

## GOD'S EMPOWERING PRESENCE

ACTS 2 | ERIC SIMPSON | MAY 31, 2020

The Paschal Mystery of Jesus:

- Crucifixion – name our deaths
- Resurrection – claim our births
- The 40 days – grieve what you have lost and adjust to the new reality
- Ascension – let go of the old, refuse to cling to what was, let it ascend
- Pentecost – accept the new spirit for this new life that you are in fact living

Acts 2:1-4

*<sup>1</sup> When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. <sup>2</sup> Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. <sup>3</sup> They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. <sup>4</sup> All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.*

- **God is faithful, you can trust His promises.**

Anchor yourself to what you do know while you journey through what you don't know.

Acts 2:5-6

*<sup>5</sup> Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. <sup>6</sup> When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard them speaking in his own language.*

- **God's heart is for anyone and everyone.**

Ephesians 2:14

*For he himself is our peace, who has made the two one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility*

Acts 2:7-8,11-12

*<sup>7</sup> Utterly amazed, they asked: "Aren't all these who are speaking Galileans? <sup>8</sup> Then how is it that each of us hears them in our native language?...<sup>11</sup> we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!" <sup>12</sup> Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, "What does this mean?"*

Acts 2:13-15

*<sup>13</sup> Some, however, made fun of them and said, "They have had too much wine." <sup>14</sup> 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. <sup>15</sup> These men are not drunk, as you suppose. It's only nine in the morning!*

- **God uses the unlikely and available.**

"Our future—who we are becoming, where we are going – matters more than our past—where and who we have been. Our future has more power to name us and define us than our past. Consummation swallows origins. Destiny, not history, is the ultimate ground of our identity. How does a prostitute named Rahab, a Moabite outsider named Ruth, an incestuous schemer named Tamar, an adulteress named Bathsheba, end up in the birth line of Jesus? Because in God's economy the person we become, not the person we have been, is the person we truly are." – Mark Buchanan