







Come ready to feel the spirit with your own kite, mask and hand sanitizer.

ALL TOGETHER IN ONE PLACE

This may be the first time it has felt safe to gather even though you have been longing for exactly this. Or this may feel more familiar after so much isolation. Both in an open area away from too many trees where there is space for as many kites as there are people.

BREATHE IN

For one whole year, we have worried about our breath. We watched as one beloved child of God called out, "I can't breathe" before breathing his last and we have prayed over too many on ventilators. We have worried about so much about our breath.

It is not over. We have a long way to go until it is safe for every child to breathe freely but we pause here now on this birthday of the church to breathe in this moment and be present to joy. With masks on and practicing social distancing, breathe deeply. Look around and welcome the wonder of being alive in this very moment.

When it feels right, invite someone to share these words from the prophet Ezekiel:

The hand of the LORD came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord GOD, you know." Then he said to me, "Prophesy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live.

Ezekiel 37:1-5, New Revised Standard Version



PRACTICE BEING ALIVE

It takes time for new life to emerge from the tomb. It takes even more time for the work of the Spirit to be seen and felt.

Allow yourselves to be fully present to this moment and see what the Spirit might be saying to you. Breathe and notice three things in this moment that feel alive. Share those three things, as you are able, with the people around you.

Allow the Spirit to move you into praise with these words from the ancient hymn book:

I will sing to the LORD as long as I live; I will sing praise to my God while I have being. May my meditation be pleasing to him, for I rejoice in the LORD. Bless the LORD, O my soul. Praise the LORD!

Psalm 104:33-35b, New Revised Standard Version

FEEL THE RUSH OF WIND

The story of Pentecost is about an experience that a group of people shared all together in one place. There are fantastic elements to this beloved story that birthed the church like that of the violent wind that rushed into that place where they are sitting.

Today we will ponder the power of wind by releasing kites into the the air. We will practice coming alive by being fully present to this moment. Even if our kites refuse to take flight, we'll open our eyes and ears to notice what the Spirit is doing. We will feel the the wind on our backs and taste the freshness in the air. We will use our whole bodies in this moment of awareness and delight.

As kites begin to take flight, beloved Pentecost hymns might be played on an outside speaker. Allow the kites to fly high as long as it feels right and then close with the following invitation.



BREATHE OUT

It is not over. We have a long way to go until this virus will disappear around the world and still we know that we are different. We have changed because this has happened.

We will be different as we catch our breath and dare to imagine what joy and delight might be in the future.

We pause here to breathe in the wonder of life. To be alive together in one place. To feel the power of wind on our backs pushing us forward and inviting us to believe that there will be goodness.

There will be wonder and delight. It is here now. Breathe it all in.

There is work ahead. There is care to be offered. There is love to be given. There is hope still to be found in the struggle to end the power of this virus but we can breathe deeply knowing that the Spirit is here to help us.

The Advocate is among us and amazing things can happen when we share in that spirit. Breathe in and breathe out.