



Australian Church Women Inc. ABN 68 539 329 715

Moving Forward in Faith



Joy for the Journey: Making wise decisions

Fellowship Day Service

2020

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN INC.

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

Australian Church Women Inc. forms a network of committed Christian women dedicated to encouraging fellowship and service across denominational, national and international boundaries and promoting peace, understanding and unity through faith and love in the one God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

WINIFRED KIEK SCHOLARSHIP

The offerings presented at Fellowship Day Services throughout Australia go towards this scholarship to honour Winifred Kiek, the first woman to be ordained in Australia.

This scholarship is offered to Christian women of member countries of the Asian Church Women's Conference, multicultural Australia, and Pacific Island Nations. The scholarship is used for supplementary training and further studies in theology or related fields.

The 2020 scholar is Hetty Widowaty from Bali.

TODAY'S ORDER OF SERVICE was prepared by the Western Australia Unit of Australian Church Women with the theme for the present term being 'Moving Forward in Faith'. This service has the sub-title 'Joy for the Journey: Making wise decisions'.

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, and the substitution of hymns that are considered to be more suitable and available locally.

Hymns have been chosen from *Together in Song* (TIS). The liturgy is specially prepared and may be freely reproduced as a whole for the purposes of Worship.

WELCOME

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TRADITIONAL CUSTODIANS OF THE LAND

We acknowledge the First Nations peoples of Australia as the traditional custodians of this land. We respect past and present Elders and are thankful for their wisdom which has sustained their people since the beginning of time. We will support emerging and future First Nations leaders and their people.

CALL TO WORSHIP Psalm 105:1–4

Leader: Give thanks to the Lord, call on his name; make known among the nations what he has done.

All: *Sing to him; sing praises to him; tell of all his wonderful acts.*

Leader: Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.

All: *Look to the Lord and his strength; seek his face always.*

HYMN: Joyful, Joyful we adore you (TIS 152)

PRAYERS OF PRAISE AND PETITION

Leader: We praise you Father God for your enduring love and for the guidance, strength and joy you bring to our lives as we journey with you. We come with confidence to ask that you keep us sensitive to your voice and ready to follow the promptings of the Holy Spirit. We seek your Wisdom to make the best decisions in the challenges we face. May your light shine through us for the blessing of others.

SCRIPTURE READINGS: Ephesians 5:8–10

Matthew 5:13–16

Matthew 5:1–10

READER: This is the Word of the Lord

ALL: Thanks be to God

HYMN: Christ is the World's Light (TIS 246)

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

O God of grace and mercy, we bring to you our land Australia and the people of all nations.

We pray for all who have been affected by drought, bushfires, floods and the Corona Pandemic.

For those who have died, for those who mourn the loss of loved ones, for those who are ill, for those injured in mind and body.

Bring comfort and healing and peace.

For Australian Church women impacted by these disasters, Be their strength and support.

For those who have lost homes, jobs, farms, properties and businesses.

Bring courage and help as they struggle to rebuild their lives and businesses.

We grieve for the impact on economies of these disasters and pray that wisdom will be given to decision makers at all levels, to researchers working on finding a vaccine to protect against the coronavirus, and to us all so that our lands,

wildlife, peoples and economies will be safe, protected and renewed.

We thank you loving God for the emergency workers, the firefighters, health workers and all essential services workers who risk their own lives to protect, serve and care for others.

Bless, protect and comfort them as they face death, fear and constant danger.

Give them courage and the resources they need to care for the land and wildlife, for one another and those they are helping in so many ways.

Refresh us in our faith and help us to bring refreshment to others because we know that nothing can separate us from your love.

We pray this in Jesus' name, our creator, sustainer and redeemer.

HYMN: Where Wide Sky rolls down (TIS 188)

REFLECTION: 'MAKING WISE DECISIONS'

A recorded message will be available on 31 July on the 2020 Fellowship Day webpage on the ACW website.

BRIEF REPORT ON WINIFRED KIEK SCHOLAR FOR 2020

Hetty Widowaty

In light of the coronavirus, Hetty's study plans have changed. Hetty has registered with a Christian University to commence her Master of Theology degree, and she was to have done her entrance exam on the 28 April. Due to the lockdown, the exam was postponed twice. It will now be undertaken online, however, she is unsure when her course work will now commence. Hetty and her family are keeping well.

HYMN: Great is Your Faithfulness (TIS 154)

An offering will be received for the work of the Winfred Kiek Trust during the singing of this hymn. If you are unable to forward your offering to your local ACW Unit, please put it aside until we can meet together again.

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING

We thank you God for the inspiration and encouragement we receive when we consider those who sought your direction in the wise decisions they made.

We thank you for Bible people such as Daniel, Paul and Mary, sister of Martha, who put doing your will first.

We thank you for the stories Jesus told of wise decisions made by characters such as the Wise Virgins and the Good Samaritan.

We thank you for those who have influenced us in our walk of faith.

We thank you for the Rev. Winifred Kiek and her wise leadership.

We thank you for all Winifred Kiek Scholars and for their continued contribution to church and community.

We thank you for our 2020 Winifred Kiek Scholar, Hetty Widowaty. Bless her in her studies, ministry and family life.

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

HYMN: In Heavenly Love Abiding (TIS 588)

FINAL BLESSING

Go on in joy knowing that the God of Love who sent Jesus
into the world to give us life will surround you with His Love.

Go on with courage knowing that the God of Light and
Infinite Wisdom will be your strength and guide in all the
challenges of life.

Go forward in faith knowing that the Eternal, Unchanging,
Ever Faithful God will be with you every step of your journey.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

AMEN

