

Opening Prayer by Matt Carnes, S.J.  
SCU Board Meeting - 5 June 2020

God of love and God of justice,  
This past week the Church celebrated the Feast of Pentecost,  
When your Son, risen from the dead,  
Gave the gift of the Holy Spirit to the disciples.

The Gospel of John says “he breathed on them,”  
And said, “Receive the Holy Spirit.”  
And as he did so, he spoke the word of peace, Shalom,  
And sent them out into the world on mission.

Dear God,  
We know how precious breath is.

In the midst of the coronavirus, over 100,000 of our fellow Americans, and over 600,000 people worldwide, have died from the loss of their breath,  
And millions of others have felt the terrible effects of not being able to get enough air when they have fallen ill with the virus.

And in the midst of this time of upheaval in our country,  
We are aware of how many black men and women have been unable to breathe,  
Under police brutality in recent days and across the decades,  
under unjust social systems and systematic racism  
tracing all the way back to our nation’s origins.

Yes, we know how precious, and how precarious, breath is.

We ask you today to breathe on us anew,  
Open our lungs and help us —  
With the gifts of science and medicine,  
With the courage of political and economic and social choices —  
To free others from disease and injustice so that all may be able to breathe.

May your Holy Spirit inspire us in our mission  
As trustees of Santa Clara University.  
Give us courage and creativity, hope and compassion.  
Guide us so that our university may do its part  
To bring about healing and justice  
In our hearts and in our communities.  
We recognize that it is you, God, who have called us to this mission,  
And you who now call us to embrace the great responsibility set before us.

Breathe your Holy Spirit on us anew, dear God.  
This we pray. Amen.