

RECLAIMING THE FIRE OF PENTECOST

May 24, 2015

Modern traditions of Pentecost

- Red paraments, geraniums, confirmation rites, and warm weather

Historical background

- Jewish festival of weeks – 7days X 7weeks plus 1=50
- 50 days after Passover when people of Israel reached Mt. Sinai and received 10 Commandments
- Were to worship in Jerusalem
- Jews from all over Mediterranean World were to come

Christian practice

- Communication - God created us for community, but human tendency to separate. Spirit brought unity!
- Excitement - Exuberance discouraged in 2 yr. olds in 1850. Celtic Christians used 'wild goose' to represent the Holy Spirit instead of 'dove'. We need new images to shake people into world!

Church is a launching pad for mission

- Need shaking from safe relationships, nominal faith, ruts and routines.
- Reclaim fire of 1st Pentecost, contact with people, impact on world.
- Raise 'banner of Christ' to help our generation understand God's hope for world!

May God empower us to communicate and become excited about sharing the Pentecost faith!