



# grow. pray. serve.

Reveille UMC Weekly Guide

May 17-23, 2021

Sermon by Lead Pastor Dr. Pete Moon

## PENTECOST AND CONFIRMATION SUNDAY

Sermon Title: "Sometimes You Just Have to Say It Out Loud"

<p>Notes from sermon on 5/16:</p>	<p>To pray for this week:</p>
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### Family Focus Question

Describe a time when you found yourself, as the early disciples, able to "declare the wonders of God".

### Questions for Small Groups

1. Describe, as best as you can, a spiritual experience that you have had.  
This may be hard so give and receive grace!
2. Describe a time when your words just didn't work.
3. Do spiritual pictures like this story of Pentecost intimidate you or excite you?

### Monday, May 17: Read Acts 2:1-13

In this Sunday's sermon, Pete will tell the story of a clergy person he met years ago who built a women's shelter that is changing lives daily. It started with a vision, a time when God literally spoke to her about the shelter. She said that things did not take off when she kept the vision to herself but when she finally shared it, the effort exploded. She summed it up by saying, "Sometimes you just have to say it out loud..."

Saying things out loud is not always easy. Our readings this week will show us the importance and power of lifting our voices in praise, petition, and intent. They will also show that we are never alone when trying to speak or do the will of God, for we are in possession of the Holy Spirit that guides us, empowers us, and intercedes for us.

What are you trying to do that you have not yet spoken out loud? How will you turn to God's Holy Spirit for help? To whom will you speak these words, and what difference would it make?

**Tuesday, May 18: Read Acts 2:14-21**

At Pentecost, people from different tribes and nations were able to declare the wonders of God. Peter was able to preach an extremely hard text which brought thousands to the faith. Not only was the message difficult, but so was the audience. This text, and Sunday's sermon will remind us that we all need to be able to speak to our faith out loud. In fact, the Spirit of Pentecost has come to enable us to do exactly that! Have we practiced telling someone what we believe and why we believe it? Have we practiced doing it for different audiences, such as for young children in Vacation Bible School or Sunday school, and to people of other faiths and no faith? How can we support one another in small groups to do just that? How can we more continually call on God's help to do this?

**Wednesday, May 19: Read Romans 8:22-27**

It's scary to share our faith or speak aloud a God-inspired idea. We don't want to be pushy. We don't want to intrude. Yet think about all the times we eagerly recommend a Netflix show, beauty product, iPhone app, or reliable contractor. What's the difference? When we recognize the truth of today's words from Romans, that all of creation is groaning in labor pains for the manifestations of God's kingdom to be born on earth, we can have greater confidence in the desperate need for our love-inspired and God-filled ideas. When we feel convicted by the Spirit and speak our ideas aloud, all of Creation can work together to bring these ideas to fruition. We don't need to worry about having all the right words; the Spirit can intercede on our behalf (verse 26). Are we letting the Spirit do that?

**Thursday, May 20: Read John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15**

How do we know what to say when we don't have all the answers? How can we speak authoritatively about matters of faith and truth when often we struggle ourselves? Today Jesus spoke to his disciples about the approaching time when he would no longer be with them, and knew they would struggle, too. He promised them, and us, that we would never be alone, but would have a Spirit of truth to guide us. When have you felt the presence of that Spirit of truth in your life? When have you been comforted, healed, guided, assured, convicted, or protected by it? We can speak authoritatively of our faith when we share these experiences as a first-hand witness of God's power in our lives. "All I can tell you is what a difference following Jesus has made in my life" is a great way to share our faith when the right opportunity arises.

**Friday, May 21: Read Psalm 104:24-35**

There are so many ways to use our voices to praise God, and singing and the psalms have been among the most popular for millennia. When we don't have the words, a psalm does. Today's psalmist promises to sing to the Lord as long as he lives, and asks his very soul to bless God. What kind of praise speaks to your soul? Is it singing? Writing? Dancing? Meditation? Poetry? Today use the words of this psalm to sing, meditate, dance, write, paint, or find any other way to put into words the glory of God, the magnitude of God's works, and the expansiveness of God's love.

**Saturday, May 22: Scripture Memorization: Psalm 104:33, 35**

"I will sing to the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praise to my God while I have being.  
Bless the Lord, O my soul."

**Sunday, May 23: Let us prepare our hearts and minds for worship in praying our Prayer of**

**Common Confession:** *Lord God, you know us too well. You know that we would be like the disciples following the crucifixion and even the resurrection. We would rather hide and mutter and weep, than proclaim the power of your love. The world is a difficult place. We fear so much. We want people to like us, and so we hold back on our proclamation of our faith. We don't want to offend anyone. But your love and presence are not offensive. They are empowering and healing. Bring your holy fire upon us this day to ignite a spark of joy in our hearts and our voices. Bring the power of your rushing wind through our spirits that we may be turned in new directions for service and witness. We pray this in Jesus' Name. AMEN.*

*(From Nancy Townley, Ministry Matters, April 2, 2019)*