

PRAYER OF APPROACH, CONFESSION, & THE LORD'S PRAYER

God the Holy Spirit,
You are the restless breath of love that sweeps through the world.
You move where you will, breaking down barriers,
stirring hearts to change, making all things possible.
Inspire each one of us to hunger and thirst for justice!

Scattered as we are throughout this city, this country and this world,
we still come together, as we are able, to worship you, O God.
We come from near and far to raise our voices in praise of
our Maker, our Saviour, our Advocate.

Through our differences we choose to work together.
We may speak a variety of different languages,
but there is one we all share:
the language of love, that you teach us to use, Loving God.

Rushing, wild spirit of God
Just as tongues of fire alighted upon each disciple,
so now do we feel the burning of light, of fire,
above and within ourselves.
Fan those flames within us all.
Pour out the fire of love upon us!
Unfurl your language upon our lips,
unlock our minds to embrace all possibility.

We confess that, for all we have in common,
we so often elevate and seek out that which
separates and divides.
We open our eyes to difference
and ignore the humanity that brings us together.
We open our ears to ideas and language that we can judge
rather than listen for opportunities to get know and understand.
We open our arms to only those people and things
we are already most comfortable with
and cross our arms to what is foreign, peculiar, unfamiliar.

Lord, forgive us.
Set us free from our tendency to seek justice only where we are most comfortable.
Make us listeners as we seek awareness.

Shake us awake when we forget our privilege.
Give us vision for pathways that gather and collect and connect and support.
Send us your Spirit so we might dream new dreams of wholeness
as we work together to build your church.

May your breeze bring health and wholeness,
May your breath heat our resolve,
May your Spirit storm the earth with mercy and grace.
We ask all this in the name of Christ our risen Lord, who taught us to pray, saying,
Our Father...