

Presbytery of Boston
September 14, 2023 Stated Presbytery Meeting
Order of Worship

Opening Prayer:	Eternal God, you have called us this evening from many homes and communities as members of Your one body. Guide us in this time together, and so fill us with your Spirit, that in faith, hope and love we may worship you.
Opening Hymn:	Breathe on me Breath of God
Call to Confession:	The proof of God's love is that while we were sinners, Christ died for us. Because we have faith in him, we can dare with confidence to approach God seeking forgiveness for our sins.
Prayer of Confession (Unison):	Merciful God, we humble ourselves in your presence, confessing our unworthiness and our sinfulness in your sight. We have broken your holy law. We have not sought first your kingdom and righteousness. We have been anxious and troubled about many things, and have neglected the things that belong to our peace. We have not loved our neighbor as ourselves, or done to others as we would want them to do to us. Gracious God and heavenly Father, you gave your Son Jesus Christ, to save us from our sins. Free us from our self-centeredness so we may love You and love others, and thus bring honor to Your Name. Through the grace of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, Amen.
Assurance of Pardon:	The LORD is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love. He will not always accuse, nor will he harbor his anger forever; he does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his love for those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us.
Response (Unison):	Thanks be to God.
Scripture:	Romans 13:8-10 ⁸ Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for whoever loves others has fulfilled the law. ⁹ The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery," "You shall not murder," "You shall not steal," "You shall not covet," ^[a] and whatever other command there may be, are summed up in this one

command: "Love your neighbor as yourself."^[b] ¹⁰ Love does no harm to a neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.

Reflection:

Small Group Discussion:

10 min small group sharing based on reflection questions:

- What/How is the law of God fulfilled in loving our neighbors as ourselves?
- What makes it challenging to help you practice love that fulfills God's law? (fear, judgement, difference, etc.) What helps you to practice love that fulfills the law? (empathy, intention, relationship, etc.)
- What actions might we take, as individuals and as a presbytery support one another in loving to fulfil the law?

Closing Hymn and Offering:

We are One in the Spirit

Offering: Presbyterian Disaster Assistance

Closing Prayer:

By your will, O God, we go out into the world with good news of your undying love, and actions to minister in the midst of human need, showing the wonders of your grace.

(A) (Em) (B)
C Gm D

flight, like the vig - or of the wind's rush, like the
Vine, to the church in faith as - sem - bled, to our
prayer, with the power to love and wit - ness, with the

(Em) (D) (G) (A/G) (F#m) (Bm) (Em) (A7) (D)
Gm F Bb C/Bb Am Dm Gm C7 F

new flame's ea - ger might:
midst as gift and sign: Come, Ho - ly Spir - it, come.
peace be - yond com - pare:

Breathe on Me, Breath of God 286

1 Breathe on me, Breath of God; fill me with life a - new,
2 Breathe on me, Breath of God, un - til my heart is pure,
3 Breathe on me, Breath of God, till I am whol - ly thine,
4 Breathe on me, Breath of God, so shall I nev - er die,

that I may love what thou dost love, and do what thou wouldst do.
un - til with thee I will one will, to do and to en - dure.
un - til this earth - ly part of me glows with thy fire di - vine.
but live with thee the per - fect life of thine e - ter - ni - ty.

In both Hebrew and Greek, the words for "spirit" can equally well be translated as "breath" or "wind," so it is very appropriate to address the Holy Spirit as the "Breath of God." This tune by an English organist has become the customary one in North American hymnals.

We Are One in the Spirit 300

They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love

Capo 1: (Em)

(Bm) (Em)

Fm

Cm

Fm



- 1 We are one in the Spir - it; we are one in the Lord;
 2 We will walk with each oth - er; we will walk hand in hand;
 3 We will work with each oth - er; we will work side by side;
 4 All praise to the Fa - ther, from whom all things come,

(Am)

(Em)

B \flat m

Fm



we are one in the Spir - it; we are one in the Lord,
 we will walk with each oth - er; we will walk hand in hand,
 we will work with each oth - er; we will work side by side,
 and all praise to Christ Je - sus, God's on - ly Son,

(Am)

(Em)

B \flat m

Fm



and we pray that all u - ni - ty may one day be re - stored:
 and to - geth - er we'll spread the news that God is in our land:
 and we'll guard hu - man dig - ni - ty and save hu - man pride:
 and all praise to the Spir - it, who makes us one:

Refrain

(C)

(Em)

D \flat

Fm



And they'll know we are Chris - tians by our love, by our

(Am)

(Em)

(Am)

(Bm)

(Em) (Am/E) (Em)

B \flat m

Fm

B \flat m

Cm

Fm

B \flat m/F

Fm



love; yes, they'll know we are Chris - tians by our love.

A parish priest at St. Brendan's on the South Side of Chicago in the 1960s was very involved in the local Civil Rights movement and needed something for his youth choir to sing at ecumenical, interracial events. Finding nothing, he wrote this song in a single day.