

8<sup>th</sup> June 2025

## Spirit

**“And I cry ... on the vigil of Pentecost: Let your Spirit descend!  
Let your Spirit descend! And renew the face of the earth.”**

Pope John Paul II, *homily during the Holy Mass, Warsaw, 1979*

In some Christian traditions, the Holy Spirit is portrayed as female. The hymn below, therefore, takes the purpose and presence of the Holy Spirit as feminine, relating aspects of the Spirit of God to the events of the first Pentecost. I wrote it to be sung to the tune *Leoni*, a melody which has Hebrew origins, and was arranged by Thomas Olivers in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. It's usually associated with Olivers' hymn *The God of Abraham praise*.

On this “vigil of Pentecost”, I'm with the late Pope John Paul II. Let's call on the Spirit of God to descend again today, to come to renew our world.

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 ranging 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.

### **A prayer for today**

*“Come!” I cry today. “Come, come, come, Spirit of God.”*