



2024 ACWC DAY SERVICE LITURGY

Young Women and Older Women Working Together

(Unified by the Spirit in ministry)

Prepared by ACWC India

Acts 2:17 In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young people shall see visions, and your old people shall dream dreams.



ACWC Day

The ACWC members began observing the ACWC Day in 1984 to commemorate the first ACWC Assembly held in Hong Kong in 1958. As that Assembly had opened on 15 November, the ACWC Day was kept on that day until 2002 when the third Sunday of November of each year was designated as the ACWC Day. Member countries can be flexible with the date if it does not suit their program of events.

All Scripture used is from the New Revised Standard Version (NRSV).
The word 'people' has replaced men in Acts 2:17.



Call to Worship:

Leader: Sisters in Christ, let us gather together in worship,
All: United by the Spirit, young and old, women of every age.
Leader: For in the house of our God, there is room for all,
All: Each one valued, each one cherished, each one called to serve.
Leader: Let us lift our voices in praise and adoration,
All: Offering our gifts and talents to the glory of God.
Leader: Let us open our hearts to the presence of the Holy Spirit,
All: Guiding us, empowering us, as we work together in ministry.
Leader: May the diversity of age and experience within our midst
All: Be a testament to the richness of God's creation.
Leader: For in the body of Christ, there is no division,
All: Only unity, only love, only grace.
Leader: So let us worship together, young and old,
All: Women of faith, women of courage, women of strength.
Leader: For in our unity, we find our strength,
All: And in our diversity, we find our beauty.
Leader: Let us lift our voices in song,
All: Let us lift our hearts in prayer,
Leader: Let us lift our hands in service,
All: As we join together, young and old, in worshiping our God. **Amen.**

Opening Hymn:

Song no. 1 "We are gathering together unto Him".

We are gathering together unto Him,
We are gathering together unto Him,
Unto Him shall the gathering of the people be,
We are gathering together unto Him.

We are offering together unto Him,
We are offering together unto Him,
Unto Him shall the gathering of the people be,
We are offering together unto Him.

We are singing together unto Him,
We are singing together unto Him,
Unto Him shall the gathering of the people be,
We are singing together unto Him.

We are praying together unto Him,
We are praying together unto Him,
Unto Him shall the gathering of the people be,
We are praying together unto Him.

Words and music by unknown.



Lighting of the Lamp:

As we gather today to celebrate the theme of "Young Women and Older Women Working Together", we recognize the beauty and strength that comes from the unity of generations. In many cultures, the lighting of a lamp symbolizes the dispelling of darkness and the spreading of light, wisdom, and knowledge. Today, we will light a lamp together as a symbolic act of unity and collaboration between the young and the old, the past and the present, as we work together in service to God and one another.

(Three women representing different generations approach the lamp together.)

Young Woman (lighting the lamp): As a representative of the younger generation, I light this lamp to symbolize the energy, enthusiasm, and fresh perspectives that we bring to our shared ministry. May our passion for serving God and others inspire us to work diligently and creatively for the advancement of His kingdom.

Middle-aged Woman (lighting the lamp): As a representative of the middle generation, I light this lamp to symbolize the bridge that connects the past with the present and the future. May our collaborative efforts, rooted in the traditions of our faith and enriched by the vitality of youth, illuminate the path forward as we strive to fulfill God's purposes in our midst.

Elderly Woman (lighting the lamp): As a representative of the older generation, I light this lamp to symbolize the wisdom, experience, and enduring faith that we offer to our community. May the lessons learned from our journey guide and mentor the younger generation, fostering a spirit of unity and mutual respect as we labour together in love.

(All three women step back as the lamp shines brightly before them.)

All: As the light of this lamp shines brightly before us, may it serve as a constant reminder of our shared commitment to work together, young and old, in harmony and unity. May the flame of our collective efforts dispel the darkness of division and doubt, illuminating the way forward as we journey together in faith, hope, and love. Amen.

Opening Prayer:

Gracious and loving God, we gather in your presence today with grateful hearts, thankful for the gift of community and fellowship. As we come together, young and old, women of all ages, may your Spirit unite us in ministry, guiding our hearts and hands as we serve you and one another. Grant us wisdom, patience, and compassion, that we may work together in harmony and love, to bring glory to your name and further your kingdom on earth. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Confession of Sin:

Leader: Let us come before the Lord in humility and honesty, acknowledging our shortcomings and seeking forgiveness for our failings. As we reflect on the theme of "Young Women and Older Women Working Together", let us recognize any ways in which we may have contributed to division or discord within our community.

Moment of Silence for Reflection

All: Gracious God, we confess that we have not always embraced the diversity of age and experience within our midst. We have allowed stereotypes, prejudices, and preconceptions to cloud our judgment and hinder our relationships. We have failed to appreciate the unique perspectives and contributions of women of different generations, instead choosing to remain within our comfort zones and cliques.

Leader: Forgive us, Lord, for our narrow-mindedness and lack of empathy. Forgive us for any words or actions that have caused harm or division among your people. Help us to see one another through your eyes, recognizing the inherent dignity and worth of every individual, regardless of age or background.

All: Grant us the grace to extend forgiveness to those who have hurt or wronged us, just as you have forgiven us. Help us to reconcile with one another, bridging the gap between generations and building bonds of trust and mutual respect. May the unity of the Spirit prevail among us, as we strive to work together in love and harmony for the advancement of your kingdom.



Leader: Hear our prayer, O Lord, and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Fill us afresh with your Spirit, that we may be transformed from within and empowered to live lives that reflect your love and grace. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Hymn:

Song no. 2 "Help us to help each other, Lord".

Help us to help each other, Lord,
each other's cross to bear;
let each his friendly aid afford,
and feel another's care.

Up into thee, our living head,
let us in all things grow,
and by thy sacrifice be led
the fruits of love to show.

Touched by the lodestone of thy love
let all our hearts agree;
and ever towards each other move,
and ever move towards thee.

This is the bond of perfectness,
thy spotless charity.
O let us still, we pray, possess
the mind that was in thee.

By Charles Wesley (Public Domain)

Scripture Readings:

Choose 2 or 3 from the following Scriptures or choose another that is relevant to your community.

Proverbs 31:10–31

The work of women is often ignored, and their home-making/building skills are not considered. There should be recognition and reward for their work.

Ruth 1:16–18

Ruth wants to accompany Naomi as a token of respect and commitment. Standing for each other in spite of different backgrounds.

Ruth 2:1–10

Standing with each other and showing the way with experience.

Galatians 3:28

All are equal in the sight of God in the Church. No Discrimination.

Luke 1:39–45

Elizabeth welcomes and honours Mary, becoming an example of accepting, honouring and helping a younger woman to grow and be stronger.

Psalms 96:1–2

Let us be prepared for newness and celebrate in it.

Sermon

Prayer for Commitment for Women:

Gracious and loving God,
We gather before you, women of faith, united in our desire to serve you and advance your kin-dom on earth. We come with hearts open, ready to commit ourselves wholeheartedly to your call upon our lives.



Lord, you have entrusted us with unique gifts, talents, and opportunities to make a difference in the world. As women, we recognize the privilege and responsibility we have to be agents of change, advocates for justice, and vessels of your love and grace.

Grant us, O Lord, the courage to step out in faith, to embrace the challenges and opportunities that come our way, and to persevere in the face of adversity. Help us to be bold in our witness, steadfast in our convictions, and unwavering in our commitment to follow you wholeheartedly.

May we be women of integrity, whose words and actions align with your will and purposes. May we be women of compassion, who extend grace and kindness to those in need. May we be women of wisdom, who seek your guidance and discernment in all that we do.

Lord, we pray for unity and solidarity among women, that we may lift one another up, support one another, and celebrate each other's successes and joys. Help us to recognize the value and worth of every woman, regardless of age, background, or circumstance, and to affirm and encourage one another in our journey of faith.

Lord, we commit ourselves afresh to serve you with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength. May our lives be a living testimony to your love and grace, and may we bring glory to your name in all that we do.

Empower us, O Lord, by your Holy Spirit, to fulfill the purpose and calling you have placed upon our lives. Strengthen us to persevere in the face of challenges, and fill us with boldness and courage to be your witnesses in the world.

We offer this prayer in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

Intercession:

Leader: We come before you with hearts full of gratitude for the gift of intergenerational relationships within our community of faith. We thank you for the diverse tapestry of women, each bringing their unique gifts, experiences, and perspectives to enrich our shared journey.

All: We thank you oh God.

Leader: Lord, we lift up the women of different ages in our midst, recognizing the valuable role they play in supporting and encouraging one another. We pray for the older women, who offer wisdom, guidance, and mentorship to the younger generation. Grant them the grace to share their insights and experiences generously, nurturing the growth and development of those who follow in their footsteps.

All: We pray for unity oh God.

Leader: We also lift up the younger women, who bring energy, enthusiasm, and fresh perspectives to our community. Grant them the humility to seek wisdom and guidance from their elders, recognizing the value of their counsel and support. May they be receptive to the lessons and advice offered by older women, growing in maturity and wisdom as they navigate life's journey.

Lord, we pray for unity and solidarity among women of all ages, that we may learn from one another, support one another, and celebrate each other's successes and joys. Help us to break down barriers and stereotypes that may divide us, and open our hearts to the beauty and richness of intergenerational relationships.

All: We pray for Guidance oh God.

Leader: We pray for opportunities for women of different ages to come together in fellowship, learning, and service. May we be intentional and ecumenical in seeking out opportunities to mentor and be mentored, to teach and to learn, to listen and to share. May our interactions be marked by mutual respect, empathy, and love, as we seek to build a community where all women are valued, cherished, and empowered to fulfill their God-given potential.

Lord, in a world that often seeks to pit women against each other, we pray for the strength and courage to stand together in solidarity. May our collective witness of love, unity, and support be a beacon of hope and inspiration to the world, reflecting the love and grace of Jesus Christ.



All: Grant Mercy oh God.

Leader: In a world torn apart by war and conflict, we pray Lord that you will help us all to unite in prayer and action, so that we can support and stand in solidarity with our mothers, sisters and friends across boundaries to create a peaceful and just community for all. We offer these prayers in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

Concluding Prayer:

As we come before you today, we thank you for the beautiful diversity within the body of Christ and for the unique gifts and experiences that each woman brings to our community.

Lord, we pray for peace among women of all ages, recognizing that true peace begins with understanding, empathy, and compassion. Help us to break down barriers and stereotypes that may divide us, and open our hearts to the wisdom and guidance of those who have walked the path before us.

We lift up the older women in our midst, who offer a wealth of knowledge, experience, and wisdom. Grant them the grace to share their stories and insights with younger women, guiding and nurturing them in their faith journey. May they be beacons of light and sources of encouragement, inspiring the younger generation to embrace the fullness of their potential.

We also lift up the younger women, who bring energy, enthusiasm, and fresh perspectives to our community. Grant them the humility to seek guidance from their older sisters, recognizing the value of their wisdom and experience. May they be receptive to the mentorship and support offered by older women, growing in faith and maturity as they journey together in sisterhood.

Lord, in a world often marked by division and discord, we pray for the peace that surpasses all understanding to reign among us. May our relationships be characterized by love, respect, and mutual support, as we strive to build a community where all women are empowered to flourish and thrive.

We pray for opportunities to bridge the generational gap, to learn from one another, and to celebrate the rich tapestry of experiences that unite us as sisters in Christ. May our collective efforts towards peace and unity serve as a testimony to your grace and love in the world.

In the name of Jesus Christ, our Prince of Peace, we pray. Amen.

Closing Hymn:

Song No. 3: "For everyone born, a place at the table".

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Benediction:

May you walk in the footsteps of Jesus,
 Bringing His message of salvation and redemption to all you meet.
 May you be bold in your witness,
 Yet gentle in your approach,
 And may the Holy Spirit empower you
 To be His faithful ambassadors in the world.
 May the blessing of God Almighty, the Triune God, be among us
 And remain with us and those for whom we have prayed always! Amen.