

# Come, Holy Spirit, Heav'nly Dove (2005)

SATB a/c

Difficulty rating: 3

Duration: 2'15"

Co-Premiere: Trinity Episcopal Church (Moorestown, NJ) and St. Paul's Episcopal Church (Franklin, TN), 06/04/06

My Pentecost hymn setting, *Come, Holy Spirit, Heav'nly Dove*, was originally set for SAB, but I eventually dropped that version in favor of the current SATB one. I also originally set only 4 verses; the current 4<sup>th</sup> verse was added with the SATB version. The musical material is essentially the same for each verse, but it is altered, subtly and not so subtly, to reflect the different stations in the emotional journey. It is not a traditional hymn setting, with counterpoint and textural variety to breaking up the homophony.

The work was co-premiered the same Pentecost Sunday in 2004 at Trinity Episcopal Church in Moorestown, NJ, led by Vernon Williams; and at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Franklin, TN, led by Don Michael Dicie. I led the New York premiere just over a week later with my ensemble, Howl!

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Come, Holy Spirit, heav'nly Dove,  
With all Your quick'ning powers;  
Kindle a flame of sacred love  
In these cold hearts of ours.

See how we trifle here below,  
fond of these earthly toys:  
our souls, how heavily they go,  
to reach eternal joys.

In vain we sing our formal songs,  
In vain we strive to rise;  
Hosannas languish on our tongues,  
And our devotion dies.

Dear Lord, and shall we ever live  
At this poor dying rate?  
Our love so faint, so cold to You,  
And Yours to us so great!

Come, Holy Spirit, heav'nly Dove,  
With all Your quick'ning powers;  
Come, shed abroad the Savior's love  
And that shall kindle ours.

--Isaac Watts (*alt.*)