

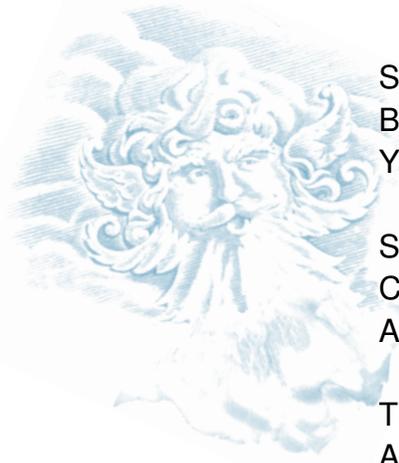
*Ruah* Liam Lawton

*Ruah, Ruah, Ruah, Ruah*  
*Ruah, Ruah, Ruah, Ruah*

Spirit of God, blowing forth,  
Be like the sands of time,  
Your gift that is mine.

Spirit of Fire, light our minds,  
Come with your flame so bright  
And let the winds rise

Teach us to wonder  
At the glory of our God  
Teach us to ponder  
The beauty of your Word



All praise be Yours, my God,  
through Brothers Wind and Air,  
by which You cherish  
all that You have made.

Francis of Assisi



Centering Space

A ministry of prayer,  
listening & direction

Our prayer is characterized by silence ~

*Be still and know that I am God!*

In that silence we listen for a new word.  
God is present in all our lives.

God cares for us, and  
our life experiences are a source  
of deepening knowledge of God and self.

Inspired by God's Word in the silence  
we share from our hearts.

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Thank You For Joining Us!

Prayer Leader:

Carol Kandiko, CSA  
3/21/2017

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## To Ponder: Christine Valters Paintner

Wind is the only one of the four elements that is invisible. The gift of air lacks any discernible form or color or texture, but it makes everything else come alive both literally, as in the gift of life-giving breath, and figuratively, as in the buffeting of things by the wind's power. In Genesis we are told that the mighty wind was present at the very beginning of creation. Wind is air in motion caused by differences in atmospheric pressure. We measure the wind or air by the effect it has on other things, such as the sail of a boat billowing, the treasure of a cooling breeze on a warm day, the gentle bending and bowing of grass in a field, the steady rhythm of our own breathing, or the powerful effects of a strong storm knocking down trees and power lines. Air is also the medium of sound-waves and thus of language and communication. It is connected to voice, our ability to speak of what is most precious to us and to communicate with others.

The element of wind invites us to “open our souls to Being,” which means opening ourselves to a God who flows in directions we cannot predict. This element invites us to a radical posture of surrender in releasing our hold on our own plans and making room for God to blow us in the most life-giving direction. As a metaphor for God, wind reminds us that God's ways are not our ways. The invitation of wind requires of us a detachment from our own longing to control the direction of our lives and a simultaneous surrender to Spirit to allow ourselves to be carried to places of growth and newness.

## Reading: Hildegard of Bingen

God's Soul is the wind rustling plants and leaves,  
the dew dancing on the grass,  
the rainy breezes making everything grow.

Just like this, the kindness of a person flows,  
touching those dragging burdens of longing.

We should be a breeze helping the homeless,  
dew comforting those who are depressed,  
the cool, misty air refreshing the exhausted,  
and with God's teaching  
we have got to feed the hungry:

This is how we share God's soul.



Sharing...  
a word...  
a phrase...  
a reflection...