

**Sermon: "A Divine Conspiracy" Text: Acts 2:1-12 Pentecost Sunday June 5, 2022**

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One of the consequences of living through a global pandemic, is a renewed awareness of how the air we breathe is shared. One person breathes out and another breathes in, and we are connected.

We can think about the air that we breathe and share in a more positive, non-pandemic way. Think about the air that we share globally, historically...

At about 67 km thick and held in place by the earth's gravity, our global atmosphere is the band of gases in which we live and breathe. Within our atmosphere's life-giving embrace is all the air we have. There is no more: the air we have now is all the air we will ever have, and the air we have now is all the air we have ever had. We cannot open a cosmic window to get some new fresher air to rush in around us; this atmosphere around us, this air we breathe is all of it, shared over time and space

So, if we think about it... we breathe in air touched by star dust left over from the beginning of creation.

We breathe in dinosaur breath. Sharing air with T Rex and Pterodactyls

We breathe the air that our ancestors breathed. We breathe the breath of Plato and Hildegard of Bingen, of our great grandfather, our great great great aunt.

We breathe the air of every place - the moist air of the South American rainforest and the arid air of the African Sahara, the fresh and frigid air of Antarctica and the heavy, smoggy air of Beijing's congested streets. All that same air blows in our windows today. As we breathe, we are connected to everyplace on earth.

We breathe the breath that enlivened people of faith in every time and place

The wind, the divine breath that blew across the waters of Creation in the Beginning, as described in the very first verses of scripture, that same divine wind blows over us.

- The breath that our Creator breathed into dust and dirt as God gave life to the first human beings, that life giving breath is shared by all of us.
- The breath of God that parted the Red Sea in the Exodus story, that liberating breath blows for us.
- The freshening breeze that carried Peter's boat across the waters of the Sea of Galilee blows on us now.
- The breath of God that gave voice to Jesus' teaching and preaching, which powered parables about the inestimable love and grace of God, that inspired breath we can still share in now.

- And that wind, that breath of God that blew through those gathered in Jerusalem on the Day of Pentecost long ago, that wind, that divine breath is one we may still breathe deeply from so many Pentecost's later.

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It's a conspiracy that we share in with Pentecost. Now days when we think of conspiracies, we think of theories that spread that are not really rooted in objective reality, that vaccines contain microchips, that birds are not real but have been replaced by mechanical drones, that Elvis is alive. We don't share in those kinds of conspiracies here today.

But Pentecost is a chance to conspire. The word 'con -spire' literally means to breathe together.

On Pentecost the first followers of Jesus were gathered together in a room in Jerusalem, following on the events of Good Friday and Easter, quite uncertain about what to do next

According to the book of Acts, they had been waiting for some 50 days to be inspired. And then God's wind blew as it blew in Creation's beginning. God 's life giving, and powerful breath came on them -the very Spirit of God conspiring with them, breathing into them new life, new courage, new insight, new power, new hope, new peace, new purpose, new direction for their lives.

On the first Christian Pentecost God's Spirit conspires with the first followers of Jesus, so that, after Pentecost, in the words of Barbara Brown Taylor: "shy people had become bold, scared people had become filled with courage, and lost people had found a sure direction. ... When they opened their mouths to speak, they sounded like Jesus "

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A very simple way of prayer is a breath prayer. With God you breathe in the life-giving goodness of God and breathe out all that is in the way of life.

You can breathe out sadness and breathe in the abiding joy of God.

Breathe out despair and breathe deeply of the hope that the Spirit brings.

Expel worry and weariness and bring deep within new energy and spirit filled life.

Breathe out anger and breathe in gratitude.

The Pentecost story in Acts Chapter 2 begins: "When the Feast of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Without warning there was a sound like a strong wind, gale force—no one could tell where it came from. It filled the whole building. "

Do we not long for a strong wind to blow away war and violence and blows in peace everywhere? Do we not hope for a mighty wind that might blow way distrust and division, that might fill us with a sense of unity in love?

May we all breathe deep and feel the power, the freshness as the wind of God blows, where you are in your time and place and in every time and place.

Today is Pentecost and we can conspire with the Holy Spirit. Breathe out the old. Breathe in, breath with, the Spirit of God.

May God holy breath fill you this day and always.