**Sermon Title: “When Pentecost Comes”**

**Acts 2: 1-18**

**Pastor Warnock**

**Date: May 28, 2023**

**2 When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. 2 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. 3 Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. 4 All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.**

**5 Now there were devout Jews from every people under heaven living in Jerusalem. 6 And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. 7 Amazed and astonished, they asked, “Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? 8 And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? 9 Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, 10 Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, 11 Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God’s deeds of power.” 12 All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, “What does this mean?” 13 But others sneered and said, “They are filled with new wine.”**

### **Peter Addresses the Crowd**

**14 But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, “Fellow Jews[**[**a**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Acts+2%3A+1-18&version=NRSVUE#fen-NRSVUE-26953a)**] and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. 15 Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o’clock in the morning. 16 No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:**

**17**

**‘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.**

**18**

**Even upon my slaves, both men and women,
 in those days I will pour out my Spirit,
 and they shall prophesy.**

**Summary and Commentary**

Pentecost originated as a harvest festival celebrated by Jews seven weeks and one day after Passover. As Christians, we know it as the day the church was given the gift of the Holy Spirit. But it was not invented by Christians, rather it is an innovation of that which had already been established. Pentecost also represents a disruption of what had in some minds already been a settled tradition, and is therefore an intervention. It is a reminder that God has the power to move, to blow winds that change what we know to be true. Pentecost is also an improvisation on the same theme of liberation and protection that God’s deliverance provided to the Jews. And yet it makes clear that just like in jazz music everyone gets to speak and everyone can be heard. When God blows God’s breath in the air, God can turn mistakes into music, turn what was meant for evil into good.

**Reflection Questions**

1. Connection Question: Would your friends and family describe you as a “planner” or someone who is more spontaneous?
2. Read the entire passage above. Stop every few verses and discuss the follow questions:
3. What do you notice in the verses?
4. What do you wonder about as you read them?
5. What do you connect with as you read them?
6. When you think of the Holy Spirit, what comes to mind? Has your idea of what the Holy Spirit is shifted over time?
7. When you think of Penteost, what comes to mind? Has your idea of what Pentecost is shifted over time?
8. Describe a time when God interrupted your life plan. How did it feel at the time? What did you learn in retrospect?
9. Describe a time when God turned your mistake into something beautiful.