

The Holy Spirit

This worship theme can be spoken and sung in this order or in the suggested order given on the next page. However, you should shape it to the practices of your congregation, possibly placing different elements at different places, or skipping or adding elements as needed.

John 14:15-31, ESV

¹⁵ “If you love me, you will keep my commandments. ¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, ¹⁷ even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.

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- Song leader reads or assigns someone to read
 - Can be read in KJV instead
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¹⁸ “I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. ¹⁹ Yet a little while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. ²⁰ In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. ²¹ Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him.” ²² Judas (not Iscariot) said to him, “Lord, how is it that you will manifest yourself to us, and not to the world?” ²³ Jesus answered him, “If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him.

²⁴ Whoever does not love me does not keep my words. And the word that you hear is not mine but the Father’s who sent me.

²⁵ “These things I have spoken to you while I am still with you. ²⁶ **But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.** ²⁷ Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid. ²⁸ You heard me say to you, ‘I am going away, and I will come to you.’ If you loved me, you would have rejoiced, because I am going to the Father, for the Father is greater than I. ²⁹ And now I have told you before it takes place, so that when it does take place you may believe. ³⁰ I will no longer talk much with you, for the ruler of this world is coming. He has no claim on me, ³¹ but I do as the Father has commanded me, so that the world may know that I love the Father.

Songs

Thy Presence, Gracious God, Afford	HC 22	
Spirit of Holiness, Descend	HC 323	MH 213
Come, Gracious Spirit	HC 311	MH 215
Eternal Father, When to Thee	HC 88	MH 37
O Spread the Tidings Round (offering)	HC 322	
Breathe on Me, Breath of God (alternate)	HC 609	MH 216

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- Choose from these songs, perhaps interspersing them throughout.
 - HC = Hymns of the Church
MH = Mennonite Hymnal
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Meditation

What are our expectations as we gather as a body in Christ's Name? The opening song speaks about our need to receive the Word. We invite God to clear away the distractions and prepare us to receive the Word. John 14 speaks of how we receive the Word—by the Helper (or Comforter) that will

teach us all things. We move into inviting the working power of the Holy Spirit into our midst. We use the word “descend” in our feeble attempt to describe how the Spirit gently comes to us. As the Holy Spirit descends, he brings light and guidance. This descending is a mystery, but the Spirit brings light to our darkness, moves us toward truth and reveals the needs we have and how the Word is the answer. We close with the doctrine of the Trinity and how the Holy Spirit works within the Trinity. As a believer, God's Spirit dwells in us. No longer do we have to go to the temple, we have access at all times—we are the temple. Come, Gracious Spirit, Come!

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- Use this for your personal preparation or read it for the congregation
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Suggested order

- I. “Thy Presence, Gracious God, Afford,” “Spirit of Holiness, Descend”
- II. Scripture reading
- III. “Come, Gracious Spirit”
- IV. Meditation
- V. “Eternal Father, When to Thee”
- VI. A prayer