

cannot please Christ except by denying ourselves. Yet the power to do all these things is given us in Christ, who strengthens us. Therefore let us give ourselves anew to God trusting in His promises and relying on His grace.

(pause)

We are no longer our own, but yours.

The congregation stands and says:

I am no longer my own, but yours. Put me to what you will, rank me with whom you will; put me to doing, put me to suffering; let me be employed for you or laid aside for you, exalted for you or brought low for you; let me be full, let me be empty; let me have all things, let me have nothing, I freely and wholeheartedly yield all things to your pleasure and disposal. And now, glorious and blessed God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, you are mine and I am yours. So be it. And the covenant now made on earth, let it be ratified in heaven. Amen.

HYMN (unannounced)

Now thank we all our God,
With hearts and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things hath done,
In whom His world rejoices,
Who, from our mothers' arms,
Hath blessed us on our way
With countless gifts of love,
And still is ours today.

O may this bounteous God
Through all our life be near us,
With ever-joyful hearts
And blessed peace to cheer us,
And keep us in His grace,
And guide us when perplexed,
And free us from all ills
In this world and the next.

All praise and thanks to God
The Father now be given,
The Son, and Him who reigns
with them in highest heaven
The one, eternal God,
Whom earth and heaven adore,
For thus it was, is now,
And shall be evermore.

THE BLESSING.

The congregation will please remain in their places while the President and visitors from the platform and from the body of the hall withdraw.

THE UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA



SERVICE OF INAUGURATION

The Rev. K. B. Leaver, B.A., B.D., S.T.M.,
formerly President of the Congregational Union of Australia;

The Rev. R. C. Mathias, M.A., Dip.R.Ed.,
formerly ex-President-General of the Methodist Church of Australasia;

The Very Rev. G. A. M. Wood, B.A.,
formerly Moderator-General of the General Assembly of the
Presbyterian Church of Australia.

will induct into office

THE REV. J. D. McCAUGHEY, M.A., D.D., F.A.C.E., AS PRESIDENT

and

THE REV. W. D. O'REILLY, M.A., M.ED., DIP.SOC.ST., AS SECRETARY

of

THE UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA

**SYDNEY TOWN HALL
8 P.M., WEDNESDAY JUNE 22, 1977**

ORDER OF SERVICE

PROCESSIONAL: "The Heavens Proclaim Him" (Beethoven) — the Choir.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Let us worship God.

Behold, how good and joyful a thing it is to dwell in unity. Our help is in the name of the Lord.

Response: who has made heaven and earth.

PSALM 100 (unannounced)—

All people that on earth do dwell
Sing to the Lord with cheerful voice;
Him serve with mirth His praise forthtell
Come ye before Him and rejoice.

O enter then His gates with praise
Approach with joy His courts unto;
Praise, laud and bless His name always,
For it is seemly so to do.

Know that the Lord is God indeed;
Without our aid He did us make;
We are His folk, He doth us feed;
And for His sheep He doth us take.

For why, the Lord our God is good,
His mercy is for ever sure;
His truth at all times firmly stood,
And shall from age to age endure.

Amen.

The congregation sits.

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING

Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good:

Response: For His mercy endures for ever.

Holy Father, eternal God, whom we confess the only true and living one,
creator, preserver and ruler of all things,
in whom alone we put our trust:

With the whole Church in heaven and on earth
we worship and praise you.

We thank you for having brought us to this hour
guarded by your gracious hand.

Response: We praise you, O God; we acknowledge you to be the Lord.

We thank you for your love made known in Jesus Christ,

who became man and dwelt among us
in perfect love and obedience,
who was lifted up on the cross
and died for our sins,

who rose again from the dead
and is alive for evermore.

We praise you that He is gathering into one
your scattered children.

Response: Lord have mercy.

Protect us, save us, have mercy upon us and preserve us O God, in your grace. We commend ourselves and one another, and our whole life to Christ our God: to whom with the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit be glory now and for ever.

Response: Amen.

HYMN (unannounced)

Come, Holy Ghost, our hearts inspire;
Let us Thine influence prove,
Source of the old prophetic fire,
Fountain of life and love.

Expand Thy wings, celestial Dove;
Brood o'er our nature's night;
On our disordered spirits move,
And let there now be light.

Come, Holy Ghost, for moved by Thee
The prophets wrote and spoke;
Unlock the truth, Thyself the key;
Unseal the sacred book.

God through Himself we then shall know,
If thou within us shine,
And sound, with all Thy saints below,
The depths of love divine.

THE SERMON

HYMN (unannounced)

Join all the glorious names
Of wisdom, love, and power,
That ever mortals knew,
That angels ever bore;
All are too mean to speak His worth,
Too mean to set my Saviour forth.

Jesus, my great High Priest,
Offered His blood and died;
My guilty conscience seeks
No sacrifice beside;
His powerful blood did once atone
And now it pleads before the throne.

Great Prophet of my God,
My tongue would bless Thy Name;
By Thee the joyful news
Of our salvation came,
The joyful news of sins forgiven,
Of hell subdued, and peace with heaven.

My dear Almighty Lord,
My Conqueror and my King,
Thy sceptre and Thy sword,
Thy reigning grace, I sing;
Thine is the power: behold, I sit,
In willing bonds before Thy feet.

Congregation sits.

THE COMMITMENT

The President:

The Uniting Church affirms that every member of the Church is engaged to confess the faith of Christ crucified and to be His faithful servant. She acknowledges with thanksgiving that the one Spirit has endowed the members of His Church with a diversity of gifts, and that there is no gift without its corresponding service: all ministries have a part in the ministry of Christ.

Christ has many services to be done: some are easy, others are difficult: some bring honour, others bring reproach; some are suitable to our natural inclinations and material interests, others are contrary to both. In some we may please Christ and please ourselves, in others we

ALL SIT: THE GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES GREETS THE UNITING CHURCH. THE PRESIDENT THEN TURNS TO THE CONGREGATION AND GREETES THEM.

The President: The Lord be with you.

The Congregation: The Lord bless you.

The President: Members of the Congregation are invited to greet each other. Please turn to your neighbour and say: The Lord be with you; and be so good as to respond: The Lord bless you.

THE PRESIDENT CALLS THE CONGREGATION TO PRAYER AND SAYS:

In peace let us pray to the Lord,
For the peace which is from above, and for the salvation of our souls, let us pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the welfare of God's holy churches, and for the unity of them all, let us pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord have mercy.

For Ministers of Word and Sacrament and all others called to minister in the Church of God, that with pure heart, good conscience, and sincere faith they may accomplish their ministry, let us pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord have mercy.

For our homes that they may be holy, for parents and children, brothers and sisters, and all our families let us pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord have mercy.

For the rulers of our country and all in authority among the nations, let us pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord have mercy.

For the sick and the suffering, the sorrowful and the dying — for the homeless and starving, for the prisoners and captives; and for those who suffer persecution, let us pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord have mercy.

For ourselves and all who confess the name of Christ, that we may faithfully serve and obey Him in this life and at the last join those now at rest in unending joy, let us pray to the Lord.

Response: You are the King of Glory, O Christ; the Eternal Son of the Father.

We thank you for the gift of the Holy Spirit
by whom we are brought to faith in Christ,
through whom the gospel is preached in all the world,
who gives life to your people
and binds us together in the fellowship of your Church.
In Him, we worship in spirit and in truth.

The congregation stands and sings:

*Response: Glory be the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.*

Amen.

Congregation remains standing.

PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

Let us confess our sins before God. (Silence)

Holy God,
holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.

Lord, remember not our offences, nor the offences of our forefathers:
Spare us, good Lord,

Response: Spare your people whom you have redeemed with your precious blood.

Grant us, Father, for the sake of Jesus your Son,
pardon for our sin, and by the grace and comfort of the Holy Spirit,
renew us in faith, hope and love,
that we may serve in your Church
to your praise and glory.

Hear the word of grace:
Christ Jesus is our peace, who has broken down the dividing wall of hostility and has made us one.
In Him, your sins are forgiven.

Response: Thanks be to God.

Congregation sits.

THE READING OF THE WORD

Let us pray

We thank you, Lord God, for those through whose witness your Word has been preserved for us; for those who recorded the law, maintained the tradition of the prophets, sought out wisdom, proclaimed the gospel, announced the apostolic message. Help us never to neglect the study of Scripture, but with lively

and persistent interest may we read, recite, interpret and teach the good news declared in Jesus Christ your living Word, and the Saviour of us all. Amen.

Old Testament: Isaiah 42:1-9
Epistle Romans 8:31-39

Congregation stands

Gospel Matthew 28:16-20

Congregation sits.

THE CHOIR "Let All The World In Every Corner Sing."
Words by George Herbert.
Music by Geoffrey Shaw.

THE INSTALLATION OF THE PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY

The Chairman of the Joint Constitution Council

My brothers in Christ, I report that the Uniting Church in Australia has today been established and constituted. The first Assembly has duly elected John Davis McCaughey as its President, and Winston D'Arcy O'Reilly as its Secretary. I therefore present them to you and invite you, as representatives of the three churches entering the union, to induct them into office.

The President of the Congregational Union:

My brothers, we greet and welcome you in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

The ex-President-General of the Methodist General Conference:

Remember what the apostle Paul says: "We are not sufficient of ourselves; our sufficiency is from God."

The Moderator-General of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church:

We preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus as Lord and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake.

1st Question:

With this confidence in God, do you accept the offices to which you have been called?

The President: I do.

The Secretary: I do.

2nd Question:

In acknowledgement that the Church has received the books of the Old and New Testaments as unique prophetic and apostolic testimony in which she hears the Word of God and by which her faith and obedience are nourished and regulated, will you inscribe your name in this Bible?

The President: I am willing.

The Secretary: I am willing.

THE ELECTED OFFICERS SIGN THEIR NAMES TO THIS ACKNOWLEDGEMENT IN A COPY OF THE BIBLE WHICH WILL BE USED AT MEETINGS OF THE ASSEMBLY, AFTER WHICH THEY KNEEL IN PLACES PREPARED FOR THEM.

Let us pray.

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, the King and Head of the Church, who being ascended on high, has given gifts to men for the building up of His Body, we induct you John Davis McCaughey as President and you Winston D'Arcy O'Reilly as Secretary of this Church and pray for the gifts of His grace that you may faithfully fulfil these offices to the glory of God the Father.

Almighty God, giver of all good things, who by the One Spirit granted a diversity of gifts, and called men to a variety of ministries in the Church of your Son, Jesus Christ, continue, we pray, this work among us. Equip these your servants with the wisdom and humility necessary for their tasks. By word and by example may they contribute to the building up of the Church to your glory and the salvation of mankind. This we ask through Jesus Christ, who taught us to say:

Our Father. . . .

At the end of the prayer the congregation stands.

THE PRESIDENT AND THE SECRETARY THEN STAND, AND THE PRESIDING MINISTERS GREET THEM, SAYING:

The Ministers: The Lord be with you.

The President: The Lord bless you.

The Ministers: The Lord be with you.

The Secretary: The Lord bless you.

THE PRESIDENT THEN TURNS TO THE SECRETARY, GREETES HIM AND SAYS:

The President: The Lord be with you.

The Secretary: The Lord bless you.