

Nathan Williams shared a couple of metaphors to illustrate the continuous action, or flow, of love.

Breathing Divine Love

In the Gospel of John, Jesus appears to his disciples in the evening of Easter, after his resurrection. He says, “Peace be with you. As the Father sent me, so I am sending you,” and breathes the Holy Spirit into them (John 20:19-23). That is, the presence of God, which had dwelt in him throughout his ministry, now dwells in the human church. The divine mission of reconciliation now belongs to a very human group of people.

I find hope in remembering that God’s presence is described as a Spirit, a Breath. We’re not expected to somehow become large enough to contain all of God’s love. We’re not even expected to contain all the love we will ever need. If we try to hold all the breath we will ever need at one time, we’ll pass out. That’s just not how breath works. Breathing is not about keeping the breath inside, it’s about allowing the breath to flow in and out of you.

Sharing divine love with the world is not primarily about holding love inside us. Instead, it’s about allowing love to flow through us. To shift metaphors, we’re not meant to be the drinking glass that contains the water. We’re invited to be the straw through which people can drink the love they need. The best thing about a straw is that when you remove something from it at one end, you’re also filling it up at the other. Sharing love with others is like that.

As we meet this evening, as we gather with our faith communities, and as we serve those around us, my prayer for this group is that we might find divine Love flowing through us, breathing in us, and guiding all that we do. Peace be with you all.

Inspiration shared by Nathan Williams, Pastor of Echo Hill Presbyterian Church
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