord"?
 - c) How much, do we consider, the influence of a Christian home counts with adolescents?
3. In life's situations related to family, neighbours, the community of nations, what is our attitude (a) powerlessness because of complexity? or (b) confidence because of faith in the adequacy of God?

The offering taken at this service will be used for the work of Australian Church Women, the Australia-wide project for this year's World Community Day being Inter-Church Aid - to assist migrant women in Australia. Offerings should be sent to State Women's Inter-Church Councils.

FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN OFFERINGS will be received at the close of the service.

This Order of Service was prepared by the Women's United Church Association of South Australia, and produced by Australian Church Women, 3rd floor, 511 Kent Street, Sydney.