



## Week 1: The Spirit Comes as a Dove

### *Spirit, Working in Creation (based on Psalm 415)*

Spirit, working in creation, bringing order out of strife,  
come among God's gathered people, giving harmony and life.  
Spirit, speaking through the prophets so the voice of God was heard,  
come, inspire, alert your people to this day's prophetic word.

Spirit, overshadowing Mary as the Christ-child in her grew:  
come, so that the Christ within us may today be born anew.  
Spirit, coming from the Father as a dove upon our Lord:  
come upon your favored people and your blessings be outpoured.

Spirit, driving to the desert even God's Anointed One:  
come to us in trial and testing that God's will in us be done.  
Spirit, breathed on the disciples, giving peace where there was fear:  
come among us, touch us, send us

## Singing the Spirit

One approach to singing the Spirit is to explore the many metaphors and acts of the Spirit throughout biblical history. While we may immediately picture tongues of fire coming upon the disciples at Pentecost, it is important not to overlook the role of the Spirit throughout all of Scripture. The Spirit didn't simply enter biblical history at Pentecost to replace Jesus' physical presence on earth, but has been present all along.

The song "Spirit, Working in Creation" shows the Holy Spirit working throughout the biblical metanarrative. This hymn uses something of a "collect" prayer form in which a past action of the Spirit is recalled and then followed by an invocation for the Spirit to act the same way in our lives today—to work among us, inspire our reading of Scripture, change our hearts, and help us feel the presence of Christ.

"Spirit, Working in Creation" begins by referencing the Spirit's work in creation hovering over the waters in Genesis, and continuing through the biblical narrative with the Spirit's equipping and anointing the prophets.

In the second stanza the Spirit descends upon Jesus Christ at his baptism as a dove sent from the Father, and remains with Christ as a wise and comforting presence when he is tempted in the desert.

The final stanza features the Spirit equipping the disciples of the New Testament, while invoking that same spiritual presence to dwell in us today for acts of service.

Interspersed throughout are symbols of the Spirit such as dove and breath, as well as an implicit reference to oil anointing the prophets. The song closes with a doxology to the Spirit, giving praise for the Spirit's loving and comforting presence, and giving honor and glory to the Father and Son.

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