

TRINITY NEWS

Pentecost and the Breath of God

We have the breath of life and it is sustained by the oxygen that is invisible to us. When we are meditating we pay attention to our breath and it calms our soul. We have no control over our heartbeat except by medication, but we can control our breathing and that may steady our heartbeat. When we are exhausted after exercise we gulp the precious oxygen which is our natural respirator. The Breath of God gives us oxygen and life but it also gives us the Breath of the Spirit of God.

That Spirit created the vastness of the Universe and our global life-sheath, our Home, Earth. *Ruach*, Spirit of God, poured breath into us from the absolute beginning and animated our being with the desire to thank our Creator.

The fresh flow of Spirit animated fresh life-thought at Pentecost which is sometimes frozen in the oft-repeated words about it in the Church. We should allow the experience there to animate us. It is not too much surely to call it a new creation of community on the earth. Paul talks about faith as being a new creation in Christ. The Spirit of Christ is poured out at Pentecost for the very purpose of refreshing the Spirit of the Risen Christ in us.

Let your imaginative thoughts run free as you hear the account from Acts 2:1-13. What was it like to be visited in this way? This was awesome, the Spirit of God afire with love. It touched the image of God in them with such luminous love that it appeared as flaming tongues of light

over their heads. It was another experience like the burning bush at Mount Horeb centuries before. The fire-light of that bush left the bush unharmed once it had served its purpose to focus the voice of the revelation of the God of Being of "who God will be" for us. The tongues of praise lifted to God at Pentecost exceeded normal speech because the wine of the Spirit itself exhausted all other terms for Spirit. It burst the old wineskins as Jesus had said it would, and the new 'wineskins' shaped by the Spirit of Love would expand to serve the purposes of love beyond all other descriptions and limitations. Pentecost is a direct intervention of God. To paraphrase some words from Dallas Willard, sometimes what is required is a direct intervention from God, rather than what we can make happen. The Apostles and those with them in an upper room in Jerusalem, including the mother of Jesus, prayed fervently. It led to a speech by Peter, the choice of Matthias to replace Judas and then a great inrush of the Spirit that we call Pentecost. Words and actions without prayer and warming Spirit become cold and congealed, unable to transform us. We pray, "Spirit of Transformation, transform us!"

<p>Pentecost Exaltation directs Spirit descent inside Pentecost visions dreams soul warming Speech praising freed adoration winging Dove flying heavenwards draws earth.</p>

Bishop Arthur Jones

THIS WEEK: Wednesday. Bible study, 10 a.m.

TO PLAN: TRINITY SUNDAY & PARENT'S DAY, June 21.
