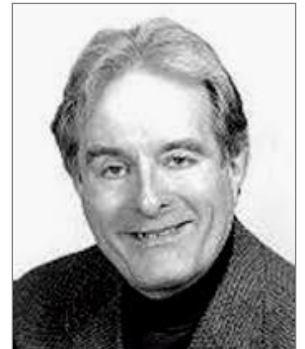


There's a spirit in the air

Brian Arthur Wren 1936–

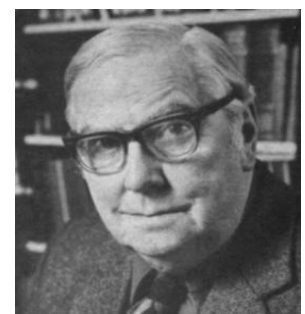
tune: *Lauds* by **John W. Wilson** 1905–92
Hymn 414 from *Together in Song*
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- 1 There's a spirit in the air,
telling Christians everywhere:
"Praise the love that Christ revealed,
living, working in our world!"
- 2 Lose your shyness, find your tongue,
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 Arthur Wren (b. Romford, Essex, England, 1936) is a major British figure in the revival of contemporary hymn writing. He studied French literature at New College and theology at Mansfield College in Oxford, England. Ordained in 1965, he was pastor of the Congregational Church (now United Reformed) in Hockley and Hawkwell, Essex, from 1965 to 1970. He worked for the British Council of Churches and several other organizations involved in fighting poverty and promoting peace and justice. This work resulted in his writing of *Education for Justice* (1977) and *Patriotism and Peace* (1983). With a ministry throughout the English-speaking world, Wren now resides in the United States where he is active as a freelance lecturer, preacher, and full-time hymn writer. His hymn texts are published in *Faith Looking Forward* (1983), *Praising a Mystery* (1986), *Bring Many Names* (1989), *New Beginnings* (1993), and *Faith Renewed: 33 Hymns Reissued and Revised* (1995), as well as in many modern hymnals. He has also produced *What Language Shall I Borrow?* (1989), a discussion guide to inclusive language in Christian worship.

John Whitridge Wilson (b. Bournville, Warwickshire, 1905) was educated at Manchester Grammar School, Dulwich College, and Sidney Sussex College Cambridge (Physics and Maths; later MusB). At 23 he decided on a career in music and studied at RCM, taught by Vaughan Williams and encouraged by his uncle Walford Davies. He was organist at Guildford Methodist Church and co-edited several hymn collections which contain many of his tunes and arrangements. A Congregationalist who became an Anglican communicant, he was equally at home among Methodists and others. His friend Erik Routley called him "our generation's most devoted encourager of fine hymnody"; Robin Leaver says that his "energies, insight and dogged persistence influenced many poets and composers of hymns, informed numerous hymnal editors, and goaded hymnologists to get their facts straight...[but] he worked in the background in ways in which many people in the wider world of hymnody were almost completely unaware".



sources: Hymnary.org
Praise Trust

hymnary.org/person/Wren_Brian
www.praise.org.uk/hymnauthor/wilson-john-whitridge/

sung by: **Olive Tree Church, Luton** www.youtube.com/watch?v=d8r-AkLkxtU