GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Come, O Holy Spirit, Come
Wa wa wa Emimimo

Come, O Holy Spirit, come;
Wa wa wa Emimimo;

Come, almighty Spirit, come;
Wa wa wa Alagbara;

Come, come, come.
Wa-o, wa-o, wa-o.

This short gathering song from Nigeria was originally created in Yoruba, one of that country’s three primary trade languages. Although it has a very different rhythm and feel, this is essentially the same sung prayer as the Taizé chant, “Veni Sancte Spiritus” (no. 281).

TEXT: Nigerian song; English trans. I-to Loh, 1986
MUSIC: Nigerian melody, taught by Samuel Solanke; transcr. I-to Loh, 1986
Irregular
On Pentecost They Gathered

1. On Pentecost they gathered quite early in the day,
   a band of Christ’s disciples, to worship, sing, and pray.

2. The people all around them were startled and amazed
   to understand their language, as Christ the Lord they praised.

3. God pours the Holy Spirit on all who would believe,
   on women, men, and children who would God’s grace receive.

4. O Spirit, sent from heaven on that day long ago,
   rekindle faith among us in all life’s ebb and flow.

A mighty wind came blowing, filled all the swirling air,
What universal message, what great good news was here?

That Spirit knows no limit, bestowing life and power,
O give us ears to listen and tongues a flame with praise,

and tongues of fire glowing inspired each person there.
That Christ, once dead, is risen to vanquish all our fear.

The church, formed and reforming, responds in every hour.
so folk of every nation glad songs of joy shall raise.

This narrative and interpretive text was written to fill what the author perceived as an unfortunate gap in available hymns concerning the Holy Spirit in general and Pentecost in particular. The setting of a 17th-century German tune is from Mendelssohn’s oratorio Elijah.

TEXT: Jane Parker Huber, 1981
MUSIC: Neunvennacht Meiningisches Gesangbuch, 1693; adapt. Felix Mendelssohn, 1847
Glory to God,  
Whose Goodness Shines on Me

1. Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,  
   World without end, without end. Amen.

2. and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,  
   World without end, without end. Amen.

   and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free,  
   World without end, without end. Amen.

   As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.
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As the Wind Song

風之頌

1 As the wind song through the trees, as the
風之頌，林中吹送，輕風

2 As the rainbow after rain, as the
彩之虹，雨後高懸，生之

stirring of the breeze, so it is with the Spirit of
送，心中振動，上主的靈如風吹

hope that’s born again, so it is with the Spirit of
盼望，人間再現，上主的靈如風吹

God, as the heart made strangely warm, as the
送；心溫暖，奇異難明，風浪

God, as the green in the spring, as a
送；春天裡，青山綠水，線上

voice within the storm, so it is with the Spirit of
纏飛揚風箏，上主的靈如風吹

kite on a string, so it is with the Spirit of

God. Never seen, ever known, where this wind has
送；眼不見，心未明，風來去何

making peace, making new, where this wind has
送；大地萬象更新，和平終實

Reversing the usual order, this hymn began with the music rather than the words. The composer (from
Singapore) sent this tune to the author (in New Zealand) to see what text it might inspire from her. She also
suggested the tune name, a Maori phrase meaning “Holy Spirit.”
GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

blown, bringing life, bringing power to the world,
真，賜生命，加力量；

as the danc-ing tongues of fire, as the soul's most deep de-
火之舌，跳動飛舞，心深處，朝思暮

sire, so it is with the Spir-it of God.
想，上主的靈如風吹送。
Praise God, from Whom
All Blessings Flow

Doxology

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise Christ, all people here below; praise Holy Spirit evermore; praise

Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.

*Or "God"
Because such a sending song has a place in many Christian traditions, several versions of both this text (based on Isaiah 6:8) and tune can be found throughout South Africa. When desired, additional English stanzas can be improvised in alternation with the original Zulu text.