

Hymn Searches 2000-2012

Listed are the years in which the selections were announced, a brief description of the focus of the contest, the winning entries, and their creators.

- 2000 Text and tune for the Third Millennium
A text was sought first, then presented for a new tune. The tune contest had joint winners.
“It started with an idle tale,” Mary Louise Bringle
JONATHAN, Jayne Southwick Cool
IDLE TALE, Tom Keesecker
- 2002 Text Celebrating the Ministry of Caregivers
“Bless the arms that comfort,” Mary Louise Bringle
- 2004 Text to Fill the Gaps
The announcement explained that the search was to “fill some of the perceived gaps in existing hymnody.” The first was the winner; the others received honorable mention.
“When eyes that we once knew as keen,” John Core
“In a blaze of riotous color,” Mary Weber Hall
“Mary of the incarnation,” Christopher M. Idle
“Lives are the currency spent in war’s carnage,” Andrew E. Pratt
- 2006 Text on The Power and Promise of Peace
No winner was chosen, but two texts were given honorable mention.
“We are the ones the world awaits,” Edith Sinclair Downing
“Children laughing, children playing,” Dorothy R. Fulton
- Simultaneous searches for a text and a tune were conducted in 2007 to celebrate the Society’s eighty-fifth anniversary.
- 2007 Text about The Least of These
The winning entry was submitted with a tune, and the award was divided between them.
“Leftover people in leftover places,” Shirley Erena Murray
CONNECT, Colin Gibson
- 2007 Tune to Bridge the Gap between Hymn and Song
Composers were invited to set either of two texts produced by previous searches: “Hope of the world,” by Georgia Harkness, or “O God of every nation,” by William Watkins Reid, Jr.
BRIGHT VISION, James E. Clemens, setting “O God of every nation”
- 2008 Text and Tune about Creativity as a Gift from God in a Contemporary Musical Idiom and Song Form
“The Spirit Sings” (“The Spirit sang creation’s birth”), Keri K. Wehlander and Bruce Harding

- 2010 Hymn or song on Issues of Justice and Peace
Published in 2011.
“The Peaceful Kingdom” (“We wait the peaceful kingdom”), Kathleen R. Moore
- 2012 Text about Unity in Diversity
No winner was selected.