

Prayer Service in Celebration of the Life and Heritage of Cornelia Connelly

He will bless us and do all things for us.

Cornelia Connelly

Introduction

Opening Song **Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You**

Gather 520

Call to Prayer (stand)

Leader: May the grace of our God be with you all

All: And also with you

Leader: We gather in the presence of our God.

All: May God hear our prayers and strengthen us.

Opening Prayer (stand)

Leader: Gracious and awesome God,
 You ask us to stand with you.

All: You speak very clearly of what you want of us
 and what you want our world to be.

 You ask us to be one with you
 in your mission to lavish the world with a message
 of hope, justice, and peace.

 You want hope, justice and peace for all of us,
 regardless of what country we are from,
 regardless of our religion, our beliefs.

 With you there are no conditions
 for the gifts
 that you desire for us.

 Help us to be peacemakers, to be people of hope and justice today
 among those we see,
 and those we cannot see.

 Help us to be your presence in our world.
 Amen

Davis Haas (adapted)

Reading **Words of Cornelia Connelly** (sit)

After each of Cornelia's quotes, please respond....May we strive to live by these words.

A Litany of Being God's Instrument of Goodness

Response: *God who sings through us, we thank you.*

 For the talents and abundance of gifts that are ours...

 For the faith that stirs and grows in our hearts...

 For the many people who have been instruments of your goodness in our lives...

Response: *God of goodness, help us to trust you.*

When fear rises up in us and we do not believe in ourselves as your instruments...
When busy-ness and pressures lead us to lose the sense of your song within us...
When we doubt your presence in the difficult aspects of our day...

Response: *God of love, sing your song through us.*

As we grow in believing in our goodness...
As we allow more and more of ourselves to be influenced by your presence...
As the call to be your instruments becomes clearer to us... Joyce Rupp (adapted)

All: Glory be to God, whose power working in us
can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine. Ephesians 3:20

Closing Prayer (stand)

Leader: God of wonder,
teach us to dream your dreams.

All: Give us a clear vision
to see beyond the here and now
to the wonder of what is possible
because you love and care for us.

Leader: Let us join together now in prayer and praise as we bless one another
with Cornelia's words....

All: Let us love one another and pray:
Let us love one another and be faithful:
Let us love one another and be humble.
be filled with the charity of God.
Let us love one another with God, in God, and for God;
And we shall thus be one with Him for all eternity. Amen.

Closing Song

Jubilate Servite / Raise a Song of Gladness

Gather 535



Written by Kathleen Lynch, Oak Knoll

READINGS

Readers: Stand at your place to read. Pause for a minute or two between each quote/response

Reader 1: In the words of Cornelia we read, “no quality is more needed...than a mild and gentle spirit.”

Response: May we strive to live by these words.

Reader 2 : In the words of Cornelia we read, “remember that it is not sufficient to have begun well; you must also persevere with courage and finish with resolution.”

Response: May we strive to live by these words.

Reader 3: In the words of Cornelia we read, “be open, sincere, lively and joyful, ready, foreseeing and active.”

Response: May we strive to live by these words.

Reader 4: In the words of Cornelia we read, “You must not hide the gifts God has given, but use them in his service.”

Response: May we strive to live by these words.

Reader 5: In the words of Cornelia Connelly we read, “be frank, sincere and open...opening your heart as you would to God himself.”

Response: May we strive to live by these words.

Reader 6: In the words of Cornelia we read, “try to help others, and each effort will be blessed on yourself.”

Response: May we strive to live by these words.

Reader 7: In the words of Cornelia we read, “let us try day by day to do what He would do, speak as He would speak, to think as He would think.”

Response: May we strive to live by these words.

Reader 8: In the words of Cornelia we read, “don’t talk about what you are going to do for God, but reflect upon what God is going to do for you.”

Response: May we strive to live by these words.