

“Fire and Breath” | Jan Richardson



Grace Episcopal Church

The Feast of Pentecost
May 31, 2020 | 9:30am

Ministers | All of Us
Rector | Wren Blessing
Music | Ann Strickland

Veni, Sancte Spiritus

When the broken hearted spirit arrives, no one knows
how it enters the room, what to call the groaning ghost.

It could be flame, could be wind, could be song, or syllables
arching on lips like sparks, arching tongues
to unfamiliar diction, speech so inarticulate and pure.

Wind, flame, words rush over us,
out of us, in a humiliating gush,
until the air bears the sounds of wings.

A dove hovers, trapped in our room,
its rounded, translucent blue head
dazed against the windows.

God is a small, brown-grey, beautiful bird
beating wings against unbreachable glass?

The comforter's voice vibrates in the spirit-drunk:
Shut up and listen. Lift up the sash.

Let the dove loose, a flame to singe the streets and sky.

Let untamed language fall on a thousand unsuspecting tongues.

~ David Wright from *A Liturgy for Stones* (Cascadia Publishing House, 2003)

Prelude | This Little Light of Mine

A bell rings. We listen to the longing in our hearts.

Gathering Song | Veni Sancte Spiritus *Led by members of the Music Circle*

Words: Taizé Community | Music: Jacques Berthier

Ostinato Refrain

The musical score is presented in three staves. The top staff is labeled 'Melody' and the middle staff is labeled 'Harmony'. Both the melody and harmony staves are in treble clef, with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and a 6/8 time signature. The bass staff is in bass clef with the same key signature and time signature. The lyrics 'Ve - ni San - cte Spi - ri - tus.' are written below each staff. The melody consists of quarter notes and eighth notes, while the harmony and bass parts use chords and sustained notes.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

After the gathering song, the Officiant invites us to stand and says

Officiant Kindness, joy, peace, goodness:

People Holy Spirit, come to us.

Officiant Truth, understanding, gentleness, faithfulness:

People Holy Spirit, come to us.

Officiant Like breath, as fire:

People Holy Spirit, come to us.

Officiant Kindle in us your powerful love.

People Holy Spirit, come to us.

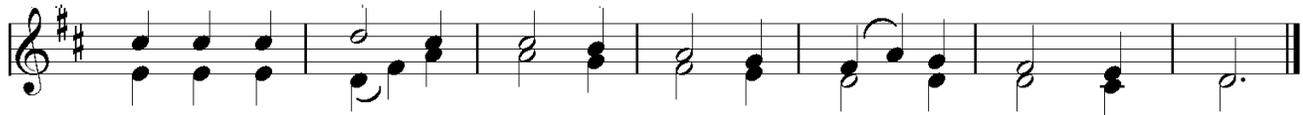
We remain standing and sing together.

Opening Song | Breathe on Me, Breath of God

Words: Edwin Hatch | Music: NOVA VITA, Lister R. Peace



1 Breathe on me, Breath of God, fill me with life a - new,
2 Breathe on me, Breath of God, un - til my heart is pure,
3 Breathe on me, Breath of God, till I am whol - ly thine,
4 Breathe on me, Breath of God, so shall I nev - er die;



that I may love what thou dost love, and do what thou wouldst do.
un - til with thee I will one will, to do or to en - dure.
till all this earth - ly part of me glows with thy fire di - vine.
but live with thee the per - fect life of thine e - ter - ni - ty.

The Collect

Officiant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Officiant Let us pray.

Come in power, Holy One. Enter the hearts of your people and kindle in us the fire of your love. Send forth your breath and we are created. Come and renew the face of the earth. **Amen.**

WE TELL THE STORY

We are seated for the reading.

The First Reading | Acts 2:1-21

When the day of Pentecost had come, the disciples were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. Amazed and astonished, they asked, “Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God’s deeds of power.” All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, “What does this mean?” But others sneered and said, “They are filled with new wine.”

But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, “Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o’clock in the morning. No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

‘In the last days it will be, God declares,
that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh,
and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,
and your young men shall see visions,
and your old men shall dream dreams.
Even upon my slaves, both men and women,
in those days I will pour out my Spirit;
and they shall prophesy.
And I will show portents in the heaven above
and signs on the earth below,
blood, and fire, and smoky mist.
The sun shall be turned to darkness
and the moon to blood,
before the coming of the Lord’s great and glorious day.
Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.’”

After the reading, the reader will say

The Word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

We stand and say the Psalm.

Psalm | 104:25-35, 37

○ Lord, how manifold are your works!
in wisdom you have made them all;
the earth is full of your creatures.

**Yonder is the great and wide sea
with its living things too many to number,
creatures both small and great.**

There move the ships,
and there is that Leviathan,
which you have made for the sport of it.

**All of them look to you
to give them their food in due season.**

You give it to them; they gather it;
you open your hand, and they are filled with good things.

**You hide your face, and they are terrified;
you take away their breath,
and they die and return to their dust.**

You send forth your Spirit, and they are created;
and so you renew the face of the earth.

**May the glory of the Lord endure for ever;
may the Lord rejoice in all his works.**

He looks at the earth and it trembles;
he touches the mountains and they smoke.

**I will sing to the Lord as long as I live;
I will praise my God while I have my being.**

May these words of mine please him;
I will rejoice in the Lord.

**Bless the Lord, O my soul.
Hallelujah!**

We are seated for the second reading.

The Second Reading | I Corinthians 12:3b-13

No one can say “Jesus is Lord” except by the Holy Spirit. Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body — Jews or Greeks, slaves or free — and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

After the reading, the reader will say

The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

We stand together and sing

Gospel Song | **Let it Breathe on Me** *Led by Chuck Power*

by Magnolia Lewis-Butts



Let it breathe on me, — let it breathe on me, — let the breath of the



Spi - rit breathe on me. Let it breathe on me, — let it



breathe on me, — let the breath of God now breathe on me.

The Officiant then introduces the Gospel by saying

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

The Gospel | John 20:19-23

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”

After the Gospel the Officiant will say

The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

OUR RESPONSE TO THE STORY

The Homily

Affirmation of Faith

We stand and say

**We believe in God above us,
maker and sustainer of all life,
of sun and moon,
of water and earth,
of all humanity.**

**We believe in God beside us,
Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh,
born of a woman's womb, servant of the poor,
he was tortured and nailed to a tree.
Knowing full passion and deep sorrow, he died forsaken.
He descended into the earth to the place of death.
On the third day he rose from the tomb.
He ascended into heaven to be everywhere present,
and his Kingdom will one day be known.**

**We believe in God within us,
the Holy Spirit of Pentecostal fire,
life-giving breath of the Church.
She is the Spirit of healing and forgiveness,
source of resurrection and of life everlasting. Amen.**

We gather silently in prayer.

The Prayers of the People

Please add your intentions to our prayers by including your concerns or thanksgivings in the chat window at each bidding.

Love Take a Walk with Me *by Ana Hernandez & Fran McKendree*

**Love take a walk with me,
Love take a walk with me,
Love take a walk with me,
Oh, Spirit, guide my feet!**

**Peace take a walk with me,
Peace take a walk with me,
Peace take a walk with me,
Oh, Spirit, guide my feet!
Oh, Spirit, guide my feet!**

Leader Kindle the fire of your love in our midst, O God.

Silence

Leader Pour out your spirit of wisdom and understanding on all who lead; on those who serve in government and in organizations that protect and nurture human life. Lead our nation and all people into paths of peace.

We pause for prayers to be spoken quietly or aloud.

Leader We pray:

People Come, Holy Spirit.

Leader Pour out your spirit of boldness, healing, and mercy on those who know violence, and on communities that are filled with fear and anger. We lament the deaths of George Floyd and Ahmaud Arbery. We give thanks for the beauty of their lives. Pour out your spirit of comfort on their families and friends, and pour out your spirit of penitence and reconciliation on our nation.

We pause for prayers to be spoken quietly or aloud.

Leader We pray:

People Come, Holy Spirit.

Leader Pour out your spirit of hospitality, reverence, forgiveness, and discernment on all gathered with us today. Guide each of us to discover and use our gifts, and open us to receive and be changed by the gifts others offer.

We pause for prayers to be spoken quietly or aloud.

Leader We pray:

People Come, Holy Spirit.

Leader Pour out your abundant spirit of friendship and fortitude on people who are in transition, who are without a safe home, who grieve the loss of a relationship, or who need work. Pour out your spirit of integrity on us as we live on and seek to care for the earth you have created.

We pause for prayers to be spoken quietly or aloud.

Leader We pray:

People Come, Holy Spirit.

Leader Pour out your spirit of hope and gentleness on all who suffer, especially on those on our prayer list.

We pause for prayers to be spoken quietly or aloud.

Leader We pray:

People Come, Holy Spirit.

Love take a walk with me,
Love take a walk with me,
Love take a walk with me,
Oh, Spirit, guide my feet!

Joy take a walk with me,
Joy take a walk with me,
Joy take a walk with me,
Oh, Spirit, guide my feet!
Oh, Spirit, guide my feet!

Officiant Let us pray.

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

Leader **God of all power and love,
we give thanks for your unfailing presence
and the hope you provide in times of uncertainty and loss.
Send your Holy Spirit to enkindle in us your holy fire.
Revive us to live as Christ's body in the world:
a people who pray, worship, learn,
break bread, share life, heal neighbors,
bear good news, seek justice, rest and grow in the Spirit.
Wherever and however we gather,
unite us in common prayer and send us in common mission,
that we and the whole creation might be restored and renewed,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.***

**Our Lutheran and Episcopal Bishops invite us to pray this prayer together.*

Offertory Song | Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing *Led by Chuck Power*

Words: Robert Robinson | Music: John Wyeth

While we cannot gather in person, we make our weekly offerings online here: <https://www.gracehere.org/online-giving/>.



1 Come, thou Fount of ev - ery bless - ing, tune my heart to sing thy
3 Oh, to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I'm con - strained to



grace; streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas - ing, call for
be! Let thy good - ness, like a fet - ter, bind my



songs of loud - est praise. Teach me some me - lo - dious
wan - d'ring heart to thee. Prone to wan - der, Lord, I



son - net, sung by flam - ing tongues a - bove; praise the
feel it, prone to leave the God I love; here's my



mount— I'm fixed up - on it— mount of thy re - deem - ing love.
heart, O take and seal it, seal it for thy courts a - bove. A - men.

The Blessing

The Officiant offers a blessing.

May the Spirit of truth lead you into all truth, giving you grace to know the love of Jesus, and to hope in the renewing work of God. And the blessing of God who was and is and is to come, rest upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Closing Song | One Love

by Bob Marley

**One love, one heart
Let's get together and feel all right
Hear the children cryin'
One love
Hear the children cryin'
One heart
Give thanks and praise to the Lord and I will feel all right
Sayin' let's get together and feel all right.**

Birthdays and Anniversaries

*Using the Zoom chat window, please share a milestone that we can recognize together.
We will sing, "God Grant Them Many Years."*

The Peace

We conclude with the sharing of God's peace.

Officiant Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Now the peace of the Lord be always with you.

All And also with you. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

*Please stay online to join in a small group for a coffee hour conversation.
Families with children at home are invited to join in this Zoom gathering:
<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/76283360201>*