



# KIAMA ANGLICAN CHURCHES

## **Pentecost**

**Sermon – Steve Stanis**

Acts 2:1-47

23 May 2021



# Pentecost

## Spiritual Awakening – The Promised New Era

*Prayer:*

Almighty God, at the feast of Pentecost you sent your Holy Spirit to the disciples, filling them with joy and boldness to preach the gospel. Empower us with that same Spirit to witness to your redeeming love and draw all people to you, through the merits of Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

*Read Acts 2:1-13*

### **Introduction: The Development of God's Plan - God for us, God with us, God in us!**

Throughout the Old Testament God called people back to himself through the patriarchs and prophets – their message was, “**God is for us!** – we are the people of God.”

*Jeremiah 31:33 “I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people.”*

The next phase of God's revelation was the person of Jesus, who came as the promised Emmanuel, **God with us!**

Then came Pentecost as an unexpected fulfilment of the promises and prophecies – **God in us!** As Jesus said, “*I will give you another Comforter.*” (John 14:16) The Spirit comes to dwell in us. To Lead, Empower, and Comfort: God in us!

Note St Paul said in 1 Cor. 6:19:

*“Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own”.*

Let's look at this very exciting chapter when the church really began!

### **The Holy Spirit Brought a New Era:**

Recall the tower of Babel (Genesis 10), where God separated people and confused their language. At Pentecost we see the opposite to Babel; the message is unified; one message heard in different languages...

‘Humanity undone by language at Babel, redone by the Holy Spirit at Pentecost!’

### **God confirms he is for us**

### **The Holy Spirit Brought New Energy:**

Joel had prophesied that when the Spirit came there would be dreams/visions/ prophecies and in this chapter we also see gifts of tongues and healing...

This all happened as Jews from all over gathered at Jerusalem 50 days after Passover to celebrate the exodus from Egypt and the giving of the ten commandments to Moses on Mt Sinai. Think about the Israelite nation. God was present in the Temple, accessed only by the priests. Pentecost turns everything around. Here is the Holy Spirit descending, not on the Temple or the priests but on the disciples. Pentecost opens the way for everyone to have direct access to God. All believers have the same intimacy of access to God through the Holy Spirit.

Pentecost ushers in the New Covenant through Jesus, with the falling of the Holy Spirit on the disciples as Jesus had promised.

**Unified as God is with us!**

**The Holy Spirit Brought New Enthusiasm:**

Mind blowing events in Acts Chapter 2:1-13 – ‘rushing wind, tongues of fire and speaking in tongues. There was so much enthusiasm that some people thought they must be drunk. All were amazed and many perplexed.’

This had all been promised when Jesus had told his disciples in 1:8:

*“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria & to the ends of the earth.”*

Imagine the disciple’s reaction to more than 3,000 converts after Peter’s sermon!

**The Holy Spirit Brought Confidence:**

Remember Peter - unable to identify with Jesus in the courtyard, not present at the cross, goes back to Galilee to his old occupation, meets Jesus on the beach and vows his love... and is given the command, “Feed my sheep.” He had other experiences of the risen Lord and now, having received the Holy Spirit, he is a new man, able to stand tall and speak of what has happened.

Peter’s sermon makes it clear who Jesus is against the Old Testament background that the crowd is familiar with. These people are already expecting a Messiah; they are Jews. Peter is using Biblical text to make it clear

that this Messiah is Jesus. The entire sermon is about what has just happened. Peter quotes the prophet, Joel, and King David, and then gives the recent events of Jesus' life, ministry, death and resurrection. He is using the Old Testament Scriptures to explain the person of Jesus. Peter is making it clear that Jesus is the promised Messiah.

### **The Holy Spirit Brought Clarity:**

Whether Peter spoke in a common tongue or whether the disciples interpreted his message to the visiting crowds - they got it! Everyone knew about Jesus. They have seen or heard about his wonders, miracles and signs. They knew he died on the cross. Peter plainly acknowledges that God used this moment for his good purposes. He raised Jesus to life as both Lord and Messiah.

### **The Holy Spirit brought Challenge:**

Peter didn't just tell the story, he challenged them about their part in it. We read in v36, "Let everyone know for certain that God has made this Jesus whom you crucified to be both Lord and Messiah."

Do you want to hear what he said to 'pierce people's hearts? I've invited Peter to speak it again... here he comes now!

### **God is for us!**

*Read Acts 2:14-41*

The crowd had witnessed the speaking in tongues but this did not change them. They were convicted by the words of Peter. It was God's Spirit who made clear in

their hearts the Gospel message and they were changed.

They understood that:

**God is for each one of us!**

**God is with each one of us!**

**God is in each one of us!**

How are you seeing God's Spirit moving in KAC at this time? Human nature wants to tell the Spirit what to do but we cannot limit God's intentions.

In Acts chapter 2 we have read how the Spirit moved through Peter and subsequently 3000 people were added to the numbers saved in God's name! This is the story of Pentecost - all nations, all generations, sharing and using gifts, coming together and serving as the brothers and sisters of Christ. Never diverting or being distracted from the truth of the birth, life, death, resurrection and, in coming days, of the return of Jesus; calling us to be ready daily for our eternal home. Never being corrupted from baptising and sharing the Lords Supper.

What else do we need other than to keep teaching and learning through the Word of God in the Spirit of God? The Spirit moves and ordains his purposes and plans for us! So 2000 years later the Church continues as God intends. Acts gives us the blue print of what Church should look like.

The Holy Spirit is constantly at work. I would love you to share your current experiences as to how God is moving in KAC!

*Read Acts 2:42-47*

### **The Holy Spirit Brought Gathering:**

The Holy Spirit led the believers to form a community empowered to learn, to fellowship, to share the Lord's Supper, to pray together.

### **The Holy Spirit brought Generosity:**

They sold their property and possessions; they helped each other generously and shared with those in need.

### **The Holy Spirit brought Growth:**

Their attractional joy and life decisions drew others to God and 'the Lord added to them daily those who were being saved.'

### **Conclusion:**

What is the response of those people who have received the good news of Jesus? They repent, believe and love each other. With the Spirit is the promise of salvation for all who call on the name of the Lord.

**God is for us!**

**God is with us!**

**God is in us!**

**Go forth!**