



act for peace

reduce poverty | protect refugees
prevent conflicts | empower communities



The Christmas Bowl is a program of Act for Peace, the international aid agency of the National Council of Churches in Australia.

Commissioning of Act for Peace Representatives in the Congregation

Notes:

1. The commissioning of an Act for Peace Representative(s) could take place after the Preaching of the Word and Affirmation of Faith, during the Sunday Worship Service.
2. Alternatively, it may take place at the time when joyous events are recognised.
3. It is desirable that the children and young people of the church be present if possible.

Prayer:

The Minister says:

God of peace,

We know that there are many regions that are filled with conflict,
open our eyes to see your children,
open our ears to hear their stories, and
open our hearts to respond with love.

Inspire us as your people
to act for peace so that lives
may be filled with hope and the world transformed
to be filled with your lasting peace
to the glory of your Holy name
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Introduction:

The minister/leader and people say responsively:

Jesus said; The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me

to bring good news to the poor.

He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives

and recovery of sight to the blind,

to let the oppressed go free,

to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.

Presentation:

For more than 60 years people in churches have been working together to bring hope and transform the lives of some of the poorest people in our world. The international aid agency of the National Council of Churches in Australia is Act for Peace. It works through church partnerships seeking to bring a lasting peace to many conflict affected regions.

Act for Peace empowers war-torn communities to:

- reduce extreme poverty;
- protect refugees and displaced people; and
- prevent further conflict.

Act for Peace is better known to many of us through the activities of Christmas Bowl, Act for Peace Partners and in the past through Simply Sharing Week. These programs help bring hope to war-torn communities across Africa, Asia, the Middle East and the Pacific.

Congregations are able to stand in solidarity with these people through awareness of the project areas, praying in informed ways, and supporting Act for Peace activities. To help create meaningful connections between our congregation and people in conflicted situations around the world this congregation has an Act for Peace Representative.

Commissioning:

Today we commission *[insert Representative's name(s)]* for this ministry with us.

[insert Representative's name(s)], as an Act for Peace Representative you:
 will hold before us stories of lives and communities that are being transformed,
 may distribute materials to keep us informed about Act for Peace programs and activities,
 may offer prayer points to help our intercessions,
 may encourage us to stand in solidarity with others
 may help us discover new ways to act for peace.

[insert Representative's name(s)], are you willing to be an Act for Peace Representative?
I am

Will you seek to spread the word about how churches are working together to act for peace in conflicted regions of our world?

With God's help, I will.

The congregation stands the minister says:

Will you accept *[insert Representative's name(s)]* as an Act for Peace Representative in this congregation?

We will.

Will you encourage him/her in love
 and support him/her in this ministry,
 serving with him/her the one Lord Jesus Christ?

With God's help, we will.

Prayer:

Let us pray.

God of grace,
 You equip and inspire us
 to serve in a variety of ways.
[insert Representative's name(s)] has responded to your gentle call
 to be an Act for Peace Representative
 may your blessing be upon him/her
 in the sharing of the stories from conflicted regions.
 Also equip and guide him/her in ways
 that will open our lives to act for peace in our world today
 through Jesus Christ the prince of peace we pray
Amen.

Song Suggestions:

Make Me a Channel of Your Peace
 Here I am Lord
 Brother Sister Let Me Serve You