

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

The musical score consists of four staves of music. The top staff is for Flute, starting with a dynamic of *mf*. The second staff is for Piano/Harp, starting with a dynamic of *mp*. The third staff continues the piano/harp part, with dynamics *f*, *molto rall.*, and *a tempo*. The fourth staff continues the piano/harp part, with dynamics *molto rall.*, *a tempo*, and *mp*. The bottom staff is for Bassoon, starting with a dynamic of *mp*, followed by *f*, *rall.*, *f*, *rall.*, *mp*, and ending with a measure in 3/2 time. The score includes various performance instructions like *molto rall.*, *a tempo*, and *l.h.*.

Words and Music:

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4

a tempo

Fl. *ff*

S A *mf*

T B Spir - it of Life,

mf

Spir - it of Life,

a tempo

f *mf* (loco)

poco accel.

12 *f* *mp*

mp *f* *poco accel.*

come un to me. *f*

come un to me. *mp*

f *mp* (loco)

8vb *Ped.*

14 *molto rall.*

Fl. *f*

molto rall.

{

Soprano (S) and Bassoon (B) parts shown.

16 *a tempo*

Fl. *f*

Soprano (S) and Alto (A) parts shown. Vocal line: Spir - it of Life, come unto

A *f*

a tempo

Bassoon (B) part shown. Dynamics: *f*, *mf sub.*

19

Soprano (S) and Alto (A) parts shown. Vocal line: Sing in my heart all the me. all the

Alto (A)

mp *mf*

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22

Fl.

S stir - rings of com - pas - sion.

A stir - rings of com - pas - sion.

T

B Blow in the

B Blow in the

mp f

f

8

8^b

8^b |

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25

Fl.

S rise in the sea;

A

T

B wind,

B rise in the sea;

wind,

f

8

8^b

8^b |

Copying is illegal

28

giv-ing life the shape of
Move in the hand,
giv-ing life the shape of
Move in the hand,

p.

31

jus - tice.
Roots hold me close;
jus - tice.
Roots hold me close;

mp

mf

mf

34

Fl. *f* 3 *mf*

wings set me free: Spir - it of

S A *f* *mf*

wings wings set me free: Spir - it of

T B *f* *mf*

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*

Spir - it of
mf with warmth

mf with warmth

Spir - it of

rall. *a tempo*

f *mp* *mf*

Spir - it of

43 *mp*

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

mf
mp
pas - sion. Blow in the wind,
pas - sion. Blow in the wind,
l.h. l.h. mp f

52 *rall.* *a tempo*

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

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

mp

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

mp

Review Copy Only

12

Broadly

58

rall.

Roots hold me close; wings set me

Broadly

Roots hold me close; wings set me

rall.

a tempo

61

rall.

free Spir - it of Life, come to

mf

free Spir - it of Life, come to

a tempo

rall.

free Spir - it of Life, come to

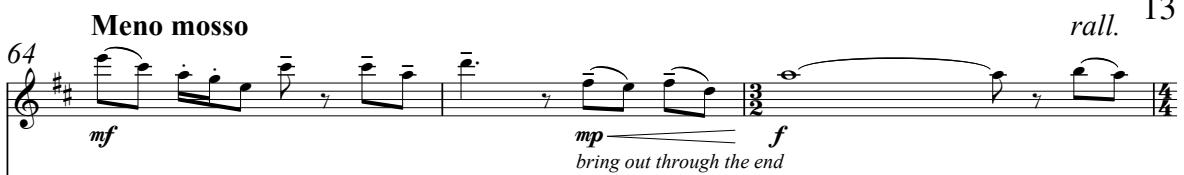
mf

free Spir - it of Life, come to

Meno mosso

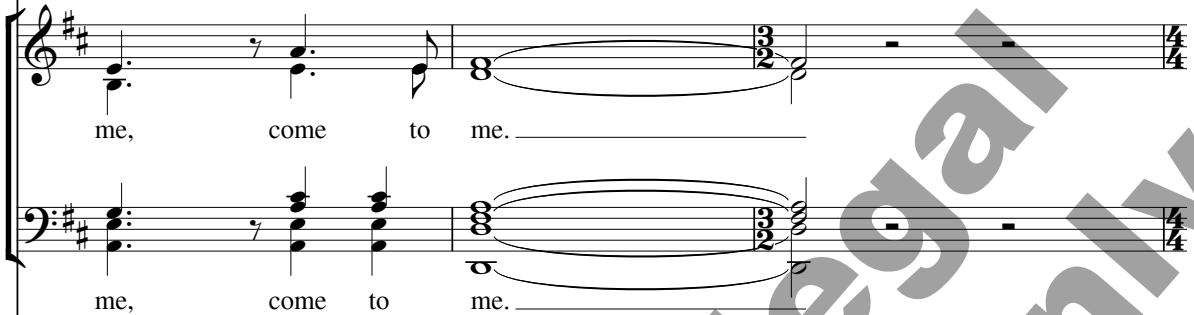
64 *rall.* 13

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



me, come to me.

me, come to me.



Meno mosso

rall.

mf *f*
mp sub.



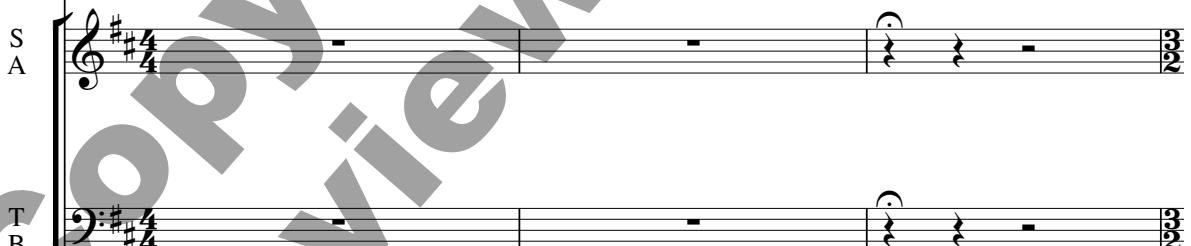
67 *molto rall.*

Fl. *mf* *p* *very gently*



S A

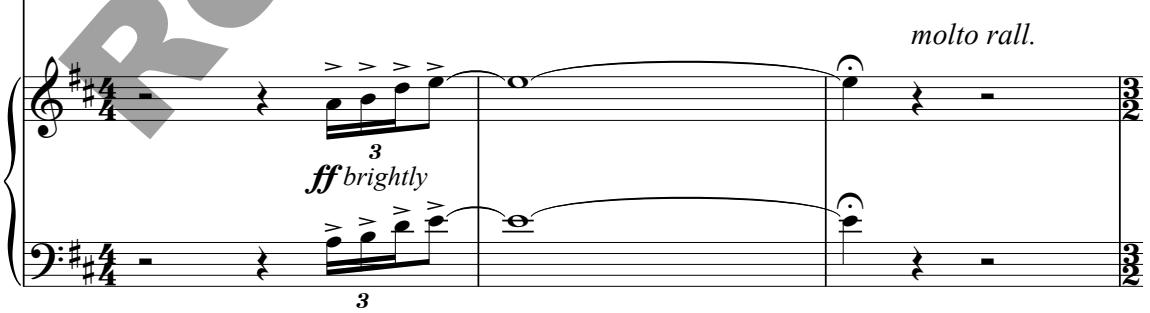
T B



molto rall.

ff brightly

3



70

pp

hmm

pp

hmm

pp

vib

comp. 1981
arr. 2019
4:30