

“Breath of God”

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Prayer for Understanding Loving God fill us with your Spirit, your breath, your abundant life. Open our eyes to beauty, our ears to harmony, our hearts to love our minds to wisdom and our souls to joy. Amen

Are you struggling to breathe? Some people cannot breathe from coronavirus, some from police brutality. Others are struggling to breathe from anxiety, fear, depression, grief, unemployment, lost extracurricular activities, damaged relationships, tear gas, stress, oppression, loss of being physically present with family and friends, an uncertain future. However, you are short of breath God is filling you with eternal breath, transforming, resurrecting breath, healing, invigorating breath, inspiring, hopeful breath, gracious, joyous breath.

In the Hebrew Old Testament, the breath of God is ruah meaning wind, spirit, life force, mist. For the Israelites living in an arid region mist nourished the plants and provided water.

In the beginning the breath of God hovered over the darkness, amidst the chaos, and created light, order and the cosmos.

When the people metaphorically became a valley of dry bones from their despair, captivity and desperation. The breath of God put flesh on their bones, life in the lungs and vigor in their life. When people become weary and exhausted the breath of God renews them so they can run and soar like an eagle upon the wind of God.

In the Greek New Testament, the breath of God is pneuma meaning vital spirit, soul, creative force, peace, love, joy.

After the crucifixion the disciples were overwhelmed with guilt from their betrayal of Jesus, lamenting their losses, devastated by the crucifixion, cowering in fear behind locked doors. Jesus appeared and breathed upon them. They were filled with peace. Grace forgave them. Resurrection assured them that all their losses are temporary for all is found and enjoyed in heaven for eternity. Love revealed it's complete and perfect nature. Joy guided them to abundant life. Peace transformed them to share the breath of God.

On Pentecost the breath of God came as fire, communication, understanding, fresh perspectives, reframing, optimism, glorious hope. Each person was aware that they were fully known, loved and energized by God. All the people could understand each other as they shared the wonders of God. Their grateful awe united them in harmonious community. They were inspired to share the breath of God.

Today is a glorious Sunday as we celebrate our High School graduates. Our graduates are brilliant young men and women. They are filled with the breath of God and are gifted in sharing the glory of God's breath. Our graduates have completed a season of learning, growing, loving and rejoicing. Our future is bright. For these graduates are talented. They will go on grand adventures and do amazing things making earth more like heaven. Amen