



175TH
LOVE AND SERVE
1846-2021

13 and 15 October, 2020

Gathering

Song of choice

- L: We – members of the Society, associates, colleagues and friends – unite to celebrate the beginning of this anniversary year.
- All: We claim Christ's promised presence to be with us in all ways and at all times, gathering in faith with those we love and serve in both seen and unseen ways.

Silence

Holy God, may your Spirit guide and challenge us this year
to broaden our imagination,
deepen our trust,
move beyond obstacles,
be open to possibilities
and, like Cornelia, make a difference in the world, through Jesus, the Christ. Amen.

Tunes: Ode to Joy (8 lines); Brother, sister, let me serve you (2x4 lines) Words: F. Pratt Green (adapted)

God is here! As we God's people
meet to offer praise and prayer,
may we find in fuller measure
what it is in Christ we share.

Here, as in the world around us,
all our varied skills and arts
are the work of God's own Spirit
pouring into minds and hearts.

Readings

We are here to be there for someone else. Source Unknown

From the first letter to the Corinthians

There is a variety of gifts but always the same Spirit; there are all sorts of service to be done, but always to the same Lord; working in all sorts of different ways in different people, it is the same God who is working in all of them. The particular way in which the Spirit is given to each person is for a good purpose.

From the SHCJ Foundation Texts (#2)

In the humble and hidden life of the Holy Child Jesus we find mysteries of the most sublime teaching. Here it is that God manifests to us in the most wonderful manner the treasures of his mercy and of his boundless love... from the living wells of his perfect humility, his divine charity, and his absolute obedience, we are to receive the Spirit of the Society of the Holy Child Jesus.

From the SHCJ Constitutions (#1&2)

The Word was made flesh, he lived among us and we saw his glory... John 1:14

God has chosen to need men and women in every age to reveal divine love, to make known the reality of the Incarnation.

Cornelia Connelly, contemplating the child Jesus with his virgin mother, sought and found the God who is both hidden and manifest. Through suffering and joy she learned to love him and the world he came to consecrate, with an undivided heart. The fullness of her response brought forth the Society of the Holy Child Jesus, an apostolic community in the church. Drawn by the Spirit in the same way Cornelia was, we wish to share in the self-emptying of the Son and in the mission which he joyfully accepted from the Father.

Response God's wonderful works for us are remembered.

Reflection

What delights you most about this 175-year-old Society?

In what ways do you most want the Society to love and serve this year?

Prayers of Intercession

(using some of Cornelia's names for God and words from her prayer)

O Lord and Creator, we are not so much the ones loving and serving in this moment as the ones being loved and served by you.

We ask for great things – faith, zeal, generosity, humility, charity ...

O Hidden God, you write on our hearts what you wish each of us to hold.

We ask that we may learn to bear with one another ... to go out of ourselves ...

O Eternal Wisdom, breathe your healing upon us, our earth and her people.

We ask for fidelity in little things ... for generosity, generosity, generosity ...

Please add any other intercessions

**O Humbled God, let us begin again,
walking with you step by step in the ways of the child. Amen.**

✚ Celebrate life	in the midst	in the middle	in the muddle
✚ Celebrate life	in the storm	in the strife	in the struggle
✚ Celebrate life	in the chaos	in the confusion	in the catastrophes
✚ Celebrate life	in the joy	in the gentleness	in the generosity
✚ Celebrate life	in its pain	in its paralysis	in its poverty
✚ Celebrate life	in its energy	in its exuberance	in its ecstasy
✚ Celebrate life	in its darkness	in its dyings	in its departures
✚ Celebrate life	in its labour	in its laughter	in its loveliness
✚ Celebrate life	in all its magnificence, multiplicity, mystery		

unbiddable, unstoppable, unquenchable.
Amen. Alleluia!

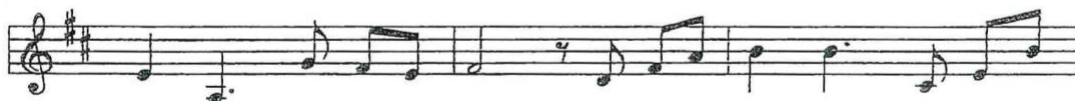
Incarnate Mystery

Based on SHCJ Constitutions
Verses for SHCJ 175th Anniversary
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Terri MacKenzie, SHCJ



Refrain: We're pledged to find you with-in our world; Cre-a-tion



shows us your love un-furl'd. With joy we see you, we live with -



in you; We are your bo - dy now, you are our life.



Verses:

- | | | | | |
|--------|-------------|------|--------------|---------------|
| 1. We | ask for | ears | to hear | the pres- ing |
| 2. One | need we | face | with joy --- | to build com- |
| 3. To | mend a | bro- | ken world | is what we're |
| 4. To | o- ver | flow | with awe | for mar- vels |
| 5. In | eight- teen | for- | ty six | Cor- nel- ia |



needs each day; for hearts that o- ver- flow with love, we pray.
mu- ni- ty, to know all life ex- ists in u- ni- ty.
called to do; be- cause you act in us, this we'll pur- sue.
of this Earth will help the world we're in have its re- birth.
plant-ed seeds "Ac-tions not words," she said, are what suc- ceed.

With thanks to Terri for the new verses for the 175th anniversary.

