

Sermon Starter – A New Community

Acts 2:1-21

Scripture reading:

For resources for scripture presentation, see www.textweek.com. Look for dramatic resources for Pentecost Sunday. Several are listed, but since they only allude to the story of Pentecost, make sure to read Acts 2:1-21 as well.

Sermon notes:

Are we open to let the Holy Spirit lead us to a new unity, a new community of inclusiveness that encompasses not only those who call on the name of the Lord but the whole of creation? We're often used to thinking in terms of opposites: in or out, right or wrong. The Spirit's work at the first Pentecost muddies all these careful boundaries: believers appear drunk, foreigners hear words spoken in their mother tongue, even the created order proclaims God's new way. The Acts text provides a good opportunity to talk about the importance of community to Anabaptist/Mennonites. For a brief overview of the role of community in Anabaptism, see Palmer Becker's "What is an Anabaptist Christian?" (www.mennonitemission.net), H. S. Bender's "The Anabaptist Vision," or Arnold Snyder's "From Anabaptist Seed."

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