

Voices Together Hymn Sing Blueprint:

Our Breath, God's Breath

GATHERING

God gives us breath and is often found in breath, especially the Holy Spirit. Breath is crucial for human life, and is the foundation of singing. But breath can also spread sickness. Many can't breathe due to racial injustice. Yet God provides healing breath, living breath, holy breath. God gives us breath. Let us not take it away, but breathe out God's love and reign. As we hear in the first song, "And if music is God breathing, take a holy breath and sing!"

Song: "Could it Be that God is Singing" VT #42

Resource: "I will light a light" VT #867

Leader: As we gather together, I invite you to consider our connectedness and breath--both on a horizontal level as a community as well as on a vertical level with our Creator who has given us breath.

Song: "Let's Walk Together" VT #6

Leader: This song is a heart song from Chin Emmanuel Baptist Church (a Mennonite congregation) in Houston, Texas. It was received while VT committee members visited underrepresented communities to learn about heart songs thanks to a grant from the Calvin Institute Vital Worship grants. This song was written by a Chin person who was an early convert to Christianity.

Song: "Zisuh nih a zultu hna sinah (Peace Be with You! Jesus Told His Friends)" VT #165

GOD'S BREATH

Leader: This next set reflects on God's life-giving and omnipresent breath.

Resource: "In the beginning, before time" VT #884

Leader: Indeed, God's breath was before time, is now, and will be forever.

Song: "Margam, satyam, jivam nive (Living, Moving, End and Beginning)" VT #425

Leader: Hear these comforting words that we are forever connected with God's breath.

Song: "Nothing is Lost on the Breath of God" VT #653

Leader: And I invite you to join breath together in adoration of God's presence in the past, present, and future.

Song: "Revelation Song" VT #415

PRAYERS

Leader: As we move through this next set without interruption, I invite you to consider the ways these resources invite you to lift your breath in prayer for yourself and others.

Resource: "Hear our prayer, O God of healing and hope" VT #978

Song: "God Weeps With Us" VT #656

"Word and Sign" VT #483

"Peace To You" VT VT #168

BLESSING

Leader: This final worship resource comes to us from the Taize community in France. Let's read this together in unison and we bless each other.

Resource: "O Risen Christ, you breathe your Holy Spirit" VT #1013

Song: "Eternal Light, Shine in My Heart" VT #554

Song: "Breathe On Me, Breath of God" VT #737

Leader: Thank you for joining together in song, worship, breath, and prayer. Let us send each other with the presence of Christ all around us. (You could also teach simple motions to go along with this one. For a YouTube video with actions, see:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IByh5AlsOX0>).

Song: "Christ, Be All Around Me" VT 848