

Wednesday, June 9, 2021– Christ's Church Cathedral

COME HOLY SPIRIT, BLEST
A Hymn Festival On The Gifts of the Holy Spirit

MEMORIAL OF COLUMBA, ABBOT OF IONA

A hymn or song of praise reminds us of who God is and what we have been promised. And so, a hymn festival is an occasion centered on these hymns and songs of praise— songs sung in community gathering our prayer and praises into one.



In the church's liturgical calendar the weeks leading up now to the end of the church year on the Feast of the Reign of Christ are designated as Sundays after Pentecost. In the Roman Catholic tradition, they are known as Sundays in Ordinary Time and while we're at it, the BCP refers to them as Sundays after Trinity. Certainly, we can say that there are many different ways of referring to this period

when we mark a time of rest, reflection and joy. Into this time we inject further colour in a hymn festival which focuses on the Holy Spirit. There is a rich body of congregational song on this theme stretching from early plainchant, through the Reformation, Gospel hymnody and various modern creations illuminating the Holy Spirit as it exhorts, enflames, comforts and inspires community. The choices are plentiful which makes the selection of a few representative hymns difficult indeed— you just want to sing them all! The hymns are described via commentary on their story and provenance as well as through poetry and prose.

In addition, on this day, we recognize the missionary, Columba. He was a mighty abbot in sixth-century Ireland, who ruled a network of monasteries in his native land and helped to lay the foundation of the Christian Church in Scotland. Born into the clan O'Neill, Columba lived at a time when the druids, the priests of Celtic paganism, still held sway. He became known as someone whose Christian holiness allowed him to command the magic of the druids and to bend it to the will of Christ. Then, at the age of forty-two, he left Ireland in order to become, as a later biographer said, "a pilgrim for Christ." He and twelve disciples settled on Iona, a small island off the western

coast of Scotland. By becoming “a pilgrim for Christ,” Columba meant to set a more perfect course for his inward voyage with the Lord — that is, to enter more deeply into the life of prayer and penance. But he was committed to helping others become “pilgrims for Christ,” too. So, from Iona, he founded several new monasteries in Scotland. Missionary work was a by-product of these foundations. The still-pagan Scots were greatly impressed by the austere life of the Irish monks, and even more by Columba’s own powers. His disciples seized the opportunity and began to preach the Gospel. Before long many Scottish tribes were converted to Christ. Columba himself made a few journeys into the Scottish mainland, and he seems to have had a hand in converting at least one important chieftain. As a result, Columba came to be regarded as the Apostle of Scotland; and that is how we remember him today, which is the traditional anniversary of his death in the year 597

***Animators** – Anne Kae, Jeni Darling, Dr. Tim Dobbin.*

***Organ and Piano** – Michael Bloss*

Words of Introduction

Organ

Hymnus de Sancto Spiritu: Veni creator spiritus

Samuel Scheidt (1587-1654)

Prayer (*all respond at the bold text*)

Creator God,
because you make all that draws forth our praise
and the forms in which to express it,
we praise you.

Because you make artists of us all,
awakening courage to look again at what is taken for granted,
grace to share these insights with others,
vision to reveal the future already in being,
we praise you.

Because you form your Word among us,
and in your great work embrace all human experience,
even death itself, inspiring our resurrection song,
we praise you.

Yours is the glory.

Amen.

Commentary
Hymn – Veni Creator Spiritus

Musical score for 'Veni Creator Spiritus' in G major, 6/8 time. The score is written for piano and includes the lyrics: Ve - ni Sanc - te Spi - ri - tus.

Commentary
Hymn – Blessed quietness

TEXT: Marnie P. Ferguson
 MUSIC: W.S. Marshall, apapt. James M. Kirk

Musical score for 'Blessed quietness' in B-flat major, 3/4 time. The score is written for voice and includes the lyrics: Joys are flow-ing like a riv - er since the Com - for - ter has Bring-ing life_andhealth and glad ness all a-round this heav'n-ly Like the rain_that falls from hea-ven like the sun - light from the See, a fruit-ful field is grow ing bless-ed fruit of right-eous What a won-der-ful sal - va - tionwhere we al - ways see His come; He a- bides_with us for - ev - er makes the trust - ing heart His Guest ban-ished un - be - lief and sad-ness changed our wea - ri-ness to sky, so the Ho - lyGhost is giv - en com - ing on us from on ness and the streams of life are flow ing in the lone - ly wil-der face! What a per - fect hab - i - ta - tion what a qui - et res-ting home.Bless-ed qui-et-ness,ho-ly qui-et-ness what as - sur-ance in my soul!On the rest. high. ness. place. storm-y sea he speakpeace to me how the bil-lows cease to roll.

Commentary

Hymn – Sweet, sweet spirit

TEXT AND MUSIC: Dores Akers, b. 1922.

There's a sweet, sweet Spi - rit in this place,_____ and I
 bless - ings you can-not re - ceive_____ till you
 say He saved you from your sin,_____ now you're

know that it's the Spir - rit of the Lord._____ There are sweet ex -
 know Him in His full - ness, and be - lieve._____ You're the one to
 weak, you're bound, and can - not en - ter in,_____ you can make it

press - ions on each face._____ and I know they feel the pres - ence of the
 pro - fit when you say,_____ "I am going to walk with Je - sus all the
 right if you will yield:_____ you'll en - joy the Ho - ly Spir - it that we

Lord._____ Sweet, Ho - ly Spi - rit, Sweet Heav - en - ly Dove,
 way." _____
 feel. _____

stay right here with us, _____ fill - ing us with your love. And for these

bless - ings _____ we lift our hearts in praise with - out a

doubt we'll know _____ that we have been re - vived _____ when

we shall leave this place. 1. 2. There are place. 3.

Commentary

Hymn – Come Down, O Love divine

TEXT: Bianco da Siena

MUSIC: Ralph Vaughan Williams. DOWN AMPNEY



Come down, O Love di - vine, seek thou this soul_ of
O let it free - ly burn, till earth - ly pas - sions
Let ho - ly cha - ri - ty mine out - ward vest - ure
And so the yearn - ing strong, with which the soul_ will

mine, and vis - it it with thine own ar - dour glow - ing;
turn to dust and ash - es in its heat con - sum - ing;
be and low - li - ness be - come mine in - ner_ cloth - ing;
long, shall far out - pass the pow'r of hu - man tell - ing;

O Com - fort - er, draw near, with - in my heart ap -
and let thy glo - rious light shine ev - er on my
true low - li - ness of heart, which takes the hum - bler
for none can guess its grace, till they be - come the

pear, and kin - dle it, thy ho - ly flame be - stow - ing.
sight, and clothe me round, the while my path il - lum - ing.
part, and o'er its own short - com - ings weeps with loath - ing.
place where - in the Ho - ly Spi - rit finds a_ dwell - ing.

Homily – The Dean

Commentary

Hymn: She sits like a bird

TEXT AND MUSIC: John Bell and Graham Maule. THAINAKY



She sits like a bird,
She wings ov - er earth
She dan - ces in fire
For she is the Spirit,

brood - ing on the wa - ters hov - ring on the cha - os of the
rest - ing where she wish - es light - ing close at hand or soar - ing
start - ling her spec - ta - tors wak - ing tongues of ecs - ta - sy where
one with God in ess - ence, gif - ted by the Sa - viour in e -

world's first day: she sighs and she sings, moth - er - ing cre - a - tion
through the skies; she nests in the womb, wel - com - ing each won - der
dumbness reigned; she weans and in - spires all whose hearts are o - pen
ter - nal love; and she is the key o - pen - ing the scrip - tures

wait - ing to give birth to all the Word_ will say.
nour - ish - ing po - ten - tial hid - den, to_ our eyes.
nor can she be cap - tured, si - lenced or_ res - trained.
en - e - my of a - pa - thy and heaven - ly dove.

Commentary

Hymn: A mighty wind invades the world

TEXT: Community of Stanbrook Abbey

MUSIC: English melody, 15th c, adapted and arranged David Iliff (b. 1939. AGINCOURT



A migh - ty wind in - vades the world, so strong and
The Spi - rit is a foun-tain clear for ev - er
The Spi - rit comes in tongues of flame with love_ and
O tran - quil Spi - rit bring us peace with God_ the



free_ on_ beat - ing wing: it is the Spi - rit
leap - ing_ to the sky, whose wa - ters give_ un -
wis - dom. burn - ing bright: the wind, the foun - tain
Fa - ther_ and the Son: we praise you, bless - ed



of the Lord from which all truth and free-dom spring.
end-ing life whose time - less source is nev - er
and the fire com - bine in this great feast of light.
Trin - i - ty, un - chang - ing and for ev - er One.

Commentary

Hymn – Hail Thee Festival Day

TEXT: Latin 14th c.

MUSIC: Ralph Vaughan Williams. SALVE, FESTA DIES

Refrain



Hail, thee fes - ti - val day! Blest day that art hal - lowed for ev - er,



day where - in God from heav'n shone on the world with his grace.



Lo, in the like - ness of fire, on them that a - wait his ap - pear - ing



he whom the_ Lord fore - told_ sud - den - ly, swift - ly, des cends.

Refrain

Hail, thee fes - ti - val day! Blest day that art hal - lowed for ev - er,
 day where - in God from heav'n shone on the world with his grace.

Forth from the Fa - ther he comes with his sev'n - fold mys - ti - cal dow - ry,
 pour - ing on hu - man souls in - fi - nite rich - es of God. —

Refrain

Hail, thee fes - ti - val day! Blest day that art hal - lowed for ev - er,
 day where - in God from heav'n shone on the world with his grace.

Hark! in a hun - dred tongues Christ's own, his cho - sen a - post - les,
 preach to a hun - dred tribes. Christ and his won - der - ful works.

Refrain

Hail, thee fes - ti - val day! Blest day that art hal - lowed for ev - er,
 day where - in God from heav'n shone on the world with his grace.

Praise to the Spi-rit of life, all praise to the fount of our be - ing,
light that dost light - en all, life that in all dost a - bide.

Refrain
Hail, thee fes - ti - val day! Blest day that art hal - lowed for ev - er,
day where - in God from heav'n shone on the world with his grace.

Collect for Columba

O God, you girded your servant Columba with the cincture of holiness and made him a pilgrim for Christ in the midst of the Irish and Scottish peoples. Grant that, having his life and labours in remembrance, we may rest upon your love and be cheerful in all adversities, as we await the redemption of all things in your well-beloved Son, our Lord Jesus Christ; who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Amen

Prayer of Parting *(said by all)*

**God of majesty, whom saints and angels delight to worship in heaven:
Be with all your people who employ art and music for your praise,
that with joy we on earth may glimpse your beauty;
and bring us to the fulfillment of that hope of perfection which will be ours as
we stand before your unveiled glory.
We pray in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Prayer for People Facing Great Uncertainty

God of the present moment,
God who in Jesus stills the storm and soothes the frantic heart;
bring hope and courage to all who wait or work in uncertainty.
Bring hope that you will make them the equal of whatever lies ahead.
Bring them courage to endure what cannot be avoided,
for your will is health and wholeness;
you are God, and we need you.
Amen.

The Dismissal *(all respond with the bold text)*

Let us go in peace to love and serve and the Lord. Alleluia
In the name of Christ. Alleluia.

Music – Nunc Dimittis from Service in E Herbert Murrill
(Sarah McPherson, Anne Kae, Mark Russom, Jeremy Ludwig)

NEXT WEDNESDAY, JUNE 16

EVENING PRAYER
MEMORIAL OF JOSEPH BUTLER, BISHOP OF DURHAM

Officiant: The Dean; *Cantor:* John Janisse

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(adapted). Used by permission. Poem, *To Bless the Space Between Us*, from “In Praise of Fire: To Bless the
Space Between Us: A Book of Blessings”, John O’Donohue, 2008.