

Come, Thou Holy Spirit, Come
by
Martin L. Swalboski

Unison Choir with Accompaniment
Season of Pentecost

Martin Swalboski provides this musical setting of the Latin hymn text known as "The Golden Sequence."

The text originates in the 13th-century hymn for Pentecost, *Veni sancte spiritus*, sometimes attributed to Pope Leo III. The translator is the prolific Rev. Edward Caswall (1824–78), whose other hymn translations include "O saving victim, open wide," "Jesus, the very thought of thee," and "I love thee, Lord, but not because I hope for heaven thereby." His translation of "Come, Thou Holy Spirit, Come" first appeared in *Lyrical Catholica* (1849), Caswall's translation of all the hymns in the Roman Catholic *Breviary* and *Missal*.

Swalboski's unison melody offers a most welcome addition to the small catalogue of hymn tunes composed in Phrygian mode: "I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say" (*Third Tune* by Thomas Tallis); "Now, my tongue, the mystery telling" (*Pange lingua*, 14-century plainsong); "O sacred head sore wounded" (*Herzlich tut mich verlangen* by Hans Leo Hassler); "Out of the depths" (*Aus tiefer Not*, attributed to Martin Luther); "A stable lamp is lighted" (*Andújar* by David Hurd); and, unfortunately, very few others.

I find all of these Phrygian hymns haunting, whether sung in unison or harmonized. Here, by the most economical and skillful of means, Swalboski's arpeggiated bass line yields a harmonic setting of lovely richness.

Albert Blackwell
September 3, 2012

Come, Thou Holy Spirit, Come

13th-century Latin hymn, tr. Edward Caswall (1814–78), alt.

Martin L. Swalboski (b.1951)

Unison Voices

1. Come, thou Ho - ly Spi - rit, come; _____ and from
 2. Thou of Com - fort - ers the best, _____ Thou the
 3. O most bless - ed Light Di - vine, _____ shine with -
 4. Heal our wounds, our strength re - new; _____ on our
 5. On the faith - ful, who a - dore _____ and con -

Acc.

6

thy ce - les - tial home _____ shed a ray of light di -
 soul's most wel - come Guest, _____ sweet re - fresh - ment here be -
 in these hearts of thine, _____ and our in - most be - ing
 de - sert pour thy dew; _____ wash the stains of guilt a -
 6 fess thee ev - er - more, _____ in thy sev'n - fold gifts de -

12

vine. _____ Come, Pro - tect - tor of the
 low. _____ In our la - bor, rest most
 fill. _____ Where thou art not, we have
 way. _____ Bend the stub - born heart and
 12 scend. _____ Give them vir - tue's sure re -

18

poor, _____
 sweet, _____
 naught, _____
 will, _____
 ward; _____

come, thou Source of all our store, _____
 pleas - ing cool - ness in the heat, _____
 no - thing good in deed or thought, _____
 melt the fro - zen, warm the chill; _____
 give them thy sal - va - tion, Lord; _____

23

_____ come, with - in our bos - oms
 _____ sol - ace in the midst of
 _____ no - thing free from taint of
 _____ guide the steps that go a -
 _____ give them joys that nev - er

28

shine. _____
 woe. _____
 ill. _____
 stray. _____
 end. _____

Final verse only

Performance suggestion: all sing verses 1, 3, and 5; women sing verse 2; men sing verse 4. On verses 2 and 4 the accompaniment might be played up an octave.