

Notes on Rev. Nancy's Reflection ... Brenda Wallace
"Pentecost Sunday" June 5, 2022
"Wind and Fire"

Acts 2: 1-21 The Holy Spirit Comes at Pentecost

2 When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. **2** Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. **3** They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. **4** All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues[a] as the Spirit enabled them.

5 Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. **6** When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard their own language being spoken. **7** Utterly amazed, they asked: "Aren't all these who are speaking Galileans? **8** Then how is it that each of us hears them in our native language? **9** Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia,[b] **10** Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome **11** (both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs—we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!" **12** Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, "What does this mean?"

13 Some, however, made fun of them and said, "They have had too much wine."

Peter Addresses the Crowd

14 Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: "Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say. **15** These people are not drunk, as you suppose. It's only nine in the morning! **16** No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:

17 "In the last days, God says,
 I will pour out my Spirit on all people.
 Your sons and daughters will prophesy,
 your young men will see visions,
 your old men will dream dreams.

18
 Even on my servants, both men and women,
 I will pour out my Spirit in those days,
 and they will prophesy.

19

I will show wonders in the heavens above
and signs on the earth below,
blood and fire and billows of smoke.

20

The sun will be turned to darkness
and the moon to blood
before the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord.

21

And everyone who calls
on the name of the Lord will be saved.’[c]

Rev. Nancy’s theme this morning centered upon this very special day in the church season — that of Pentecost. She began by asking us to consider what do we get right about Pentecost. Her answer was: “It was the day the church was born with tongues of flame and rushing wind and with believers sharing the word. The people knew for sure that something significant was happening.”

She reminded us that the disciples had been largely behind closed doors following Jesus’ crucifixion but now they went out into the world to tell their story. Pentecost, says Rev. Nancy, happens many times as the spirit is poured out. Transformation to faith and belief occurs. The examples she cited included Paul’s conversion, that of Lydia and others as evidenced in the scriptures. In more recent times, the Reformation, the Great Awakenings of the 20th century, even the beginning of the United Church of Canada 97 years ago were all moments when we were moved to share beyond expectations. The 2013 Flood in Calgary, the 2016 wild fire in Fort McMurray, the supporting of refugees from Syria, Afghanistan and, more recently, Ukraine were all times that brought our faith community together with Christ’s love going out into the world (much like the disciples carrying their message far beyond their immediate community so long ago.)

The promises revealed in Acts 2 are still happening today. She asked, “Do we hear? Do we believe?”

The story continues, faith is shared as we “claim the power of God in our lives.” The church was created then and is created anew in the Spirit.

”The vision and work of the Spirit invites us to participate. Where will the next Pentecost be? Where will we feel responsive to God’s call to listen (to act) ? When we identify needs of our community and respond through the lens of scripture, we come to life, to faith and to encounters with the loving God. May God work through our lives.”