

Music Blurbs for 6-9-2019 – Pentecost Day

News and Notes

For today's celebration of the Holy Spirit (aka Pentecost) we will sing "Come down, O love divine," "Like the murmur of the dove's song," and "Hail thee festival day." The choir sings Mozart's "Veni Sancte Spiritus."

8:00 a.m.

"Come down, O love divine"

The text of "Come down, O love divine" comes from an 1867 hymnal called *The People's Hymnal*. It was written for those who felt that there might be some benefit from some Roman Catholic teachings and practices without leaving the Anglican Church. By this time the idealistic enthusiasm of groups like the Pre-Raphaelites and Oxford and Cambridge Groups had convinced many cultivated persons that the Middle Ages were the halcyon days of Christianity. This text is a translation of the late 14th century raptures of Bianco of Siena's poem, "Discendi, amor santo." In 1906, while compiling *The English Hymnal*, Ralph Vaughn Williams composed the tune DOWN AMPNEY for this 1867 translation and named it after the place of his birth. The tune and text have remained together ever since and have appeared in many denominational hymnals. The same *English Hymnal* of 1906 had the first appearance as well of two other of Williams' original hymns: "Hail thee, festival day" and "For all the saints."

10:30 a.m.

Today's choir anthem was written by Mozart when he was twelve years old. The text is an antiphon for use on Pentecost, or any occasion when invoking the Holy Spirit. It begins with the words of the Roman Catholic sequence for Pentecost, "Veni Sancte Spiritus" (Come Holy Spirit) before invoking the Spirit in general Pentecostal imagery. The text calls on the Holy Spirit kindle the flame of God's love in the hearts of the faithful and through the diversity of many tongues (languages) that there will be unity of faith. It was subtitled Offertorium, clearly indicating that its original purpose was to be used as an offertory anthem.