

## **She comes upon the wind**

*In some Christian traditions, the Holy Spirit is portrayed as female. In this Pentecost hymn, therefore, I've taken the purpose and presence of the Holy Spirit as feminine, relating what I perceive to be aspects of the Spirit of God to the events of the first Pentecost as recorded in the second chapter of The Acts of the Apostles. It's set to the tune "Leoni", a Hebrew melody arranged in the 18<sup>th</sup> century by Thomas Olivers.*

She comes upon the wind, the gentle, rustling breeze;  
the breath that carries scents of flowers, and stirs the trees;  
that helps the birds to soar, the golden corn to sway ...  
She comes upon the wind – the Spirit here today.

She comes within the storm, with driving rain and hail;  
the rushing, mighty wind; the wild, dramatic gale  
that makes creation shake, and causes hearts to fear ...  
She comes within the storm – the Spirit has appeared.

She comes in tongues of fire, with flickering, dancing light,  
to challenge sorrow's gloom; to overcome the night;  
to conquer pain and dread; and broken hearts renew ...  
She comes in tongues of fire – the Spirit breaking through.

She comes in raging flames, ablaze o'er all the earth,  
no gentle, calming fire, confined to home and hearth;  
too big, too wide, too fierce for minds to comprehend ...  
She comes in raging flames – the Spirit without end.

She comes with tender words, in language kind and clear  
that each can understand, so all can say, 'I hear  
the very voice of God, ev'n though I know not how ...'  
She comes with tender words – the Spirit speaking now.

She comes with powerful voice, that I might change my ways,  
and work for justice, love and peace through all my days;  
to stand for what is right, wherever I might be ...  
She comes with powerful voice – the Spirit calling me.

## The Holy Spirit's Day

*The account in the second chapter of the Acts of the Apostles of the descent of the Holy Spirit is one of the most dramatic and inspiring in scripture. Pentecost, the birthday of the Christian Church, seeks to celebrate that amazing event. This hymn, therefore, takes the various elements of the Pentecost story, and seeks to relate them to our discipleship today. I've tried to put myself in the mind of those first disciples so that I can begin to understand the call to discipleship in my current context. It's set to the English Carol melody, "Seven Joys of Mary".*

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1 Disciples gather fearfully,<br>Not knowing what to do.<br>Their Lord has told them: 'I will send<br>My Spirit just for you.'<br>And yet they wonder how on earth<br>This Spirit they'll receive,<br>And whether heavenly promises<br>Can truly be believed.                               | 2 Yet even as their Easter faith<br>Has all but disappeared,<br>A gentle breeze ... a rising gale ...<br>A rushing wind they hear.<br>It blows away their questioning –<br>The 'When?' and 'Where?' and 'How?'<br>And in the cleansing wind God says,<br>'My Spirit's coming now!' |
| 3 The Holy Spirit fills their lives<br>As tongues of fire are formed,<br>And frightened, silent, doubting folk<br>Are wondrously transformed.<br>With fears dispelled, and faith restored,<br>They follow Christ's command,<br>To share His Love in word and deed<br>So all can understand. | 4 So once again we gather here,<br>Disciples old and new,<br>To hear Christ's promise to His Church:<br>'My Spirit's here for you.'<br>May we, with hearts aflame for Him,<br>In worship now rejoice,<br>And find, with purpose and with power,<br>Our Pentecostal voice.          |
| 5 Lord, take our lives, renew our hope,<br>Dispel our human fears.<br>Let us proclaim our faith once more<br>So all our world can hear.<br>We'll live His Life, and speak His Truth,<br>As people of His Way,<br>And sing with praise to celebrate<br>The Holy Spirit's Day.                |  |