Veni Creator

(Irregular.)

Composed for “Church Hymns with Tunes”, S.P.C.K., 1874.

1 Come, Holy Ghost! our souls inspire,
And lighten with celestial fire.

2 Thou the anointing Spirit art,
Who dost Thy sevenfold gifts impart.

3 Thy blessèd unction from above
Is comfort, life, and fire of love.

4 Enable, with perpetual light,
The dullness of our blinded sight.

5 Anoint and cheer our soilèd face
With the abundance of Thy grace.

6 Keep far our foes, give peace at home;
Where Thou art Guide, no ill can come.

7 Teach us to know the Father Son,
And Thee, of both, to be but One.

8 That, through the ages all along,
This may be our endless song:

9 Praise to Thy eternal merit,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit! Amen.

Anonymous, 9th or 10th cent.;
Translated by John Cosin,
1594 - 1672.