

**Wild Church
Sunday, March 19, 2023**

Praying with the Elements Part 1: Wind

Emily Murphy Park, Edmonton

Announcements

- .invitation to stay for a hot drink following our worship
- .location of washrooms

Calling a Circle on Sacred Land

We gather with reverence in this sacred circle. The flame at the circle's centre calls to mind the stewardship of the first peoples who walked this land, with the sacred fire bundle they carried from circle to circle as they travelled. Its light is a beacon of hope and a sign of commitment to reverence and respect for Earth, our home.

Let us gather ourselves into silence (*pause*). Listen to your breath. Listen to the air around you, the wind of the Spirit.

You belong here. You are a welcomed part of this ecosystem. All beings welcome us because they have not forgotten that we are all related, that we come from the same dust and will return to the same dust. Take another breath (*Pause*) Acknowledge that your life depends on all life.

Friends, we are not only meeting in Nature. We are entering into a relationship with Nature. We are here to re-member ourselves back to where we belong. We are here to restore a loving and kindred relationship with the rest of the natural world.

Prayer

Loving Creator, we come as we are, knowing you accept us. We come as all we have been, knowing that you are not finished with us. Open our hearts to all we can become. Amen.

Bringing Our Names into the Circle

Each person is invited to say aloud their name. Following the offering of each name, all in the circle will reply:

(Name) you are welcome here as a kindred spirit in the Circle of Life.

Praying With the Elements: The Wind

“The wind blows where it will, and you hear the sound of it,
but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes.
So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit” - John 3:8

Peregrinatio is the Latin word for pilgrimage. When on a pilgrimage journey one is not so focused on a destination or a plan as on letting oneself be open into the experience, to letting go of plans and to being carried where the Spirit leads. In his poem, “*What to Remember When Waking*”, David Whyte writes that in the very first moment of morning, after we awaken “there is a small opening into the new day/which closes the moment you begin your plans.” He goes on to say “What you can plan is too small for you to live” The central idea behind peregrinatio is to see the deep truth of this fact. Planning and goal-setting can be helpful ways of getting things done, but, because they are designed by our egos, these plans are too small for the life to which the Holy calls us.

Pilgrimage calls us to let ourselves be led by the winds of creativity, adventure, learning and discovery - being blown open to possibilities, the likes of which we have not seen. A call to freedom from the constraints of our too planned lives.

There is a saying, “Let go and let God”. Where is the wind of the Spirit leading you?

Readings

1. Wisdom - omnipotent moving -
embracing this world,
informing everything that is
and everything that has life
in one unending circle.

You have three wings.
The first unfolds and flies through the highest sky.
The second dips down, touching the earth.
The third whirls its way over, under, and through all things.

We praise you Wisdom, for you are worthy of praise.
- Hildegard of Bingen

2. But soon there breathed a wind on me.
Nor sound nor motion made. Its path was not upon
the sea. In ripple or in shade.
It raised my hair, it fanned my cheek, like a meadow-gale of spring
It mingled strangely with my fears. Yet it felt like a welcoming.
Swiftly, swiftly flew the ship, Yet she moved softly too:
Sweetly, sweetly blew the breeze - On me alone it blew.
-Samuel Taylor Coleridge

Lectio Divina With Wind

Lectio divina is an ancient contemplative prayer practice used to allow scripture to speak to our hearts and to help us discover the multiple ways the Holy dwells there. It means “sacred reading” and the practice can be extended beyond the reading of scripture to that other great book of revelation - Nature. Lectio invites us to enter into silence and stillness to listen deeply to the stirring of the Holy in the sacred texts around us.

This is a time in our gathering when we are invited to wander solo in Nature, listening for the wisdom of the natural world - allowing this wisdom to inform what we have heard in the theme reflection and the readings. This is heart listening. You are not listening with your head or your ears. Listen to what your heart is saying to you as you interact with the beings in this place.

Become aware of the way wind is present in the world around you - through a breeze blowing, birds flying or in any other way, including your own breath. Listen to the ways in which the Holy may be calling you to deeper attention to wind today.

Wander for 20 minutes, then return to the circle with the gifts you have received during this special time.

When we are reassembled in the circle, invite participants to share insights.

Blessing

Spirit of Creation,
in the beginning you blew over the waters,
coaxing the earth up from the depths of the sea,
and inviting all creatures to rise up on their own wings.

Spirit of Renew Life,
you breathed into me in my first moment,
invigorate me with your gift of energy and newness,
inviting me to a vision of what is possible in my life.

Spirit of Restlessness
stir me from longings for comfort, for placidness that so often stifles me,
help me to release from the places that keep me stuck,
guide me into the adventures that blow in the wind

Spirit of the Great Winds,
help me to hear the still small voice in the whirlwind of my life.

Blessings of wind be upon me.
May I breathe deeply the gift of inspiration.
May I be fully free.