

Season of Re-Creation 2: Wind Breath Spirit

September 19, 2021

WELCOME TO WORSHIP! Welcome to all who are joining us in-person and online. It is our prayer that this will be a time of worship and renewal for you, when you will encounter the living God revealed in Jesus Christ.

In the spirit of respect, reciprocity and truth, we honour and acknowledge that as we gather in-person and online, we are a people who live and work and pray on traditional and ancestral land of the Blackfoot people of the Canadian Plains. We give recognition to the Blackfoot people past, present, and future, and to the Metis Nation of Alberta, Region III.

COMMUNITY LIFE

INTRODUCTION

As the Season of Re-Creation began last week, we turned to Genesis 1 and God's creation of a "dome;" the *oikos*; God's household and the dwelling place of all creation. Today we take a closer look at the dome which in Genesis is given a name. Not just any name. God names the dome, "sky." And while when we think about the sky, we most often think about things like the sun and moon and stars; we rarely consider the atmosphere—the air, the wind, the oxygen, our very breath. In scripture the distinction between wind, air, breath, and Spirit is hard to discern yet is central—integral to creation and to life—be it spiritual, physical, or otherwise. Without air there is no breath. Without wind there is no life at all. Without the breath of God life is stagnant and dies. Wind, Breath, Spirit—God is ever creating and re-creating us anew. And so with the Psalmist, and with everything that has breath—let us praise the Lord!

INVOCATION (Hildegard of Bingen, 13th Century) *(Printed on screen)*

We gather in the name of God, Creator, +Redeemer, and Sustainer of the Earth and all its creatures!

Praise be to the Holy Trinity!

God is sound and breath and life, Creator of the Universe, Source of all life, whom the angels sing; wondrous Light of all mysteries known or unknown to humankind, and life that lives in all.

Thanks be to God! Amen!

RE-GATHERING RITE AND THE BLESSING OF WIND (Christine Valters Paintner, Water, Wind, Earth and Fire: The Christian Practice of Praying with the Elements) (adapted)

PKC short intro. Today you are invited to join in the re-gathering rite and to speak the paragraphs in bold as they appear on the screen. Let us pray...

Holy One, Blessed Creator; you have gathered us together in your name. And we have come. We come after a long season of drought and isolation. At times it has been so hard to breathe. And today, even in our joy, there is much this day that we lament. We grieve before you O God the losses of this community:

Led by worship leader, spoken by the whole community

We have missed our weekly assembled worship, our sharing of bread and cup, our communal song, the greetings of peace;

We have missed the nurturing of community in coffee hours and quilting, in breakfast clubs and card playing

We have missed the hugs, the support and the tears, when loved ones have died. We have missed the gathering together for funerals and lunches when stories are shared, and hearts openly grieve.

We mourn members, friends, and family who have died during COVID-19. We lament the tragedies our world has experienced in millions of sick, in countless dead, in thousands unemployed, in racial injustice and political discord, in the drought of the fields and of all creation.

O God, we lament our losses, for they are many. In the Breath of your Spirit, revive us O God.

Holy One, Spirit of Creation,

You have been there since the beginning,

hovering, over the chaos

moving, creating, swirling, breathing life.

In the gust of Wind, you have stirred the heart and breath of your creation.

You have filled life's lungs to capacity—creation bursts at the seams;

Atmospheric pressure exhales in new life drifting, floating, settling, rising from the swirling dust of the ground.

Spirit of Renewing Life,

You breathed into us in our very first moment,

Invigorate your people with your gift of energy and newness.

Continue to breathe expansively in us,

Inviting us to a vision of what is possible in our lives.

Help us to hear your voice in the midst of the whirlwind of life.

Grant us the trust to hold on while we are being buffeted by life's storms.

Stir us from our longing for comfort that so often stifles,

Help us to release from places that keep us stuck,

And guide us in the direction you would have us go.

Spirit of Life, create anew we pray.
 For all the ground we have turned into parched and lifeless dust. Swirl once more.
 For the air we have filled to capacity with smoke, and chemical, and carbon.
 For all that we have choked and incapacitated until the world can no longer breathe.

Sacred Wind, Holy Breath, gust and swirl and blow. Renew the face of the earth.
 Until once more our lungs are full, until once more our spirits rise; until once more all creation
 bursts at the seams in new life rising in you. Amen.

GATHERING HYMN "O Living Breath of God" ELW #407



1 O liv-ing Breath of God, wind at the be-gin - ning up-on the wa - ters;
 2 O liv-ing Breath of God, by whose pow'r the Son came to birth a - mong us;
 3 O liv-ing Breath of God, bear-ing us to life through bap-tis-mal wa - ters;



O liv-ing Breath of God, bear-ing the cre - a - tion to won-drous birth:
 O liv-ing Breath of God, who to the cre - a - tion gives life a - new:
 O liv-ing Breath of God, sigh-ing with cre - a - tion for free-dom's birth:

Refrain



Come now, and fill our spir - its; pour out your gifts a - bun - dant.



O liv-ing Breath of God, Ho-ly Spir-it, breathe in us as we pray.

PRAYER OF THE DAY (p. 81 ELW adapted)

Gracious Holy Spirit, by your Breath you give us breath, in you; all life is created, in you we are raised anew for life in this world. Breathe again, as over the waters of creation. Breathe again, as over the waters of our baptism. That filled and refreshed and full of breath we would rise to live newness of life with you, with one another, and will all creation. **Amen.**

FIRST READING Ezekiel 37:1-10

The hand of the LORD came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord GOD, you know." Then he said to me, "Prophesy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the LORD."

So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, "Prophesy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live." I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

This is what God is saying to us today.

Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

PSALM 150 (adapted) **Lesson Reader for the day**

Praise the LORD all creation!
Praise God in his dwelling place;
praise God in his mighty firmament, in the dome of creation, in the expanse of the sky!
Praise God for his mighty deeds;
praise God according to his surpassing greatness!
Praise God with trumpet sound;
praise God with lute and harp!
Praise God with tambourine and dance;
praise God with strings and pipe!
Praise God with clanging cymbals;
praise God with loud clashing cymbals!
Let everything that breathes praise the LORD!
Praise the LORD!

GOSPEL HYMN "Earth and All Stars" (vs. 1) ELW #731

1 Earth and all stars! Loud rush - ing plan - ets!
Sing to the Lord a new song!
Hail, wind, and rain! Loud blow - ing snow - storm!
Sing to the Lord a new song!
Refrain
God has done mar - vel - ous things.
I too sing prais - es with a new song!

GOSPEL John 6:5-8

The Holy Gospel according to John the 6th Chapter.

Glory to you O Lord.

Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY "Spirit of Gentleness" (vs 1 & 3) ELW #396

Refrain



Spir - it, Spir - it of gen - tle - ness, blow through the wil - der - ness



call - ing and free; Spir - it, Spir - it of rest - less - ness,



stir me from plac - id - ness, wind, wind on the sea.



1 You moved on the wa - ters, you called to the deep,

3 You sang in a sta - ble, you cried from a hill,



then you coaxed up the moun - tains from the val - leys of sleep;

then you whis - pered in si - lence when the whole world was still;



and o - ver the e - ons you called to each thing:

and down in the cit - y you called once a - gain,



"A - wake from your slum - bers and rise on your wings."

when you blew through your peo - ple on the rush of the wind.

Refrain

APOSTLES' CREED *(Printed on screen)*

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
Suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Let us pray for land and earth, for sea and sky, for field and forest, for creatures that crawl and walk and fly, and all of God's creation saying,

In this Season of Creation, we pray that the breath of your creative Word would move our hearts, as in the waters of our birth and baptism. Give us faith to follow Christ to our just place in the beloved community. Enlighten us with the grace to respond to your covenant and call to care for our common home. In our tilling and keeping, gladden our hearts to know that we participate with your Holy Spirit to renew the face of your Earth, and safeguard a home for all.

Breath of Life, **Renew the face of the earth**

Breath of Life blow across the sacred waters of this land and create anew what we have failed to honour. For all that swims, and floats, for bleached coral reefs and polluted, stagnant waters, for lakes and streams and all creatures who thirst to drink from fresh cool streams;

Breath of Life, **Renew the face of the earth**

Breath of Life blow across prairie and mountain and field. Where wildfire smoke, and hazy polluted air choke grass and grain and flower; come in whirlwinds of oxygen and cloud. Fill the lungs of the earth with nourishing rain and crisp air. Let there be flourishing of field and fruits of the vine that all creation might be fed.

Breath of Life, **Renew the face of the earth**

Breath of life, blow for the sake of our kindred animals. Be the wind that raises the eagle and birds of song. Be the skip in the step of the leaping antelope and the fleet-footed cheetah.

Strengthen all that race and run and flutter and flock with life-giving air pulsating through muscles and veins. May all creatures big and small find home in the communal life we share.

Breath of Life, **Renew the face of the earth**

Breath of Life help this congregation to respond to your call to respect what you have created. We ask your blessing on all who worship here. This week we pray especially for Darcy & Marlene Peterson and for Pastor Tom & Karen Peterson.

Breath of Life, **Renew the face of the earth**

Breath of life, inspire the flesh of our frail humanity. For all who suffer and grieve. For all who are sick or troubled, blow in gentle winds of healing grace as we pray this day for Myrtle, Sharla, Debi, Marion, Arne, Janine, Eva, Olai, Dave & Trudy, Olivia, Sarah, Lyle & Marlene, Syd, Corrie, Pastor Dick & Jan, Patrick, Klaus, Shirley, Eowen, Doug & Lorraine, Grace, Lilian, Margaret, Clayton, Mary, Brad, Clayton, Rosemary, Shellene, Janice, Sheila, Judy & Ron, and Miriam.

Breath of Life, **Renew the face of the earth**

Breath of Life, There are many who suffer in the world as a result of war, flood, fire, unrest and the pandemic, Breathe life into dry and weary bones and extend your peace where there is unrest.

Breath of Life, **Renew the face of the earth**

Loving God, you are our life and our salvation. You are a Lover of all you have created. And we are safe in that love. Assure us that we are not alone. In Christ our Lord, **Amen.**

SHARING THE PEACE_(adapted from Celebrating Creation: Honoring Indigenous People, Kelly Sherman-Conroy, ELCA)

If we are in Christ, we are becoming a new creation. One Home, One Body.

(PKC to introduce sharing of the peace sign—hands over heart extended outward to others as we speak the words...)

The peace of our Creator be with you in all things.
And also with you.

WE SHARE THE MEAL

For those joining online, at this time our service continues with Holy Communion, as we prepare our hearts and minds and tables for the communion meal. If you have not already done so, take a moment gather the elements you will share during the meal, remembering that Christ promises to come to us in the everyday things: bread or a cracker, wine or grape juice or water, and whatever dishes you have in your cupboard. For those joining in-person, the ushers will direct you from your seats to either of the two communion stations on either side of the sanctuary. We ask that you please remain masked until you receive the elements. We take a moment to set the table.

(Pianist to play instrumental during setting of the table.)

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING (Printed on screen)

The Lord, Creator be with you and all creation.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to our Creator.

Let us give thanks to the Maker of heaven and earth.

It is right to join creation in giving thanks and praise.

It is right to give you thanks, loving Creator. Your word is the impulse for all things to be, for space, stars and stardust to appear, for Earth to emerge from the deep, for life to be born of Earth, and for humans to be born of Earth and the Spirit.

Your presence is the living impulse in all things, the Christ deep among us, filling Earth—land, sea, and air; filling every element and place; filling the grain and the grape we share with you this day.

Therefore with angels and archangels, saints and sinners, ancient voices in the forest, high voices from the sky, deep voices from the sea, and the whole company of creation, we proclaim your presence among us.

(Printed on screen)

**Holy, holy, holy, God of all life,
earth and sea and sky are full of your presence
and glorify your name. Amen.**

(Bold portions spoken by worship leader)

Blessed are you, O God of the universe.
Your mercy is everlasting
and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

**Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth: for the rain that gives life to the wheat
and to the vine; for the sun that helps the wheat and the vine to grow**

Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood.
Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea; for leading your people through
the wilderness to the land of milk and honey.

**Praise to you for your care of all creation, for Jesus your Son, born a human being, to become
a part of Earth; who suffered and died and rose again to restore the wounded and broken and
who renews creation.**

Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations, stirring new life born of water and grace.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

O God of resurrection and new life:
Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine.
Raise us up as the body of Christ for the whole of the cosmos.

Breathe new life into all creation; and with earth and all its creatures, with sun, moon, stars and sea; make us agents of your healing life for all the world;
Through Jesus Christ, your Son our Lord; who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit; now and forever. **Amen**

LORD'S PRAYER

We pray our common prayer that Christ taught us.

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those
who sin against us;
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

For those joining in the meal online, you are invited now to

“Take and eat, the body of Christ given for you.”

“Take and drink, the blood of Christ shed for you.”

The gifts of God for the life of all Creation!
Thanks be to God!

Videos play online and in sanctuary during the distribution.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

We thank you, Christ, for the meal we have celebrated with you, and we pray that through your body and blood we may be healed and become agents of healing for Earth. Amen.

SENDING HYMN "Spirit of Gentleness" (vs 4) ELW #396

Refrain



Spir - it, Spir - it of gen - tle - ness, blow through the wil - der - ness



call - ing and free; Spir - it, Spir - it of rest - less - ness,



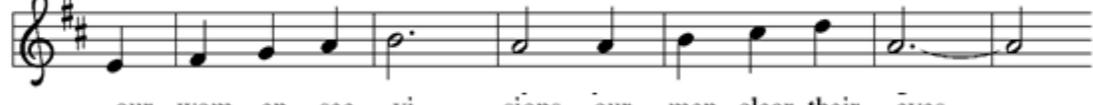
stir me from plac - id - ness, wind, wind on the sea.



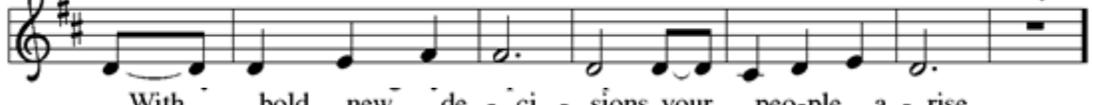
4 You call from to - mor - row, you break an - cient schemes.



From the bond - age of sor - row all the cap - tives dream dreams;



our wom - en see vi - sions, our men clear their eyes.



With . . . bold new de - ci - sions your peo - ple a - rise. *Refrain*

BLESSING *Earth as the Original Spiritual Directors*

SENDING (adapted) (SOC)

Go now. Learn from the beasts
and the flowers and trees.

Learn from the stars and from the sun and the moon.

Learn from the gale force winds and the light gentle breeze.

Go into all the earth.

You will see Christ there.

Go in peace, serving Christ; loving all creation!

Thanks be to God! We will!

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MUSIC & LITURGY

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