

Sermon for 8 June 2025 @ Bethesda UMC/Baltimore

PENTECOST SUNDAY

Scriptures: Acts 2:1-21; Psalter (Insert: Psalm 104:24-34, 35b, *alternate* leader, **people**);
Romans 8:14-17; John 14:8-17, 25-27 (*repeat 14-17 in various languages*)

Sermon:

The idea for today is to stop the music and do it yourself.

This is the end of Easter.

You take a perfectly good Jewish harvest holiday, with people from all over in town to celebrate at temple, and you watch everybody understanding each other.

It's the opposite of the Tower of Babel, where God got uneasy when people from all different tribes started building a tower into heaven so they could rule themselves, and so gave them each a different language.

What's the point here?

What's scripture trying to teach us Jesus people?

The point is that, if you try hard enough, and work at it long enough, you can understand each other enough to do what Jesus told you to do. You can love each other like you need to love yourself to live right and be well, like God created us all to be.

That's the whole point.

Nothing can stop it. We're that close, all the time and everywhere.

And until we see that and work at it, we'll never truly get anywhere.

Just like the Bible says if you spend all your time trying to get rich, you'll lose everything.

And, unless you stay like a little child, you'll never get where God wants you to be.

We are that close.

That's the Messiah. That's the good king and the good queen.

Now we can get to work.

Who's that billionaire that's giving all his fortune to heal Africans?

Isn't it amazing to be alive when something like that actually happens?

We're not so far behind, after all!

Let us pray.