

**ALL ONE IN CHRIST**

**THE UNITED CHURCH OF ZAMBIA**

**SYNOD MISSION AND EVANGELISM DEPARTMENT**

**PENTECOST SUNDAY SERMON OUTLINE**

**5TH JUNE, 2022**

**UCZ THEME: “ALL ONE IN CHRIST” - JOHN 17:21**

**SUB-THEME: THE POWER FOR THE MISSION**

**READINGS: JOEL 2:28-32, ACTS 1:8, ACTS 2:1-21, 39**

## **INTRODUCTION**

This year, we are celebrating yet again another special Christian calendar event, the Pentecost Sunday, the birth of the Church.

For more than 3,000 years, Jews have celebrated the 50th day after Passover as "Pentecost," a feast day, known as the "Feast of Weeks" or the "Feast of Harvest." Many Jews believe that Pentecost is the 50th day after the Exodus, when Moses received the Commandment from Mt. Sinai.

Pentecost, for Christians is a commemoration of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the first Church in Jerusalem, as recorded in Acts chapter two. The festival of Pentecost was an eye-opening experience. It should not be mistaken for a Church like, Pentecostalism, the holiness movement, or a doctrinal system. According to Peter's sermon on the day of Pentecost, it is an experience that every child of God is entitled to. "For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call." (Acts 2:39 NKJV).

The United Church of Zambia has since its inception been involved in missions through a number of established Mission Stations across the country and beyond.

These include education facilities, medical facilities and other initiatives that preach the gospel of Jesus Christ by attending to the social and physical needs of the communities in which we are present. We commemorate this Pentecost Sunday to remind ourselves of our responsibility to support the work of God in all our Mission Stations.

## **TEXT EXPLANATION.**

From our text in Acts chapter 2, the apostles had seen the resurrected Jesus in the previous 50 days. He had been with them to teach them how to carry out His mission on earth, and He had now ascended to heaven. He had, however, promised to send them the Holy Spirit, the comforter (John 14:16, John 16:13).

Jesus had instructed his disciples to wait in Jerusalem for the Father's promise (Acts 1:4). So, after His ascension, the apostles waited in Jerusalem for ten days, during which time, Matthias was appointed as the apostle to replace Judas.

**When the day of Pentecost came, they were all in one place (Acts 2:1)**

Let us note that God's Spirit is always present in all places (Psalm 139:7), but the Pentecost experience was the special manifestation, which had been promised to the apostles. A sound of rushing mighty wind was the first sign of His presence. The noise filled the room where they sat, what appeared to be tongues of fire split in two appeared on each of the apostles' heads.

According to the text, they were filled with the Holy Spirit. Even as the Spirit gave them speech, they spoke in various languages.

As Mecca is for Muslims, Jerusalem was a place of pilgrimage for Jews. As a result, Jews from all over came to celebrate the annual festivals and some migrated to live in Jerusalem. At the time, Jews had traveled from all over the world to celebrate the feast of Pentecost. There were both natural born Jews and proselytes from all over the world. The noise made the spirit-filled disciples in the upper room attracted the attention of the passersby. They could hear the apostles speaking in their native tongues. The miracle was obvious because the apostles were Galileans who were not known for their linguistic prowess.

Acts 2 contains a list of seventeen locations. They heard the apostles speak about God's "wonderful works" in their native tongues. They had no idea what to make of it, despite the fact that it was incredible.  Some, however, mocked them, claiming that they had been drinking.

This even led to one of the most amazing sermons in scripture which resulted in more than 3000 people being added to the Church.

As we look at the theme, ***THE POWER FOR MISSION***, we will reflect on three points.

1. Unity is a must for effective Mission.
2. The Holy Spirit should lead in Mission.
3. The Mission is beyond our Congregation.

## **APPLICATION**

1. **Unity is a must for effective mission.**

As the early Church was being ushered into Mission, the instruction was for them to be together in one place. This implies that they were in one accord and of one mind and purpose. As they obeyed this instruction (Acts 1:4-5), the outpouring of the Holy Spirit was evident.

In order for us as the modern-day Church to be effective in our mission to the world, unity is a must. The Church today is polarized by so many differences stemming from doctrines, denominations, ethnicity, politics and other things that should not divide us. As a result, we fail to come to a place of unity, where God can command a blessing.

Effective Mission is only possible when we are united, demonstrating our theme “All one in Christ”.

1. **The Holy Spirit should lead in Mission.**

The Mission of God (Missio dei) is God’s initiative and not that of men and women. This means that if God does not lead us through the Holy Spirit, we will fail to fulfill that Mission.

The Power to do Mission comes from the Holy Spirit and He is the one who must direct our steps. Otherwise, we will be pushing with our human effort but to no avail.

As the Holy Spirit came upon the early Church, they began to speak in different tongues or languages. This was supernatural empowerment for them to be able to spread the good news in a language that would easily be received by their hearers. God is able to empower us differently for us to be able to carry out effective Mission.

1. **The Mission is beyond our Congregation.**

According to Acts 1:8, the mission for the early Church was in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and to the ends of the world. By extension, the Church has a mandate beyond its four walls. Many times, we end up being very active in maintaining ourselves as a Congregation. Having meetings, prayers and other activities, simply to maintain our membership. However, we have been called to be witnesses in Jerusalem (our homes), Judea (our neighbours), Samaria (our enemies) and the ends of the earth (anywhere and everywhere). This is a mammoth assignment which requires adequate resources in terms of finances, material, people and God’s own accompanying presence.

## **CONCLUSION**

As we embark on the Mission of God in obedience to His call, let us remember that, this task has been given to us all. It is our responsibility. We must seek the Holy Spirit for guidance and empowerment, and as He directs, we must obey.

The outpouring of the Spirit on all flesh, as prophesied by Joel, included all people regardless of age, gender or status. We all have a role to play in the Mission. In addition, the outpouring is not for purposes of us showing off our gifting, but as a means of POWER or EMPOWERMENT to carry out the assignment given to us by God.

We can all support the work of God with our prayers. Any operation in terms of Mission, has financial and material implications. Therefore, we are encouraged to give generously to the work of God to support the Mission of the Church including our time and presence to the glory of God.

**AMEN!**

**THE MISSION AND EVANGELISM DEPARTMENT WOULD LIKE TO THANK REV. MWELWA MOFYA, MINISTER-IN-CHARGE, UCZ MANYAMA CONGREGATION, KALUMBILA CONSISTORY- NORTH WESTERN PRESBYTERY FOR PREPARING THE 2022 PENTECOST SERMON OUTLINE**

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