

SEND US YOUR SPIRIT, YOUR BREATH

Responsorial Song from Psalm 104 for Pentecost
for Cantor, Assembly, Descant & SATB Choir
with Keyboard, Flute & Guitar

TONY BARR

*Send us your Spirit, your Breath,
to make new the face of the earth.*

I sing in thanksgiving and joy
to God who is great beyond measure!
So varied the works of Creation,
how spendid the earth in her grandeur!

Turn from us, we shall be scattered,
into dust from which we all came.
But send us your Spirit, we breathe,
and make new the face of the earth.

Gloried by Ages unending,
delighting in Creation ever bringing!
May this song be pleasing to you,
my wholehearted long I thrill to your Name!

This song realls the literary delight of Gerard Manley Hopkins. Not only is the world charged with the grandeur of God, she dances in the sprung rhythm of English poetic text writing. Avoid singing the verses in a robotic 6/8 lyrical tempo, instead aiming for the built stress points, allowing each syllable the full weight that it is due. Use more than one voice in forming vowels, sing from the depths of the soul. While the music formula is unvarying, each syllable of text is charged with meaning and beauty.

I sing in thanksgiving and joy. Here is a dichotomy. Body and soul, corpus and spiritus, are corroborated by quantum physics. We have learned of the inseparability of light and solidity, that spirit incorporates matter in particle and wave form symbiosis. Each verse is a hymn, a symphony, to the wisdom of Creation. Why 'she'? In Latin, 'earth' and 'universe' (universa) are all feminine nouns. In the 'beginning', the Spirit which hovered over the deep is in the Scriptures (Proverbs) as 'she', (sofia, sapientia).

Turn from us, we shall be scattered into dust from which we all came. Science tells us that we are each made of stardust, clouds of the stuff hurled outward into an ever-expanding Universe, as galaxies collapse only to seed the future. The motes of cosmic dust resonate with the essence of Starlight, and nourish our spirit which are themselves light and hence indestructible.

We are glorified for Ages unending! And how, when we are fully alive, the divine beauty radiates through us, that Primordial Spirit in which Creation is born each day through our investment in her future. In addressing the Trinity, we are addressing ourselves, and perhaps the only fitting way to attempt the impossible to name the Unnameable in song.

- Tony Barr

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Send Us Your Spirit, Your Breath

Responsorial Song from Psalm 104 for Pentecost

music by Tony Barr from Ps. 104 Tony Barr

INTRO ♩ = ca. 54

REFRAIN

Flute free-form dance through

Descant

All

Send us your Spir - it, your

Send us your Spir - it, your

F

Gm

As always, all choral and instrumental parts are determined by available resources; sing and play only what you can.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "Send us your spirit, your breath" (Psalm 104, continued). The score is written in 2/4 time and features a melody line, three vocal parts, and a piano accompaniment. A large, diagonal "SAMPLE" watermark is overlaid across the entire page. The lyrics are as follows:

Send your Spir - it, make new — face of the earth.
Breath, to new face of the earth.
Send your Spir - it, make new the face of the earth.
Breath, to make new the face of the earth.

The piano accompaniment includes the following chords: Am, Bb, Gm, C, and F.

VERSES

Psalmist or Cantor at the ambo

1. I sing in thanks - - - giv - ing and joy
2. Turn from us, we shall with
3. Glorified by A un en

Gm C

1. to God who is great be - yond measure!
2. into dust which we all came.
3. delighting in Cre - a - tion, her beauty!

Gm7 Bbmaj7 Fmaj7

1. So varied the works Cre - ation
 2. But send us your Spir - it, we breathe,
 3. May this song be ple - as - ing

Dm C

3

1. resplendant the earth in her grandeur!
 2. and make new face of the earth.
 3. My whole life long I thrill to your Name!

F Bb+2 C+2

3

rit.

D.S

SAMPLE

Send Us Your Spirit, Your Breath

Responsorial Song from Psalm 104 for Pentecost

INTRO $\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 54$

Descant on selected Refrains

music & text from Psalm 104 Tony Barr

Send your Spir - it, make new — the face of the earth.

All
Send us your Spir - it, your Breath, to re - new the face of the earth.
Send your Spir - it, make new — the face of the earth.

SATB
Send us your Spir - it, your Breath, to re - new the face of the earth.

VERSES Psalmist or Cantor *at the ambo*

1. I sing in thanks - - - - - giv - ing and joy
2. Turn from us, - - - - - we shall but wither,
3. Glorified by - - - - - ges un - ending,

1. to God who is great be - yond measure!
2. into dust from which we all came.
3. delighting in - a - tion, her beauty!

1. - - - - - works of Cre - ation,
But send us your Spir - it, we breathe,
May this pleas - ing to you,

rit. 3
1. resplendant the earth in her grandeur!
2. and made the face of the earth.
3. My whole life long, I thrill to your Name!