

There's a Spirit in the Air

Poetic Meter: 7.7.7.7.

1. There's a spirit in the air,
telling Christians everywhere:
 "Praise the love that Christ revealed,
 living, working in our world!"
2. Lose your shyness, find your tongue,
tell the world what God has done:
 God in Christ has come to stay.
 Live tomorrow's life today!
3. When believers break the bread,
when a hungry child is fed,
 praise the love that Christ revealed,
 living, working, in our world.
4. Still the Spirit gives us light,
seeing wrong and setting right:
 God in Christ has come to stay.
 Live tomorrow's life today!
5. When a stranger's not alone,
where the homeless find a home,
 praise the love that Christ revealed,
 living, working, in our world.
6. May the Spirit fill our praise,
guide our thoughts and change our ways.
 God in Christ has come to stay.
 Live tomorrow's life today!
7. There's a Spirit in the air,
calling people everywhere:
 Praise the love that Christ revealed,
 living, working, in our world.

Brian Wren , copyright © 1969, 1995 by Hope Publishing Company for the USA, Canada, Australia and New Zealand, and by Stainer & Bell for all other territories. All rights reserved.

Written 1969. Revised 1987/89. I borrowed the alternating chorus idea [Praise the love . . . /God in Christ . . .] from Isaac Watts' "Give to our God Immortal Praise." Most hymnals use John Wilson's tune, LAUDS, IMHO a better match than the United Methodist's ORIENTIS PARTIBUS. The hymn has seven stanzas. Unfortunately, without my permission – the UM Hymnal committee altered the wording to make 7 the same as 1 – which limits the Holy Spirit's activity to Christians. My text, as printed in all other hymnals, differentiates between Stanza 1: "There's a *spirit* in the air, *telling Christians* everywhere," AND Stanza 7: "There's a *Spirit* in the air, *calling people* everywhere." As regards tempo, Alice Parker observes, and I agree, that, "Ninety percent of the musical information [in a hymn] comes from the text." This text says - "Lose your shyness! Find your tongue! Tell the world what God has done!" and "May the Spirit fill our praise! " This surely points to a vigorous tempo, moved by the wind of the Spirit. Musically, then, the text suggests a spirited one, not a sedate three. So ORIENTIS PARTIBUS is well served in some contexts by a flute and drum accompaniment.