

“Spiritual Communion”



Elizabeth Barrett Browning (1839)

Although this Sabbath comes to me
Without the stolèd minister
Or chanting congregation,
God's Spirit brings communion—He
Who brooded soft on waters drear,
Creator on creation.

He shall assist me to look higher
Where keep the saints with harp and song
An endless Sabbath morning
And on that sea commixed with fire
Oft drop their eyelids, raised too long
To the full Godhead's burning.

Written while Mrs Browning was on a sea voyage and thus unable to attend Sunday worship