



**Week of June 9, 2019**

**Acts 2:1-21 (NRSV)**

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place.

<sup>2</sup> And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting.

<sup>3</sup> Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them.

<sup>4</sup> All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

<sup>5</sup> Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem.

<sup>6</sup> And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each.

<sup>7</sup> Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?"

<sup>8</sup> And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language?

<sup>9</sup> Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia,

<sup>10</sup> Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes,

<sup>11</sup> Cretans and Arabs-- in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power."

<sup>12</sup> All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?"

<sup>13</sup> But others sneered and said, "They are filled with new wine."

<sup>14</sup> But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, "Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say.

<sup>15</sup> Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning.

<sup>16</sup> No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

<sup>17</sup> 'In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams.

<sup>18</sup> Even upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit; and they shall prophesy.

<sup>19</sup> And I will show portents in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and smoky mist.

<sup>20</sup> The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day.

<sup>21</sup> Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.'



Group Leader

Remember: you don't need to use all of the questions.

Gathering questions:

- A. Describe a time when you were out of place: overdressed or underdressed, or maybe in a social situation where you didn't know how you were supposed to act.
- B. When have you done something completely out of character for you? Why?

Bible Study Questions:

- 1. This is such a chaotic scene, review the image you have in your head:
  - a. They started in a house, and ended with a large crowd. What happened?
  - b. If each person is hearing the speakers in their own native language, how do they know (see verses 8 and 11) the others are also hearing in their own languages?
  - c. If the "devout Jews" are hearing the message, who are the "others" (verse 13) who don't understand what is happening and sneer?
- 2. In verse 17, what would you imagine are the "visions" and "dreams" that young and old would see in fulfillment of Joel's prophecy?
- 3. In verse 3, it says the divided tongues were "as of fire", suggesting that this is symbolism or metaphor. What does the imagery of fire suggest to you?
- 4. What role does the Holy Spirit play in your faith life? Do you ever pray to the Holy Spirit? Rely on the Spirit – and if so, how do you do this explicitly?
- 5. How concerned are you about not being perceived as a "fanatic"? Have you ever done anything because of your faith that would cause others to suggest that you were "filled with new wine" or in any way not acting reasonably?
- 6. What is Jesus' hardest command for you? To worry less? To be less concerned about wealth? To love your enemies? Something else?

Closing prayer: particularly invite prayers about ways to step out more boldly in faith regardless of public perception