



Liturgy: A breath of fresh air



for the 2024 Pentecost Offering of the Church of the Brethren

Call to Worship

ONE: Today we receive a breath of fresh air.

ALL: The Spirit of God is among us.

ONE: Let us expell all that burdens our hearts, our minds, our souls

ALL: and take in new life that is offered to us.

ONE: Let us exhale concern

ALL: and inhale compassion.

ONE: Exhale worry

ALL: Inhale wonder.

ONE: Exhale fear.

ALL: Inhale faith.

ONE: With every breath, let us praise the Lord!

ALL: Praise the Lord!

Suggested hymns and songs

“Holy Spirit, come with power” – Hymnal: A Worship Book #26

“Breath upon us, Holy Spirit” – Hymnal: A Worship Book #28

“Wind who makes all winds” – Hymnal: A Worship Book #31

“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty” – Hymnal: A Worship Book #37

“Filled with the Spirit’s power” – Hymnal: A Worship Book #289

“O Holy Spirit, by whose breath” – Hymnal: A Worship Book #291

“Veni Sancte Spiritus” – Hymnal: A Worship Book #298

“Come, gracious Spirit” – Hymnal: A Worship Book #303

“Spirit, blowing and blazing” – Hymnal Supplement #1012

“God of creation” – Hymnal Supplement #1102

Offering Invitation

I invite you to take three deep breaths with me.

Inhale 2 3 4 Exhale 2 3 4

Inhale 2 3 4 Exhale 2 3 4

Inhale 2 3 4 Exhale 2 3 4

How did that feel? Does anyone feel lightheaded? Does anyone feel energized? Perhaps some of both?

Every breath—light or deep, intentional or involuntary—is a gift from God, an opportunity for us to steward the life we’ve been given. Just like at the time of creation, each day of our lives God pours breath into us that we may live and move and have our being.

Today, on this Pentecost Sunday, we celebrate the new wave of energy from the Holy Spirit of God that swept over the early church and has animated the body of Christ ever since. This is the air that we breathe as we grow together as courageous disciples and this is the energy that gives us strength to serve as we join Jesus in the neighborhood.

Since we have so generously received a breath of fresh air—a gift from God, through Jesus, by way of the Holy Spirit—we go forth bearing witness to and sharing this life and energy with others. We give today as one expression of how we acknowledge and respond to the work of the Spirit of God among us.

The Pentecost Offering of the Church of the Brethren highlights our passion for calling and equipping fearless disciples and leaders, renewing and planting churches, and transforming communities. It supports ministries like Discipleship and Leadership Formation that create space to witness and receive **the breath of fresh air that God offers.**

As we prepare to give our offering, let us take three more deep breaths together, giving thanks to the Holy Spirit of God that sustains every breath we take.

Inhale 2 3 4 Exhale 2 3 4

Inhale 2 3 4 Exhale 2 3 4

Inhale 2 3 4 Exhale 2 3 4

Prayer of dedication

Generous God

We give thanks for every breath and we celebrate the work of the Holy Spirit among us. We offer these tithes and offerings with faith and hopeful expectation for how you are sharing a breath fresh air in the church and in all the world. In the name of Jesus we pray, Amen.

Benediction

Being refreshed by one another and inspired by the Holy Spirit,
may we share a breath of fresh air wherever we go.