



Australian Church Women Inc.
ABN 68 539 329 715

'Moving forward in



'Holiness in the ordinary'

FELLOWSHIP DAY 2021

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN INC

Australian Church Women was established in 1965 when women's inter-church councils across Australia came together to form Australian Church Women, fostering ecumenism and undertaking action on behalf of 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 2021 scholars are: **Kate Johnstone** and **Sandra Pawar**

TODAY'S ORDER OF SERVICE was prepared by the ACT Unit of Australian Church Women with the theme for the present term being 'Moving Forward in Faith'. This service has the sub-title: 'Holiness in the Ordinary'.

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 more suitable and available locally.

The 'Reflection' segment of this service was inspired by the book *Twelve Extraordinary Women* by John MacArthur.

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WELCOME

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TRADITIONAL CUSTODIANS OF THE LAND

CALL TO WORSHIP

[Where 2 or more are gathered, you may like to read the following as a responsive reading.]

Leader: Glorious God, we come together as your people

All: We come as a praising people, singing your goodness

Leader: We come as a hungry people, longing to be fed

All: We come as a praying people, bringing our needs, our joys

Leader: We come as a journeying people, looking for direction
in this hour of worship

Empower us for faithful living

**All: We pray this in the name of our Saviour, Jesus Christ,
Amen**

HYMN *10000 Reasons (Bless the Lord) / Lord of Creation (TIS 626)*

PRAYERS OF PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING

Leader: Dear God, thank you for your amazing power and work in our lives. Thank you for your goodness and your blessings over us.

ALL: Thank you that you are able to bring hope through even in the toughest of times, strengthening us for your purposes.

Leader: Thank you for your great love and care. Thank you for your mercy and grace. Thank you that you are always with us and will never leave us.

ALL: Thank you for your incredible sacrifice so that we might have freedom and life. Forgive us for when we don't thank you enough, for who you are, for all that you do, and for all that you've given.

Leader: Help us to set our eyes and our hearts on you afresh.
Renew our spirits, fill us with your peace and joy. We love you and we need you, this day and every day.

**ALL: We give you praise and thanks, for You alone are worthy.
In Jesus' Name, AMEN.**

REFLECTION

Leader: Let us consider three women of the Bible and see how faith was employed when they had to make choices about their beliefs and futures. The stories of these women inspire us when we too are challenged by events in our lives. Their actions demonstrate that faith in God helps us in times of doubt, despair, and declaring our faith.

Reader 1 Sarah: Sarah was barren, and she encouraged her husband, Abraham, to father a child with her servant Hagar. Sarah tried to take matters into her own hands. This ended up an unsatisfactory solution for all parties. Wisdom did not appear to be Sarah's greatest strength, but the Scriptures do note her faith later. God promised that Sarah would have a child, and she laughed on hearing this news. After all, she was now old and past childbearing age. However, Sarah did believe the promise because she knew that God's Word is faithful and true.

Hebrews 11:11 (NIV) tells us:

'And by faith even Sarah, who was past childbearing age, was enabled to bear children because she considered him faithful who had made the promise.'

Reader 2 Ruth: Her love story is one of incredible faithfulness, loyalty, and devotion. Firstly, to her mother-in-law, Naomi, then to Naomi's God – the one, true God, and then to Boaz, their distant relative. Naomi and her two daughters-in-law, Ruth and Orpah, experienced much grief from the loss of their husbands. Naomi made the decision to leave Moab and return to Bethlehem; she insisted Ruth and Orpah

return to their mothers' homes. Greatly distressed, Orpah returned. Ruth refused to leave Naomi, and they travelled to Bethlehem. As destitute widows, life was difficult, but they soon witnessed the providence, faithfulness and love of God when Boaz, a kind and distant relative, provided for them and greatly changed their lives.

Reader 3 **Lydia:** Lydia was originally from Thyatira in the Roman province of Asia, but she was living in Philippi, Macedonia, where she was a businesswoman selling dyed fabrics. She followed the faith of the Jews, even though she was not a Jew. On the Sabbath, Lydia gathered with the other worshipers of God by the river, their place of prayer in that place. Here she met the apostle Paul when he went to speak with the worshipers about Jesus, the risen Christ. In faith, Lydia accepted Christ as her Saviour, and in faith her entire household was baptised.

HYMN *Fill Thou my Life, O Lord my God (TIS 596)*

BIBLE READING

Romans 12 (The Message Paraphrase)

PRAYER OF PETITION

Leader: O God, whose holiness is not limited to grand cathedrals
 or saintly persons, spectacular mountains or mountain
 moving leaders,
 O God, whose holiness is often discovered in simple
 everyday places and simple everyday folk.

All: **Plant your holiness in this place, in us now.**
 Grow us this hour, so that we might flower right where
 we are, with the beauty of your holiness
 Through Jesus we pray. Amen

WINIFRED KIEK SCHOLARS FOR 2021

Kate Johnstone & Sandra Pawar

HYMN *We are God's people*

Your offering will be received for the work of the Winfred Kiek Trust Fund 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.

DEDICATION AND PRAYER FOR THE SCHOLARS AND TRUST

Heavenly Father, we thank you for this monetary gift for the WKS Trust. We ask that you bless the members of the Trust with wisdom as they consider applications that come from women wishing to further their Biblical studies.

We pray especially at this time for our 2021 Scholars, Kate and Sandra. Encourage them on their faith journey and may they be used in ministry to extend your Kingdom.

We ask this in the name of Jesus and for His sake. Amen

SPEAKER

Marj Dredge, National President of Australian Church Women Inc.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Leader: God, you call us to be Holy. Help us to live lives worthy of our calling. Thank you for the example set by Jesus who walked this earth in Spirit and truth, living his life in humble obedience to your will, demonstrating by his life, his words, his actions and his attitude such a gracious heart that overflowed with loving trust in you. Make us like Jesus.

All: **Gracious God, hear our prayer**

Leader: We pray for our local community. We pray especially for those caring for people in need; the lonely, those who feel isolated from their loved ones; the sick and all who care for them, whether they be family or the medical profession; the homeless, the unemployed, the mentally ill.

All: **Gracious God, hear our prayer**

Leader: We pray for all people in our world. We are not blind to injustice, racism, inequality, the deprivation of many. As

you love us so too you love them. Give us faith for a better world. Help us to do our part to bring this to fruition.

All: Gracious God, hear our prayer

Leader: As we journey forward from this place, give us each the courage to follow your way. Bring renewal and newness to our faith lives so that we can grow in holiness and be the people we were created to be. Holy and Gracious God, help us on our faith journey to encounter your holiness in the ordinary.

All: Gracious God, hear our prayer

Leader: Let us pray the Lord's Prayer together.

HYMN When I look into Your Holiness

BENEDICTION

Leader: Now may the hope of a better world, a worthier life, a holier morrow and a sweeter thanksgiving, inspire us all with patient continuance in well doing; and may grace, mercy and peace from Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, remain with us now and always.

All: Amen

This benediction was prayed by the **Reverend Winifred Kiek** at her ordination service on 13 June 1927 and used at her last act of public ministry on 9 March 1975. It is the benediction that she loved most.

