

Pentecost Prayer Service 2020



"The Wild Goose," © 2013 Hilary Ann Golden

Gathering Song

Veni Sancte Spiritus

Melody:

Ve - ni San - cte Spi - ri - tus.

Text: *Come Holy Spirit*; Verses drawn from the Pentecost Sequence; Taizé Community, 1978
Tune: Jacques Berthier, 1923-1994
© 1979, Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, Inc., agent
All rights reserved. Reprinted with permission under license #A-704172, *OneLicense.net*.

Greeting

Let us begin with the sign of our faith.
In the name of God, our mother and father, and of Jesus, our brother and healer, and of the Holy Spirit, our wisdom and guide.

Prayer

Come, O Holy Spirit.
Come as Holy Fire and burn in us,
come as Holy Wind and cleanse us within,
come as Holy Light and lead us in the darkness,
come as Holy Truth and dispel our ignorance,
come as Holy Power and enable our weakness,
come as Holy Life and dwell in us.
Convict us, convert us, consecrate us,
until we are set free from the service of ourselves,
to be your servants to the world. Amen.

(*Come, Holy Spirit* by John Henry Newman)

Reading

Acts 2:1-13

Psalm Response

Psalm 104: 1, 24, 29-30, 34 with *Spirit Wind* refrain

Refrain



Spir-it Wind, Breath of God, breathe new life in - to the world.



Spir-it Wind, Breath of God, breathe new life in - to the world.

Text: Psalm 104; Scott Soper, b.1961
Tune: Scott Soper, b.1961
© 1997, GIA Publications, Inc.
All rights reserved. Reprinted with permission under license #A-704172, OneLicense.net.

Reflection

Chasing the Wild Goose: A Pentecost Adventure by Hilary Ann Golden

The day of Pentecost, recounted in Acts 2, is an odd event in the life of the Church. It is our birth story. And it is a story filled with a variety of emotions, a diversity of people, and a multitude of implications. A quick read through the first section of Acts 2 reveals some of the surprise that resulted; words like “suddenly,” “rush,” “violent,” “bewildered,” “amazed,” “astonished,” and “perplexed” are used to describe the event, the crowd’s reactions, and the Spirit Herself. This descent – or pouring upon – of the Spirit on the people was not a tidy, comfortable, or tame gesture. It was quite the opposite.

Celtic Christians chose the Wild Goose as a way to talk about the Spirit. Celtic Christians often forged their symbols out of the ordinary, daily things of the earth that they saw in front of them. For them, the untamed, uncontrollable, erratic nature of the Wild Goose more

closely characterized the movement of the Spirit than did a peaceful, tranquil Dove. A Wild Goose is always on the move, always doing unexpected things; it is loud, passionate, sometimes frightening, and certainly unsettling.

As I consider the events of that day [Pentecost], I see congruence between the story and this Celtic understanding of the Spirit as Wild Goose. I imagine the people crowding together, attempting to come close and striving to “touch” the Wild Goose, only to find that in a “rush” and a “violent wind,” the Spirit had already swept through and left a beautiful, chaotic mess.

This story encourages us to expect that God will do the unexpected. It reminds us of the surprise, bewilderment, and astonishment that rattles our bones when the Spirit of God has descended upon us. And I love the way the Wild Goose image of the Spirit of God draws us into community and relationship. By creating a holy mess of confusion, the Spirit leaves us with two choices: give up and remain confused, or work together to find meaning.

(<https://www.asacredjourney.net/chasing-the-wild-goose/>)

Quiet Reflection

Where do you see the holy mess of confusion created by the Wild Goose?
Where do you experience people working together to find meaning?

Prayers of the Faithful

R. O God, hear our prayer

For all those who are in need of hope. May the gift of the Holy Spirit dwell in their hearts and help them to press forward, confident in God’s intercession for us ... we pray:

For those affected by the coronavirus pandemic, and for wisdom for all those making decisions regarding the prevention and treatment of COVID-19 ... we pray:

Add your own intentions...

Prayer

May the Gifts of the Holy Spirit bring fire to the earth so that the presence of God may be seen in a new light, in new places, in new ways. May our own hearts burst into flame so that no obstacle, no matter how great, ever obstructs the message of the God within each of us. May we come to trust the Word of God in our heart, to speak it with courage, to follow it faithfully and to fan it to flame in others. May the Jesus who filled women with his Holy Spirit fill the world and the

church with new respect for women's power and presence. Give me, Great God, a sense of the Breath of Spirit within me as I... (*State the intention in your own life at this time for which you are praying.*) Amen.

(Pentecost Prayer by Joan Chittister, OSB)

Sending Hymn

Send Your Spirit by Cathy Tisel Nelson

Refrain

Send your Spir - it, keep us a - flame with a burn - ing de - sire.

Send your Spir - it, set us on fire — with your love.

Verses

1. May your love ig - nite — us, — move our hearts, in - spire — us, —
2. May our prayers be fer - vent, — con - stant and un - ceas - ing. —
3. Help us serve the wound - ed, — and the bro - ken heart - ed, —
4. Thank you for your good - ness, — ev - er flow - ing mer - cy, —

burn with - in, em - pow'r — us — as we pour out our lives.
 May our hearts of long - ing — know your most ho - ly will.
 bring your heal - ing pres - ence — to all the poor and lost.
 grace and love un - end - ing, — wis - dom and ra - diant light.

Keep our hearts en - kin - dled — with a blaz - ing fire. —
 As we gaze up - on — you — in your bril - liant glo - ry, —
 Keep our feet un - swerv - ing — on the path of jus - tice. —
 Make us all your ves - sels, — in - stru - ments of peace. —

Fill us with a pas - sion — that nev - er dies.
 may our souls re - flect — you — more ev - 'ry day.
 May our ways be hum - ble, — gen - tle and kind.
 May we love and serve — you — all of our days.