**Solidarity with Sisters’ Communal Prayer**

**May 28th, 2023**

**Pentecost**

*“Wild wind of the Holy Spirit blow, to us. Let us welcome her, letting ourselves go in her wild rhythm of life.” (Sr. Elizabeth A. Johnson)*

Image

**HELLOs** and then Betty mutes everyone. **( Betty Thompson )**

**WELCOME ( Bill Cavanaugh )**

Welcome, everyone!

* Introductions – people who haven’t been here before?
* Kathy and I prepared today’s communal prayer with Betty and Suzie’s much appreciated help and support.
* We want to thank Linda Donaldson for leading the music and all those who will be reading today: Betty Thompson, Peg Duchesne, Richard McGinnis, Karen and Dan McCarthy, Maryann Dolan, Kate Monagan, Terri Butel, Sally McEachen, and Sr. Vera Ruotolo.
* We are grateful for all readers and welcome new readers. To read next week on June 4 contact Alicia Urban; for June 11 Mary Dolmage and Cecilia Estrada. You can E-mail them or put a message in chat.

**SETTLING IN ( Betty Thompson )**

As we begin this morning, remember that we literally breathe the Holy Spirit.

“The inmost, subtle breath that arises from the Spirit is the transforming power of God. Uniting with the breath is uniting ourselves to the evolving and life-giving action of the Holy Spirit.”

Let your breath bring you into quiet so you can be attentive to the Spirit and to each other. Notice your breath as it goes in and out…. Let it slow and deepen….and slowly fill you with the Peace of Christ and Power of the Holy Spirit.

We begin with 3 deep breaths:

One to be here,

One to be together,

And One to know the Spirit who never leaves us.

( Pause)

Let’s enter our Pentecost prayer by singing “Spirit of the Living God.”

**OPENING SONG “Spirit of The Living God” ( Linda Donaldson ) first verse second verse**

*Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on us*

*Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on us*

*Melt me Melt us*

*Mold me Mold us*

*Fill me Fill us*

*Use me Use us*

*Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me. Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on us.*

( Bill ) Now Peg Duchesne will lead us in our gathering prayer.

**CALL TO WORSHIP/ GATHERING PRAYER**  **( Peg Duchesne )**

**Prayer to the Holy Spirit**

Welcome Holy Spirit!

Ignite within us the living flame of your Love.

We give you thanks for sustaining us in times of sorrow and celebrating with us in times of joy.

Spirit of wisdom and understanding, enlighten our minds to discern our call to action.

Spirit of right judgement and courage, guide us and make us firm in our baptismal decision to follow Jesus’ way of Love.

Spirit of knowledge and reverence, help us to see the lasting value of justice and mercy in our everyday interactions with all.

Spirit of God, spark our faith, hope and Love into new action each day.

Fill our lives with wonder and awe in your Presence which penetrates our hearts and all creation.

Blessed be!

( Pause )

Now Kathy will introduce us to the Theme for today:

**INTRODUCTION TO THEME (Kathy Cavanaugh)**

Jan Richardson tells us that the celebration of Pentecost beckons us to keep breathing. Each breath is the Holy Spirit indwelling in us, offering us ongoing Presence and transformation. Our collective breathing of the Holy Spirit knits us together more deeply and wholly as the body of Christ. In the beginning this same Spirit brought forth creation out of chaos, drenched the followers of Jesus with fire and breath, and continues to do the same today.

Pentecost occurs at the individual level (“and a tongue rested on each of them”) but also at the universal level of community. The outpouring of the Spirit on Pentecost renews and reminds us that we are on a shared journey of transformation. We are called to move into the world bearing witness and taking action to renew the face of the earth amidst the brokenness and chaos. Like the disciples, we wait, we pray, we move into mission. May we keep breathing and blazing and loving!

*[Slight pause]*

Now Richard McGinniswill read from the Acts of the Apostles, and then Dan McCarthy will offer questions for silent reflection.

**READING 1 ( Acts 2, 1 - 4 ) ( Richard McGinnis )**

When the day of Pentecost arrived, they all met in one room.Suddenly they heard what sounded like a violent, rushing wind from heaven; the noise filled the entire house in which they were sitting. Something appeared to them that seemed like tongues of fire; they separated and came to rest on the head of each one. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages as She enabled them.

( Pause )

**REFLECTIVE QUESTIONS 1 ( Dan McCarthy )**

1 When have you witnessed the power of the Holy Spirit in another’s words and actions? How did this witness influence your own mission or transformation?

2 Recall a time when the Holy Spirit’s Presence made a difference in your life or ministry to speak or act?

3 When have you felt the Spirit bursting with life in a culture different from your own?

Close-up of a painting

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Image: “Until the Breath of God Breathes in Me” © Jan. L. Richardson

**COMMUNAL SILENCE**  *(time 2:00, chime)* **( Betty Thompson )**

( Bill ) Now Maryann Dolan will read reflections by Sister Mary McGlone and the Vatican Synodal update.

**READING 2**  **( Maryann Dolan )**

Luke tells us of the different ways in which the disciples encountered Jesus during the 40 days from His resurrection to His Ascension. Then after 10 days of waiting and praying together, the Spirit of God shook them out of all inertia, impelling them into mission and transforming many who witnessed them.

Karl Rahner, a 20th century theologian, commented that the events of Jesus’ life and the experience of Pentecost came to fruition in the years 48 to 50 CE at the “Council of Jerusalem” described in Acts 15. Rahner says that the next major step for the Christian community did not come until the Second Vatican Council 1900 years later, when the Spirit again opened the church to the modern world and all her cultures.

Today, no part of the world is unreachable and every language can be instantly translated. Now it is time to appreciate Pope Francis’ Synodal call to walk together and enlarge our tent. “…We are all part of one another” and can no longer think in terms of ‘them’ and ‘those’, but only ‘us’.”

The Synodal consultation process with global listening sessions and continental assemblies began in 2021. Recently, Francis has added 70 non-bishop voting members (about 25% of the Synod’s total voting membership) with half being non-ordained women. Sr Maureen Geary (LCWR president elect) said that “the move feels both natural and momentous at the same time. Francis is making it clear that you cannot have a synodal church while listening to the voices of only male clerics. We certainly see the hand of the Holy Spirit throughout this whole process….”

Dr. Phyllis Zagano, an American theologian, recommends that we “Trust the Holy Spirit” in “The Pope’s Synod,” while recognizing the many obstacles to free objective dialogue. One action she asks that we all do is: “work to dismantle the unconscious bias about the Image of God. In a charitable way, teach and model that women are made in the image and likeness of God and have the natural, while not physical, image of Jesus.”

As we celebrate God’s Spirit present throughout creation, let us abandon our locked-up mentalities and venture into mind- and soul-stretching interchanges with the wild and wonderful variety of the Spirit’s manifestations in our world. Pentecost is ongoing!

**REFLECTIVE QUESTIONS 2 ( Dan McCarthy )**

1 How has the Spirit led you in directions you did not expect or perhaps appreciate?

2 We have many images of God – which ones resonate in you?

3 What is it like when you trust the guidance of the Holy Spirit in discerning a difficult dilemma?

A picture containing art, child art, painting, pattern

Description automatically generated”Mapping the Mysteries” © Jan L. Richardson

**COMMUNAL SILENCE:** *( time 2:00, chime)*  **( Betty Thompson )**

**( Bill )** Our third Reading is a Pentecost reflection by C. Vanessa White from Catholic Women Preach.

**READING 3 ( Bill Cavanaugh )**

In the African American religious experience, there are many spiritual songs and hymns that attest to the presence of the Holy Spirit in the lives of the community. The Holy Spirit is a living Spirit that moves the community from fear to fearlessness, from faltering to faith, from powerlessness to power. The Spirit transformed individuals into an inclusive community that became a missionary church. The Pentecost event is experienced by people of many races and ethnicities during difficult times.

In these days, many are afraid of what is to come. We cannot predict the future, but we can allow ourselves to be open to the Sweet Holy Spirit who will give us what we need in the days ahead. The song, “Spirit of the Living God” invokes our trusting the Holy Spirit to shape us, fill us and use us; transforming us for the good of all.

Servant of God, Sr Thea Bowman impels us into our Pentecost mission with these words:

If you believe that the Spirit lived in Jesus, that the Spirit that lived in the disciples, that the Spirit that lived in the early church is the same Spirit you receive, lift your hands and say : “AMEN !”

If you believe that you, like Jesus, are called by the Spirit to share in the world, to call forth the giftedness of God’s people and creation, lift your hands and say : “AMEN ! AMEN !”.

And if you believe the Spirit of God is able to transform the water of your reality into purest wine, if you believe there is nothing God cannot do, lift your hands and say : “AMEN! AMEN! AMEN!”

Happy Pentecost!

**REFLECTIVE QUESTIONS ( Dan McCarthy )**

1 Savor the intimacy of the words “ Sweet Holy Spirit” ; what wells up in you?

2 What have you learned about the ways of the Spirit through personal and community responses to pain?

3 Recall a particular situation when you felt the Spirit “melt you, mold you, fill you, or use you.”

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“That We May Breathe Together” © Jan L. Richardson

**COMMUNAL SILENCE:** *(time 2:00, chime )* **( Betty Thompson )**

( Bill ) Now Karen McCarthy will lead our sharing.

**SHARING ( Karen McCarthy )**

We invite you to share the essence of what emerged in **your** heart this morning as you have reflected upon our reading and music. We welcome everyone who wants to speak, and we know that the wisdom of this community includes both words shared and silent listening. Let’s begin in silence as we gather our reflections. *[Long-ish pause]*

Now who would like to start our sharing? Remember to unmute yourself to speak and mute yourself again afterwards.

*[Sharing]*

*[Long silences are common and they can be fruitful. If there is extended silence after 15 minutes:]* Is there anyone else who would like to share?  *[Long pause]*

*[Stop by about 20 minutes after the hour.]*

Thank you.  We can continue after the final song, as we often do.

Now Kate Monagan will lead us in prayer.

**PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY ( Kate Monagan )**

Let’s pause to notice the prayers that arise in us now. *[Pause]*

Our response will be: **“Holy Spirit, hear our prayer.”**

Let us pray we grow in awareness of the breath of the Holy Spirit in ourselves and in others. For this we pray : “**Holy Spirit, hear our prayer.”**

Sustain the Leadership Conference of Women Religious as they continue to embody your presence in the world. For this we pray : “**Holy Spirit, hear our prayer.”**

Transform the ecclesiastical authority of our church to change Canon Law to include non-bishops, women religious, and the laity to exercise the charism of discernment to call a Synod and to participate with genuine active consultation with equal representation and voting rights with gender parity. For this we pray : “**Holy Spirit, hear our prayer.”**

For peaceful resolution to all wars, particularly those of Ukraine, Sudan, Afghanistan, and Haiti. For this we pray: “ **Holy Spirit, hear our prayer.”**

Grant that our transgender loved ones and all others unaccepted because of gender, race, mental or physical illness, addiction, migrants, the poor, and those unemployed have their daily needs met, can find gainful employment without discrimination, access medical care and find a loving community that welcomes them to Eucharist. For this we pray: “**Holy Spirit, hear our prayer.”**

For what else shall we pray? Please unmute yourself to speak, and mute yourself afterwards.

*[Shared prayers]* (Add response: “**Holy Spirit, hear our prayer.”**)

O Holy One, You who see us, hear us, and love us more than we can imagine, thank you for receiving our intentions, spoken and unspoken. We entrust all to you. Amen.

**CELEBRATION OF COMMUNION ( Terri Butel )**

O God you formed all things according to your dream of boundless charity –

a universe of interconnectedness and wholeness.

Charity is your gift to us,

given in Jesus, your dream of Love unbounded made flesh.

At the table of Jesus all are welcomed

and the dignity of every person is respected.

At the wide and welcoming table of Jesus

the marginalized and powerless find a special place,

the poor delight in plenty,

the diversity of gifts is celebrated,

enemies are reconciled,

women find a voice.

Blessed is our brother Jesus,

who rose from supper,

took a towel, poured water,

and washed his disciples’ feet

so that there would be no more servants but only friends;

so that all might know themselves as children of God,

equals in the community of life.

{You} poured out your Spirit upon the bread and wine

as you do upon your holy people assembled here.

Teach us the mystery of the bread and wine: that by faithfulness to love, the blessing promised to those who lay down their lives for their friends will be ours.

God, in your goodness, you have given us one another.

Together we choose to be led by Your Spirit and

unfold Your reign in the wholeness of charity.

May it be so.

Now Sally McEachen will lead us in the prayer of Jesus.

**THE PRAYER OF JESUS ( Sally McEachen )**

Now let us join our hearts as if we could join our hands in harmony with our family throughout the world:

***All (muted):*** Our Father, Our Mother, who unite heaven and earth, holy is your name.

Your kingdom come. Your 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 do not let us fall into temptation, but deliver us from evil

for the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Blessed be!

**FINAL BLESSING by Sr. Joyce Rupp ( Sr Vera Ruotolo )**

Let us extend our hands in blessing of one another with the following words:

“Spirit, Breath of God,

breathe large gusts into us,

sweep through our being,

drench us with hope,

soften our resistance,

wrap your Love around us until we welcome You fully.”

Blessed Be!

**CLOSING SONG: “What A Wonderful World” by Louie Armstrong ( Kathy Cavanaugh )**

**As we listen to Sachmo’s words and sing with him, the Spirit of Hope inspires us to greater action for a just and sustainable world. In his words,**

“Some of you folks been saying to me: Hey Pops—- ‘what do you mean, what a wonderful world? How about all these wars all over the place- you call them wonderful? And how about hunger and pollution, they aint so wonderful either!’.

How about listening to ‘old Pops’ for a minute: Seems to me aint the world that’s so bad, but what we’re doing to it. And all I’m sayin is see what a wonderful world it would be if only we give it a chance. Love, Baby, Love-that’s the secret! Yea! If lots more of us loved each other, we’d solve more problems and the world would be better!,,,that’s what Old Pops keeps sayin:”

[](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p-T6aaRV9HY)

<https://youtu.be/p-T6aaRV9HY>

Resources**:**

**Gathering Prayer:** Prayer to the Holy Spirit: Catholic Online

**Theme:** Jan Richarson: Pentecost: Fire and Breath; The Painted Prayer Book;

<https://paintedprayerbook.com/2008/05/pentecost-fire-and-breath/>

**Reading 1:** Acts 2: 1 -5: The Inclusive Bible

**Reading 2:** Mary McAs we quiet ourselves this morning, notice that we literally breathe the Holy Spirit.Glone: May 28,2023: Pentecost Sunday; Sunday Resources;

National Catholic Reporter; and Vatican April Synodal Announcement: Christopher White;

<https://www.ncronline.org>; Dr Phyllis Zagano video presentation for Future Church: <https://futurechurch.org/zagano-just-church> and her newest book: “Just Church”.

**Reading 3:** C. Vanessa White: Catholic Women Preach; Pentecost Sunday: May 31, **2020;** https**//**[catholicwomenpreach.org/preaching/05312020](http://catholicwomenpreach.org/preaching/05312020)

**Images during communal silence:** © Jan L. Richardson. Used with permission.

**“Celebration of Communion” Prayer:** Fr Terrance Moran, with permission thanks to Terri Butel.

**Final Blessing:** Joyce Rupp (adapted) “Prayer Seeds”

**Closing Song and Intro:** “It’s a Wonderful World” : Louie “Sachmo’ Armstrong