



- **Introduction to the celebration**

In 1895, the World Student Christian Federation had its founding meeting at Vadstena Castle, in Sweden, where students and student leaders from 10 countries in North America and Europe met. Among the main founders were John R. Mott (USA) and Karl Fries (Sweden).

The WSCF was a pioneer of the modern missionary and ecumenical movement. It encouraged and inspired students in the late 19th and early 20th centuries to become actively involved in the work of spreading the Gospel through committed discipleship. Its ecumenical vision and commitment emphasized the importance of mutual communication, cooperation, and the challenge to the main foundations of the historic churches.

Today we joyfully welcome the 127th Anniversary celebration of our global community. We constantly thank God for accompanying us on our long ecumenical journey, for each generation that has served in our Federation, for the legacy received and the task that God places before us at this time.

Feel welcome! May the presence of God fill us to continue united in his love giving reason for our hope today and always.

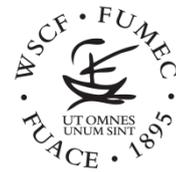
We begin this celebration in the name of the God of history who showed us his Kingdom of justice through his Son and invites us to build it daily, in solidarity and responsible action under the power and Grace of his Spirit. Amen.

- **Prelude:** *Traditional German Organ Recital 'Ein Feste Burg' (SCMers and Senior Friends will enter in procession from the back of the church/hall carrying a candle.)*

- **Prayer of invocation**

Let us pray:

Almighty God, you promised to be with us, when two or three are gathered: surely you are among us here today. We praise you for your constant loving kindness. Thank you for bringing us here today after three long years of trial, pain, and uncertainties; and for protecting and guiding us on our journeys, the ones we have walked as individuals and that of 127 years as a Federation. 'For I know the plans I have for you' -declares the Lord-, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future' (Jer 29:11). We rejoice that after our time wandering in the desert, we have come here to this celebration of the vocation you have given us.



We ask for your blessing, Lord. Be with us and inspire us to continue spreading your good news and give us strength for the coming decades.

Redeemer, fill our hearts with joy and love; make us witnesses of your power. Guide us, that we can bring your promises to all the earth. Amen.

- **Song 1:** “Gather us in” (Suggestion for a German Choir )
- **Call to Worship** (*Processional Hymn 3x with a sung response*) Led by the people carrying the candles.

**Leader:** My dear friends, I call on you now to offer worship to the Lord our God, the Father, who has brought us out of the darkness in this age and in ages past. The Lord is our reason and light, let us always and everywhere give thanks and praise.

**Response:** “Laudate Omnes Gentes”

**Leader:** We give you joyful praise, O Christ. You are the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. In you, all things in heaven and on earth were created: visible and invisible – the seas, the lands, every ecosystem, the vastness of space and every people, were created through and for you.

**Response:** “Laudate Omnes Gentes”

**Leader:** We rejoice in you, O Spirit, for through you, we called to discipleship, you bear witness to our vocation, and like at Pentecost, you fill our voices with meaning. We thank you, O Spirit, for though we do not know how to pray as we ought, you intercede for us with sighs too deep for words.

**Response:** “Laudate Omnes Gentes”

**Leader:** We bring before you now the lights that represent the offering of our work over the past 127 years. The memory is a return trip and reunion with those who never leave us, experiences that has changed us. Let us take a moment of silence to bring to our memories and hearts the stories that have marked our lives with the WSCF; people who are no longer physically with us but whose teachings, commitments, lives inspire us and challenge us in our faith and our struggles for justice and peace; SCMerS, Senior Friends, church community members, young people, from our home countries, with whom we daily share our path with... let them all be part of this moment and of this celebration.

(During this final response, candles/lamps are placed on the altar, positioned so that they can be seeing and light the altar. A brief silence.)

**Response:** “Laudate Omnes Gentes”



## **Confession of faults**

**Leader:** What does the Lord require of us but to rejoice in hope, to love kindness and to walk humbly with our God? Throughout 127 years of testimony of the WSCF, we have acknowledged that in the pursuit of justice and peace, we have not always been righteous, just, or consistent with the values that Jesus Christ taught us. As a global fellowship, we want to grow in God's radical love, humility, and wisdom so that we might bring justice and hope to our world.

Let us participate together in this responsorial confession by using the universal language of gestures. We can also say aloud in our own languages the phrases: Faithful God, forgives us (we will place our two hands to our hearts), Faithful God, transforms us (we will move our hands in a circle way and will lift them up), Faithful God reconciles us (we will hold our neighbor hand in a sign of unity-brotherhood/sisterhood)

**Leader:** For every time we represented a stone impeding other people to express and live their faith and spiritualities in their own way...and we judged others according to our prejudices instead of understanding them, aware that the only one who can judge is You.

**Community: Faithful God, forgive us.**

**Leader:** For our lack of sensitivity, solidarity, and strong voices in a society that claims for justice, dignity, work, equality of access and opportunity

**Community: Faithful God, transform us.**

**Leader:** For every time we spoke the language of hate, indifference, division, apathy, exclusion, superiority, violence... and we left arrogance and proud prevail over dialogue and understanding towards peace and reconciliation.

**Community: Faithful God, reconcile us.**

**- Silence -**

## **Assurance of Pardon**

**Let us pray:** God, we are sure that in your great mercy we are forgiven. Stay close to us to be able to recognize what make us become distant from you. Fill us with your Spirit to be able to find you when we need help and renew our hearts to always share the love and forgiveness that come from you. Amen.

**- Silence -**



- **Song 3:** “El Mensaje que hoy proclamamos” (in different languages) Music: Latin America. Lyric: Hans Anker Jorgensen (Norway)

### **Liturgy of the Word (involve all the regions)**



- **Bible Readings**

*Job 14:7*

*At least there is hope for a tree: if it is cut down, it will sprout again, and its new shoots will not fail. Its roots may grow old in the ground and its stump die in the soil, yet at the scent of water it will bud and put forth shoots like a plant.*

*Psalm 1:1-7*

*Blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked or stand in the way that sinners take or sit in the company of mockers, but whose delight is in the law of the Lord and who meditates on his law day and night. That person is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither – whatever they do prospers.*

*Matthew 13: 31-32*

*He told them another parable: “The kingdom of God is like a mustard seed which a man took and planted in his field. Though it is the smallest of seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that birds come and perch in its branches.*

*1 Peter 3:15*

*But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.*

- **Message by Christiane Gebauer (SCM Germany)**
- **Song 4: Psalm 95, Sing a Song to the Lord** -performed by a local student choir

### **Responses to the Word of God**

- **Nicene-Constantinopolitan Creed** (We respond to the Word of the Lord affirming our faith together with the Nicene-Constantinopolitan Creed- said all together)

I believe in One God,  
the Father Almighty,  
Maker of Heaven and Earth,



and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the Son of God,  
the Only-Begotten, begotten of the Father  
before all ages;  
Light of Light;  
True God of True God;  
begotten, not made,  
of one essence with the Father,  
by Whom all things were made;  
Who for us men and for our salvation  
came down from Heaven,  
and was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and  
the Virgin Mary,  
and became man.

And He was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate,  
and suffered, and was buried.

And the third day He arose again,  
according to the Scriptures,  
and ascended into Heaven,  
and sits at the right hand of the Father;  
and He shall come again with glory to judge  
the living and the dead;  
Whose Kingdom shall have no end.

And in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the Giver  
of Life,  
Who proceeds from the Father;  
Who with the Father and the Son together  
is worshipped and glorified;  
Who spoke by the prophets.

And in One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic  
Church.

I acknowledge one baptism for the  
remission of sins.  
I look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come.

- "127th Anniversary-Action-Tree"

**Leader:** The Scripture and the message today have brought us the image of the tree which is very recurrent in the Bible. For a plant to be considered a tree, it must have certain characteristics: roots, a height between two and six meters, a trunk of at least 10 cm and a crown. In the cup, in turn, will be the branches and leaves. Trees can also produce flowers and fruits.

The trees can live for thousands of years and some, like the redwoods, can exceed heights of more than a hundred meters.

Trees are also very important for the environment: they are a fundamental component of the natural landscape, they produce the oxygen that we breathe in the atmosphere, they help reduce carbon dioxide, they prevent erosion and their foliage offers protection against inclement weather. Human beings use trees for agriculture and landscaping, as they produce fruits and give beauty to the landscape. Wood, for its part, is appreciated for construction and as a source of energy.

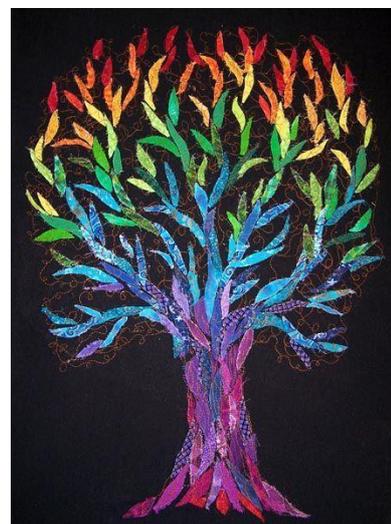
Trees are constantly threatened as they are overexploited by human beings, thus destroying forests and animal habitats.

For many religions worldwide, the tree is one of the essential elements of their cosmogony.

As we celebrate 127<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this year, we would like to think of our Federation as a tree with strong "roots" (history, foundations, that nourishes us), with a "trunk" that represent those things that sustain us: our mission, learning, contributions, programs, etc.), and with "branches" "leaves" "fruits", "nests" (a Federation that gives fruits, that provides shelter and shade for others, a Federation that even fertilizes the soil with the dry leaves that may fall)

We invite us all to hear from the testimonies of different generations that have contributed shaping; growing the tree we are today.

- Senior + Centennial Fund: Salters (Europe)
- Senior Friend (Asia)
- Staff: Natia (Europe)
- ExCo: Yasmina (ME)
- Officer: Ebere (Africa)
- SCMer: Julio (LAC)





- **Peace exchange**

As we are all part of this tree, we would like to invite us all to continue shaping and making this tree grow. Let us take a few minutes to exchange words of peace while we come to add colors and parts to this big symbol that represents our WSCF.

*((with music played or background music, participants will be invited to stand up and come to the tree to stick a colored leaf and shape the WSCF tree. They will also take the opportunity to share words of peace with one another.))*

- **Blessing**

May our life be like a tree, firmly in the love and the Word of God!

May we continue to be a Federation that works with faith in response to God's Grace to always celebrate the good fruits!

May our seeds spread over the earth giving rise to new sprouts (shoots) and may we always have memory of our roots!

And may the blessing of the familiar God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be with us at this time and make possible new encounters to work together for his Kingdom!

Amen.

- **Song: “We are marching” / “Caminemos en la luz de Dios”/ “Nous marchons dans la lumière de Dieu”**

////Caminemos a la luz de Dios////

Caminemos, caminemos, ¡sí!

caminemos a la luz de Dios.

////We are marching in the light of God////

We are marching, we are marching, yes!

we are marching in the light of God.

////Nous marchons dans la lumière de Dieu////

Nous marchons, nous marchons, oui!

nous marchons dans la lumière de Dieu.

- **Greetings** (guests from Berlin, Ministries, partner organizations)