

PROGRAM NOTES

No other hymn is as well-known or highly-regarded in the Unitarian Universalist movement than “Spirit of Life” by Carolyn McDade. Many congregations sing it every Sunday, sermons are written about it, and people sing it at life events. In just six lines of poetry, “Spirit of Life” deals with nearly all the key concepts cherished by this faith.

TEXT

Spirit of Life, come unto me.
Sing in my heart all the stirrings of compassion.
Blow in the wind, rise in the sea;
Move in the hand, giving life the shape of justice.
Roots hold me close; wings set me free:
Spirit of Life, come to me, come to me.

—Carolyn McDade
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Optional Harp Part is available separately: 8872A
The Flute Part is included on pages 15–16 of this publication.

Carolyn McDade (b. 1935)

For biographical information visit:
www.carolynmcdademusic.com

Dale Warland (b. 1932)

For biographical information visit:
www.dalewarland.com

Commissioned by the family of Ruth Palmer and members of Unity Church-Unitarian, St. Paul, Minnesota.
Dedicated to Ruth Palmer, Director of Music Ministry at Unity Church 1999–2019, upon her retirement.
Her reach for beauty and artistry will endure for generations.

Spirit of Life

for SATB Chorus (divisi), Flute, and Piano or Harp

Words and Music by Carolyn McDade
Arranged by Dale Warland (ASCAP)

Andante ♩ = ca. 80–84

Flute

mf *mp*

Andante ♩ = ca. 80–84

Piano

mp

4 *f* *molto rall.* *a tempo*

f *molto rall.* *a tempo*

l.h. *mp*

7 *mp* *f* *rall.*

f *rall.* *mp*

8^{vb} 1

Words and Music:

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10 *a tempo*

Fl. *ff* *mp*

S
A *mf*

T
B *mf*

Spir - it of Life,

a tempo

f *mf* *(loco)*

8^{vb}

12 *poco accel.*

f *mp*

mp *f*

come un - to me.

mp *f*

come un - to me.

poco accel.

mp *f* *mp (loco)*

8^{vb}

14 *molto rall.*

Fl. *f*

molto rall.

16 *a tempo*

Fl. *f*

S Spir - it of Life, *f*

A come un - to *f*

a tempo

f *mf sub.*

19

S Sing in my heart all the

A me. all the

mp *mf*

22

Fl. *mp* *f*

S stir - rings of com - pas - sion.

A stir - rings of com - pas - sion. *f* Blow in the

T

B *f* Blow in the

mp *f*

8^{vb}

25

f rise in the sea;

wind,

f rise in the sea;

wind,

28

giv - ing life the shape of

Move in the hand,

giv - ing life the shape of

Move in the hand,

31

jus - tice.

mp

mf Roots hold me close;

jus - tice.

mf Roots hold me close;

34

Fl. *f* *mf*

wings set me free: *mf*

S
A wings Spir - it of

wings set me free: *mf*

T
B wings Spir - it of

f *mf*

37

Life, come to me, come to me.

Life, come to me, come to me.

mp *mf* *mp*

40 *rall.* *a tempo*

f *mp*

mf with warmth

Spir - it of

mf with warmth

Spir - it of

rall. *a tempo*

f *mp* *mf*

43

Life, come un - to me.

Life, come un - to me.

mp *mf*

46

Sing — in — my heart all the stir - rings of com -

Sing in my heart all the stir - rings of com -

49

pas - sion. Blow in the wind, _____

pas - sion. Blow _____ in the wind, _____

mf *mp* *mp* *f*

52 *rall.* *a tempo*

f *mf*

f *mf*

rise in the sea; Move in the

f *mf*

rise in the sea; Move in the

rall. *a tempo*

ff *mf sub.*

55 *mp*

mp

hand, giv - ing life the shape of jus - tice.

mp

hand, giv - ing life the shape of jus - tice.

mp

58 **Broadly** *rall.*

mf *f*

Roots hold me close; wings set me

mf *f*

Roots hold me close; wings set me

Broadly *rall.*

l.h. *mf* *f*

61 *a tempo* *rall.*

ff *mf* *f* *mf*

free: Spir - it of Life, come to

ff *f* *mf*

free: Spir - it of Life, come to

a tempo *rall.*

ff *mf* *f* *mf*

Meno mosso

rall. 13

64

mf *mp* *f*
bring out through the end

me, come to me.

me, come to me.

Meno mosso

rall.

mf *f*
mp sub.

molto rall.

67

Fl. *mf* *p* very gently

S
A

T
B

molto rall.

ff brightly *3*

3

70

pp

pp

pp

pp

8^{vb}

comp. 1981
arr. 2019
4:30