

spirit
(acts 2: 1-4)

Scripture:

When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

Meditation:

returning to the place
 where i began
 returning
yesterday arriving
 at this upper room
two roman soldiers
caught sight of me
 ran upstairs
 as quickly as possible
 fear paralyzing me
all i could think of
 were the scenes
 of jesus tortured
 by soldiers of the empire
arriving here
everyone stopping
asking what had happened
 here i was
 the leader
 the one
 who was supposed
 to be strong
i was trembling
paralyzed by fear
we sat for hours
speaking about
 what was going to happen
the project of jesus
 each day seemed to fade
 in the background

the women seemed
 so much stronger
fear had not taken over
we prayed last night
the women telling us
 it was time
 was time
 to begin to speak
 about jesus
 to begin this project
here i was still terrified
 of being seized
 by the military
looked deep within myself
asking myself
how was i going to be free?
we needed to follow
 the example of the women

this morning we gathered
 to remember the master
we would break bread together
 as we sat
 in the quietest hours
 of the morning
 a stillness filled our room
reading the scriptures
waiting
 as the watchman
 waits for the dawn
sometimes i have not wanted
 to get out of bed
paralyzed by fear
paralyzed by past days

waiting

outside in the distance
 bells ringing
 sounding subtly
felt jesus' presence
his spirit was here
i yelled out jesus
jesus
something was happening

his spirit
his strength
his vision
 began to come alive
 within
i could feel
 when he cured the leper
could feel
 when he spoke to the multitudes
could feel
 when he walked
 with us

i wanted to touch him
to be with him
 like we had been
 at the shore
 of the lake of galilee
but what we were experiencing
was different
stronger
he was present
i know he had told us
 how he would send
 the spirit
the spirit

 could not think
 could not move
flowing within fire
burning strong
it was at the moment
it was like
 huge boulders
 being blown apart
 opening up
 new space
 breaking open
dark deep fear
 slipping through walls
my whole body
was trembling
but the difference
 from last night
i was not shaking from fear
but shaking from the power

of jesus' spirit
strong
burning strength
entering deep
slowly being healed
from paralysis
looking around
everything seemed different
knew i was different
knew it was time
time to begin
to begin god's project
that jesus was present
with us
his strength
his spirit
had taken over the space
of fear within
his spirit had driven out fear

finding strength within
leaving the upper room
but more importantly
forever leaving behind
fear that paralyzes
that has not permitted me
to act
to speak
to the great numbers
from so many countries
gathered in the plaza
looking around
at the sea of faces
i was no longer paralyzed
by fear
rather i began
to speak
telling those before me
about jesus
who was the one
we had been waiting for
to save us
save us from the darkness
surrounding us
but our religious leaders
could not stand

this truth
they needed to destroy jesus
but his abba
 raised him up
 and he is alive
i could feel power
strength
felt jesus' spirit
 empowering me
could tell
those in the crowd
 were being moved
 by words flowing out
knew it was this power
that we had been waiting for
so this is what
it is to be filled
with jesus' spirit

all of us
this morning had been changed
each of us
now spoke with feeling
 with conviction
i watched
as mary
 one of our group
bent down and touched a leper
with sores oozing
jesus' spirit was so strong
that mary embraced this one
who for years
 had been marginated
 from his family
jesus' spirit was working
 so strongly
that this leper
 was healed instantly
joy spread over his face
my heart was so moved
by spirit overpowering
 that i began to speak clearly
 of my experience
 of knowing jesus
burning feeling within
 that the many

standing before me
would also know this one
spirit strong burning within
flowing out