

A paraphrase of John 15.26-27; 16.4b-15

God's Spirit fills the world.

How could it not?

This is God's creation – of course God's Spirit lives and moves in it!

But just as the air around you can be gentle as a baby's breath
or as fierce as a hurricane,

so the Spirit can appear in many ways.

Jesus said: 'Soon the Spirit will speak out
and show the world that I am God's Son,
and you must join in with this work.

You have been with me from the beginning –
you must speak out and tell the world what you know.

Things are going to get tough.

The people who wanted to shut me up still haven't gone away.

You will have to face them too.

You need to be ready for that,
because I won't be with you as I am now.

I'm not abandoning you.

I never will!

But things are changing –

I have to stop just being in one place at a time.

I need to be everywhere.

I need to live in the world as God lives in the world.

We're really not abandoning you.

We are sending our Spirit to guide you,

to help you recognise what's true,

to help you make sense of all that is going to happen.

To help you understand all the things we've been through together.

And when you look back and think about the stories I've told,
and the things I've done,

the Holy Spirit will help you see what they were all about.

Through the eyes of the Spirit you'll see that I shine
with all the glory of God.

The Spirit will be the life that holds us all together.

The love who is God the Father is the love in me,
and will be the love in all of you.

When our Spirit comes to you,

you will know this from the roots of your hair to the tips of your toes.
You will recognise it just as you know your own heartbeat.
The Spirit will connect us forever,
bringing God's truth and love from me to you.
Amen.

Alternative Lord's Prayer

Eternal Spirit,
Life-Giver,
Pain-bearer,
Love-maker,
Source of all that is
and that shall be,
Father and Mother
of us all,
Loving God,
in whom is heaven:
the Hallowing of your Name
echo through the universe.

The Way of your Justice
be followed
by the people of the world.

Your Heavenly Will be done
by all created beings.

Your commonwealth
of Peace and Freedom
sustain our hope
and come on earth.

With the bread
we need for today
feed us.

In the hurts
we absorb from one another
forgive us.

In times of temptation
and test,
strengthen us.

From trials too sharp
to endure,
spare us.

From the grip
of all that is evil.
free us.

For you reign in the glory
of the power that is love,
now and for ever. Amen.

— from the website of **All Saints Fulham**, Pryors Bank, Bishops Park, London.