***CHILDREN’S BULLETIN:***

***John 20:19-31***

***“God’s Holy Spirit Replaces Fear”***

**Memory Verse:** *Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit.” John 20: 21-22*

Good morning! When you have a straw with your drink, do you sometimes blow bubbles into your drink? Do you know what causes the bubbles? (Your breath!) That’s right! So, last week Sunday, we remembered and celebrated the resurrection of Jesus. And in this week’s story, we hear about Jesus’ first real interaction with his disciples since his resurrection. One of the first things we hear in the story is that the disciples are afraid. Let’s pretend, then, that the disciples’ fear is like the drink you blow bubbles into. Later in the story, we hear that Jesus breathes God’s spirit into the disciples…just like you breathed air into your drink. And, just like your breath pushes the drink out of the container it’s in, so too did God’s Holy Spirit push out the fear that was in the disciples.

The disciples had been filled with fear because of the bad and scary things that had happened to their teacher and leader, Jesus. And, then, they were even more scared because they didn’t understand what was happening with Jesus and his resurrection. But, because they let Jesus breathe the Holy Spirit into them, their fear was replaced with something much, much better. The same thing is true for us today. Even when awful, scary, bad things happen to us, we don’t need to be filled with fear of these events. Instead, we can remember today’s story. We can remember that the breath we breathe is filled with God’s Holy Spirit and with every breath we take, we are inviting God into our lives and bodies. And, with every breath where we are inviting God into our lives, we are also pushing out the fear and worry that can sometimes fill us up. That’s the good news for today. Let’s pray.

***Dear God,***

***Thank you for the gift of Jesus.***

***Who reminds and teaches us how***

***to breathe in your Holy Spirit,***

***that then replaces our worry and fear.***

***Thank you and Amen***



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