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Pentecost Comes Every Year: Acts 2 for Voices

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PENTECOST COMES EVERY YEAR (ACTS 2 FOR VOICES)

BY J. LEE MAGNESS

An extended choral reading on the power and purpose of Pentecost, for two or more voices. Indications here call for a narrator (N) and three other readers.

N *When the day of Pentecost had come, . . .*

1 The day of Pentecost had come,
2 and the day of Pentecost has come,
3 come again, come anew,
2 because it is ever coming—the kingdom of God—
1/All and we are ever becoming . . . / . . . the kingdom of God.

N *. . . they were all together in one place.*

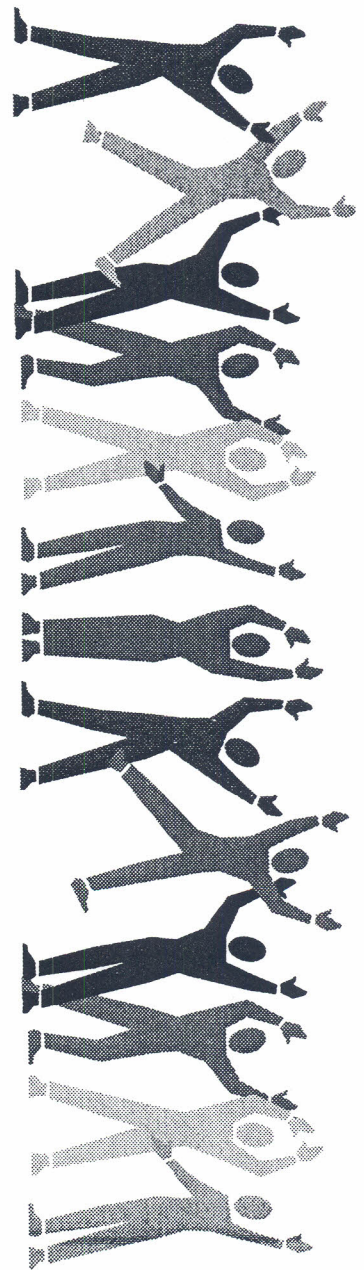
1 Pentecost began with “all together”—
2 “they were all together in one place.”
3 And it ended with “all together”—
1 “and all who believed were together.”
123 Pentecost has to do with getting it together.
2 And we are all together in one place, in this one place—
3 this room, this community,
1 this county, this country, this continent,
2 this hemisphere, this planet.
123 Pentecost has to do with getting us together.

N *And suddenly a sound came from heaven like the rush of a mighty wind,
and it filled all the house where they were sitting.
And there appeared to them tongues as of fire,
distributed and resting on each one of them.*

3 The rush of a mighty wind,
1 the same wind that brushed over the face of the deep,
2 The tongues licking like fire,
3 the same fire that burned before Moses all bushy-faced.
12 The wind and the fire,
3 rushing, brushing, bushing out to remind us
1 that the God who creates has come among us,
2 that the God who reveals has come among us,
123 that God has come among us.

N *And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit
and began to speak in other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.*

3 The tower of Babel turned inside out and right side up—
1 not people scattered abroad over the face of the earth,





2 but gathered from abroad over the face of the earth,
 3 finding a place, not Shinar but Salem,
 1 saying, Come, let us make not burned bricks,
 but ourselves, stones, living stones, I presume,
 2 and saying, Let us take, not make, take a name for ourselves,
 the name of the Lord our God,
 3 and the Lord saying,
 123 This is only the beginning of what they will do.

N *And at this sound the multitude came together and they were bewildered,
 because each one heard them speaking in his own language.*

1 Speak, church of God.
 2 Speak, church of God, in the name of God.
 3 Speak, church of God, in the name of God, the words of God.
 123 But speak them in their own language.

1 Speak in Spanish and Swahili,
 2 in binary code and pidgin,
 3 speak in street talk, straight talk,
 123 But speak in their own language.

N *And they were amazed and wondered, saying,
 Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?*

1 Yes, from Galilee!
 2 and from _____ and _____, (insert local place names)
 3 accented with the accents of the cowering corners of the world
 and the 'fraid edges of the earth.

1 Who would have thought!
 23 Galilee teaching Jerusalem!
 1 Who would have thought!
 23 Fishermen teaching Pharisees!

N *And how is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language?
 Parthians and Medes and Elamites and residents of Mesopotamia,
 Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia,
 Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene,
 and visitors from Rome, Cretans and Arabians, . . .*

1 . . . and Kenyans and Kansans,
 2 Afghanis and Arizonans,
 3 Germans and Georgians,
 1 Panamanians and Pennsylvanians,
 2 Indians and Indianans,
 3 each of us in our own native languages.

N *. . . we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God.*

1 the mighty works of God,
 12 the mighty works of God,
 123 the mighty works of God.

N *And all were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another,*
 1 What does this mean? What does this mean? (overlapping)
 2 What does this mean? What does this mean?
 3 What does this mean? What does this mean?

N *But others mocking said,*
 123 They're filled with new wine! (in a slurred shout)

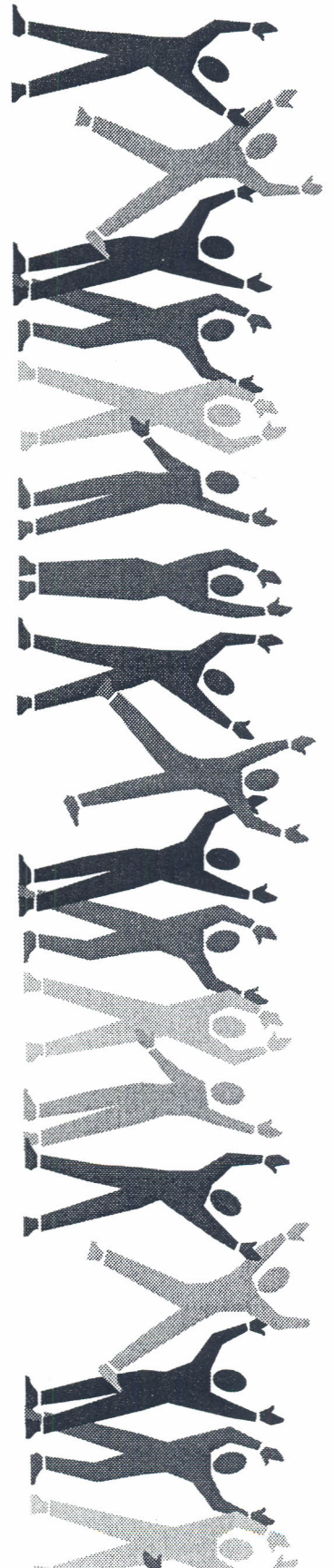
N *But Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them,*
Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem,
 1 and in _____
 2 and in _____
 3 and in _____ (insert local place names)

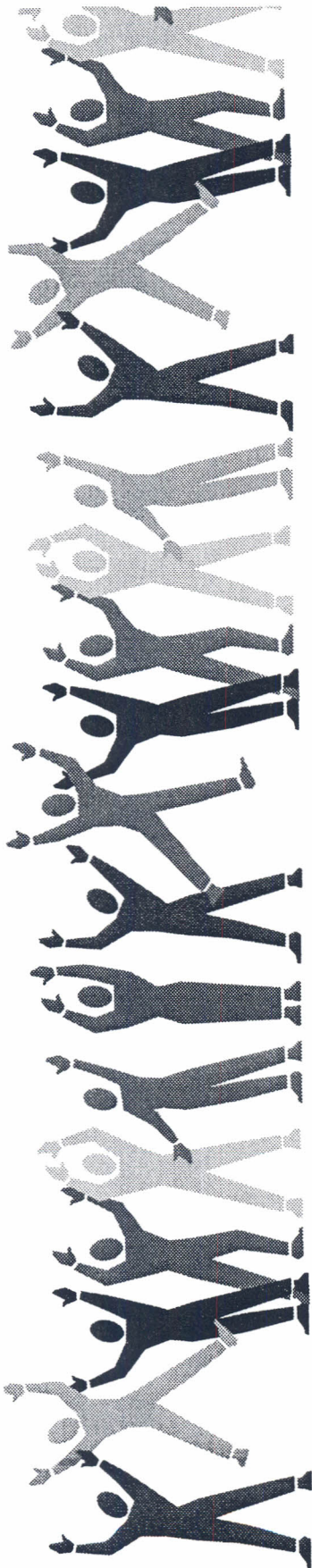
N *let this be known to you.*
 1 and to you
 2 and to you
 3 and to you

N *For these men are not drunk, as you suppose,*
since it is only nine o'clock in the morning;
but this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:
 1 Isaiah, Jeremiah,
 2 Lamentations, Ezekiel,
 3 Daniel, Hosea,
 123 Joel

N *And in the last days it shall be, God declares,*
that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh.
 1 All flesh
 12 All flesh
 123 All flesh

N *And it shall be that whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.*
Men of Israel, hear these words:
Jesus of Nazareth,
 1 a man attested to you by God
 which God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know—
 N *this Jesus,*
 2 delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God,
 N *you crucified and killed*
 3 by the hands of lawless men.
 N *But God raised him up,*
 1 having loosed the pangs of death.
 N *This Jesus God raised up,*
 2 and of that we are all witnesses.
 N *Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God,*





3 and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit,
 he has poured out this which you see and hear.

N *Let all the house of Israel therefore know assuredly that*
 N123 God has made him both Lord and Christ
 1 this Jesus whom you crucified.

N *Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart,*
and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles,

123 Brethren, what shall we do? (overlapping)

N *And Peter said to them,*

2 Repent, and be baptized,
 123 every one of you,
 3 in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins;
 1 and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.
 2 For the promise is to you and to your children
 3 and to all that are far off,
 123 everyone whom the Lord our God calls.

N *So those who received his word were baptized,*
and there were added that day about three thousand . . .

123 Three thousand?! (looking toward the Narrator)

N . . . *three thousand souls.*

N *And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching,*
 1 and fellowship,
 2 to the breaking of bread
 3 and the prayers.

N *And fear came upon every soul;*
and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles.

123 And all who believed were together and had all things in common;
 1 and they sold their possessions and goods
 and distributed them to all, as any had need.
 2 And day by day, attending the temple together
 and breaking bread in their homes,
 3 they partook of food with glad and generous hearts,
 123 praising God and having favor with all the people.

N *And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.*

1 The day of Pentecost had come,
 2 and the day of Pentecost has come,
 3 come again, come anew,
 2 because it is ever coming—the kingdom of God—
 1 and we are ever becoming . . .
 All . . . the kingdom of God.