

Sermon Outline - Sun, June 5, 2022
Pose – At the Intersection of Pentecost & Pride
Acts 2:1-24

Keyword Summary – Pride; Pentecost; Holy Spirit; Queer Liberation; Kin(g)dom of God

Overview – This is Pentecost Sunday the day when we are reminded of the powerful role of the Holy Spirit in forming the early church into the Jesus Movement that we strive to be a part of. It is also Pride month where we remember the struggles of and celebrate the contributions of the LGBTQ+ community. And we have been talking about the Kin(g)dom of God and the need to be cultivate radical family for the past couple of months. We bring those three themes together in this month's sermon series Pose – At the Intersection of Pentecost & Pride

Exegesis

- Pentecost as one of my favorite seasons. For those of us who believe that another world is possible, that it is possible for us to build Jubilee together, this is a good time
- Our scripture reminds us of the story of the Holy Spirit and speaking in tongues and just as we tell the Christmas story we should remember this one
- Christ's followers are crushed by his death, elated by his resurrection and then a bit confused by his ascension. What are they supposed to do now?--> Wait on the power
- They stay together. When the power comes it overtakes them and doesn't just unite them but connects them with folks beyond their movement
- For most of them it had been a Jewish thing → Pentecost makes it about even more
- They go out to different communities as spiritual organizers.
- This month we will also consider the story of Pose. FX fictional series that is based on the NYC ballroom scene as the AIDs crisis is unfolding. (I will do my best not to give spoilers)
- Most of the characters come to New York almost as refugees. Rejected by their families for being queer, many of them are thrown out on the street at a young age
- Lacking blood family, resources or supports – there are plenty of vices to prey on them, AND they create a space – a ballroom community that affirms
- There is freedom, affirmation and recognition.
- Houses compete against each other, with house mothers being at the center of the family – their job to find, protect and nurture young folks to come into their own
- All the drama of family – but also all the beauty. When the church is not willing to live outs its calling, the Holy Spirit is no

Key Points

1. The Holy Spirit does it big! She is the manifestation of God most associated with disruption.
2. Spirit has always been strange – She works at the margins, and her manifestations are often experienced as queer and out of the norm.
3. The Spirit of Pentecost compels us to make a radical new tribe unlike any other - Diverse, Restorative & Transformative

Questions

1. Where have experienced glimpses of radical family that is diverse, healing and movement-seeking? How have you benefited from it? How have you contributed to it?
2. If the Spirit is inclined to be strange- where are you/we called to break out of our norms and to be strange? What are we called to the margins? How can we lean into the queerness to which God calls us?
3. If Pentecost compels us to create a radical tribe, where are we experiencing that already? Where could we do more? Who else might desire to be part of a diverse, restorative and transformative community and how can we start reaching out to and connecting with those folks?