

**Pentecost: Universal Charger**  
**Acts 2:1-21**  
**May 28, 2023**  
**Pastor Tami Luckhardt**

Lately, I've been thinking about getting an electric car. I drive 90 miles round trip from my house to Messiah Church. Every time I start my engine, I have keen awareness of the emissions that my car will be sending into the world, and it weighs heavy on my conscience and my heart. So, I've been looking: Tesla. Chevy. Nissan. But there's more to take into consideration. The charging ports are all over the cars.

When you go to a gas station to fill up your gas-powered car, you can be pretty sure that you will pump gas into the tank from one or the other side of the car, near the rear. But where do you put the charger into your electric car? Could be the front. Or the back. Or one of the sides. It can be very confusing.

In 2020, the Korean car-maker Hyundai embarked on a project of building public charging stations in Seoul that would accommodate as many car brands as possible. The result was the "Hyundai Hi-Charger," and you'll never guess what inspired its design: self-serve car washes. You know – the ones with the sprayer that hangs down from the top and rotates around. Same with this charger. It has a beacon, featuring a glowing halo. The halo rotates and drops the charging cable in just the right spot, depending on the make and model of your electric car. It's a universal charger. Today we'll look at how the Holy Spirit is THE universal charger.

The scripture today is from the Acts of the Apostles and is addressed to an individual named Theophilus - the same person to whom the Gospel of Luke is addressed. Theophilus was a prominent Roman citizen who supported Luke and maybe even funded Luke's research. Therefore, the book of Acts is believed to be a companion volume to the Gospel of Luke as it continues the story of the church's growth after the death and resurrection of Jesus.

When this scene opens, we are told that the newly formed Christian community was all gathered in one place for the feast of Pentecost. The King James translation says they were of "One accord" but that's not to be confused with the Honda Accord. Pentecost was originally an agricultural festival marking the first harvest of the growing season. Called in Hebrew *Shavuot*, or "weeks," it is seven weeks after Passover, or the 50th day after Easter Sunday.

The description of the arrival of the Holy Spirit is first completely auditory, the sound of a fierce wind. It is so loud it fills the house where the group is gathered. And then came the flames of fire dancing on their heads. Two different forms of power and energy. But the first followers of Jesus were just one brand of Jew. They were all Galileans, and they weren't the most highly educated residents of Jerusalem, so most people expected their language abilities to be limited. But God was at work on a surprising design.

At Pentecost, the Church celebrates two acts of God, the Holy Spirit, **THE universal charger**. The first is that the Holy Spirit is able to break through walls and barriers which divide communities. The second is that the followers of Jesus Christ will be strengthened and empowered by God to do this work on God's behalf. Retired Bishop Brian Castle of The Church of England offers some interesting thoughts around this.

First, on the day of Pentecost, we see the followers of Jesus Christ, acting on God's behalf, breaking through walls and barriers. Thousands of Jewish people from around the Roman

Empire, speaking many languages, were gathered in Jerusalem at the time. Yet language was not a barrier as we hear that they all knew what Jesus' followers were talking about. But this was not the only barrier that was broken through that day. The apostles broke through the belief that the good news of liberation and salvation, embodied in the person of Jesus, was not the sole possession of a chosen few, but was available to anyone who wanted to receive it. Nobody was to be excluded. While he walked the streets of Palestine, Jesus sought out people who had been cast out of society and had been looked down upon for who they were and what they had done so that they all could encounter the Good News. On the Day of Pentecost, the apostles were doing the same to an even wider group of people. 3,000 people were baptized and the church of Jesus Christ was born.

Secondly, the good news of Jesus was not simply proclaimed, but it was embodied in the words and actions of the apostles and moved the hearts of their listeners. They were not simply passing on somebody else's message, but they were now given the strength, ability, and courage to speak about the faith which they had taken to heart. They were not simply telling the crowds about Jesus, but they were living what they believed, sharing their experience of what God was doing in their lives and this gave power and authenticity to their words. And still today, God calls us to break through walls and barriers which divide our community. Jesus made it clear in his ministry that nobody who wanted to be his follower should be excluded. Pentecost is an opportunity for us to consider the walls and barriers within and around our Church, community and world, and ask whether they enable all people to flourish or whether they divide communities. Are there some that need to be challenged, broken through, or even dismantled. Pentecost also reminds us that when we are breaking through the walls and barriers that divide and prevent our community from flourishing – and this can be a demanding and painful thing to do – but that we will be strengthened and empowered by God, the Holy Spirit, the universal charger.

Again and again, we see that God comes into the middle of human life and appears to us. Sometimes these appearances are brilliant, like the wind and the fire on the day of Pentecost. Sometimes they are more subtle, like the squeeze of a hand, an encouraging word, an expression of forgiveness, or a statement of love. But whether God comes in strong wind, blazing fire or in warm words, God is present and powerful.

This sanctuary is surrounded by stained glass windows that tell the story of Jesus. The one right down the center aisle is the Resurrection and Pentecost window. It represents **Christ with us**. It's the power of love that is even stronger than death. And this one, is the Christian Works of Compassion and it represents **Christ in us**, which is reaching the poor, the stranger, the sick, those who are marginalized. The windows remind me of our Wesleyan heritage.

John Wesley was a 17th century preacher and teacher at Oxford University who began a revival movement that brought together the work of **Christ in us** with the work of **Christ through us**, bringing heaven here on earth. It's what we pray for every Sunday: thy kingdom come. It's what sent the early Methodists to the people who were hurting, and Wesley started clinics and schools, published books, went into prisons, and served the poor. It's also what we do here. It's why Bloom childcare center was started 23 years ago and why it expanded to a second location a few years ago. We recognized the need for early childhood learning for children of all income levels.

It's why we support our area food shelves and housing for mom and their children at Emma Norton.

It's why in June, we'll support mental health initiative in Minnesota UMC through our Annual Conference's Love Offering.

It's why we just sent 3 years' worth of funds to buy pillows for people on the Pine Ridge Reservation as they receive what may be for them their very first bed ever.

Several years ago, when hate-filled language was directed toward Muslims it prompted women at Messiah and in our community to start Tapestry, an interfaith dialogue that breaks down barriers and develops friendships.

When we heard hate-filled language about Mexicans and Latino people in our country, we worked at building a relationship with Iglesia Piedra Viva – praying with them, assisting in their outreaching, and providing financial support. We continue that relationship to this day.

When we saw an unmet need in Kenya with teenaged moms who had no place to turn, we stepped in to start Imara International.

When immigrants felt under attack, we sponsored two families so that they could immigrate and make a home in the Twin Cities. These and many other efforts are an extension of our Wesleyan heritage and the call that we hear when Jesus crossed to the other side to meet hurting people that no one would touch.

The Bible makes it clear that God is the God of relationships. Over and over again, we see Jesus putting relationships above everything else. There was the time when a Pharisee came to Jesus and asked, "What's the most important commandment?" There were 613 laws. Which one is most important? And Jesus said, **You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this, You will love your neighbor as yourself.** And who is my neighbor? Is it the Jewish person, the Muslim person, the non-religious, the gay person? We don't get to decide. Did you notice what Jesus did? He took two commandments and brought them together in one commandment. Loving God and loving neighbor are interconnected. You may have a completely different perspective on life, a completely different understanding of what it says in the Bible, a completely different set of beliefs – it doesn't matter. **I can't love God if I don't love you.**

With all Jesus did and taught, he only gave us one new command. **I give you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, so you also must love each other. This is how everyone will know that you are my disciples when you love each other.**" How will the world know we are Jesus' disciples? Not by our politics nor by our church doctrines. They'll know us by our love – and we learn from Jesus what love looks like – it's unconditional and it's sacrificial. The world's greatest symbol of love is not the heart but the cross. **Jesus gave his life for love. Jesus came to tear down the barriers that divide.** No longer Jew nor Gentile, slave nor free, male nor female... conservative nor liberal, gay nor straight, black nor white. All are one in Christ Jesus.

Messiah's mission statement for some time now, has been *to grow disciples of Jesus Christ through loving God, loving each other, and loving the world.* How we live into this mission grows and changes over time, as we continue to discern how God calls us to love and make witness in our world. In the fall of 2021, promoted by the killing of George Floyd (3 years ago this weekend) and the longstanding division within the United Methodist denomination over the full inclusion of LGBTQIA+ people, a diverse group of servants led by former senior Pastor Steve Richards came together to write a statement of inclusion for Messiah Church. The goal was to define who we strive to be as a church so to make our community and the world look more like the peaceable vision that Jesus called the Kingdom of God. The plan was for this statement to be finalized and shared by Pastor Steve before he retired but time ran short and that was not able to happen. And so, after prayerful discernment over *every word*, the current Servant Steering Team has unanimously approved this Statement of Inclusion.

"Messiah Church is a Christian community rooted in the love found in the life of Jesus where everyone is welcome to be one's authentic self. We seek to provide a safe space to listen, learn,

and love. We celebrate the diversity found in our community and our world, such as age, (in alphabetical order), physical or mental ability, economic status, education, ethnicity, faith background, family status, gender identity, immigration status, marital status, nationality, political affiliation, race, and sexual orientation.

*[The LORD] has told you, human one, what is good and what the Lord requires from you: to do justice, embrace faithful love, and walk humbly with your God. – Micah 6:8*

If we are to love and serve God with our whole hearts, we will work to eradicate injustice toward our neighbors. Let Messiah Church be the place where we can show that everyone is welcome here. We lament that not all people have found love and respect within the Christian community. All people are God's people, created in the image of God and worthy of being loved.

*"I give you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, so you also must love each other. This is how everyone will know that you are my disciples when you love each other." – John 13:34-35*

We believe in the vision of John Wesley that we can love alike, although we may not think alike. Do no harm. Do good to all. Stay in love with God. These three general rules that John Wesley established serve as our guiding principles in the work of inclusion.

For persons who identify as LGBTQIA+, sexual orientation and gender identity will never disqualify you from any activity at Messiah Church. We will honor and celebrate the wedding of any couple who seek to commit their lives to one another in marriage. As always, all marriage ceremonies are performed at the discretion of the pastors.

We stand for Racial Justice. Our church community has not yet become the fully inclusive reflection of God's kingdom that we yearn to be. We will continue to be intentional in our efforts to include people of color at every level of our leadership and staff and within our congregation. We will continue to work alongside community partners until our community looks like the peaceable vision Jesus referred to as the Kingdom of God. Our focus is to love and serve God with our whole hearts.

This is a living document in that we are committed to continue to learn, adapt, and grow in our understanding of inclusion and justice so that all feel welcome at Messiah Church."

I am proud of the work that the early servant team did as well as the work of your current Servant Steering Team has done to compose this statement. There will be an opportunity for you to affirm the statement later this fall but know that Pastor Bethany and I are proud of the many ways you are already an inclusive faith community and living into our mission.

My prayer is that people will look at Messiah Church and say, "see how they love" as we continue to grow in our welcome and inclusion of all people, so that by our witness and love all may find a home in Messiah and experience God's grace. We have work to do but I truly do believe that we can be that church. This Statement of Inclusion is not the end of our work, but the continuation of our commitment to grow in love of God and neighbor. And I have to believe that's the universal charger at work in this world and in our lives to bring about the Kingdom of God.

Let's pray: Loving God, send your Holy Spirit on us today, to break down the walls that divide us, to empower us with strength and courage to do your work, and to help us grow in our love of you and our neighbor. It is in the name of Jesus that we pray, Amen.

## **Grow, Pray, Study for the Week of May 28, 2023**

### **Weekly Prayer**

Most gracious and loving God, I seek your presence in the midst of whatever I am facing. For in your presence, Lord, all the sorrows and pain I face can be conquered. Let the words of my mouth and the meditations of my heart be acceptable to you and be a message of love and compassion to the world. It is in the name of Jesus that I pray. Amen.

### **Monday, May 29**

#### **Scripture: John 15:26-16:14**

"When the Companion comes, whom I will send from the Father—the Spirit of Truth who proceeds from the Father—he will testify about me. You will testify too, because you have been with me from the beginning.

I have said these things to you so that you won't fall away. They will expel you from the synagogue. The time is coming when those who kill you will think that they are doing a service to God. They will do these things because they don't know the Father or me. But I have said these things to you so that when their time comes, you will remember that I told you about them. "I didn't say these things to you from the beginning, because I was with you. But now I go away to the one who sent me. None of you ask me, 'Where are you going?' Yet because I have said these things to you, you are filled with sorrow. I assure you that it is better for you that I go away. If I don't go away, the Companion won't come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you. When he comes, he will show the world it was wrong about sin, righteousness, and judgment. He will show the world it was wrong about sin because they don't believe in me. He will show the world it was wrong about righteousness because I'm going to the Father and you won't see me anymore. He will show the world it was wrong about judgment because this world's ruler stands condemned.

"I have much more to say to you, but you can't handle it now. However, when the Spirit of Truth comes, he will guide you in all truth. He won't speak on his own, but will say whatever he hears and will proclaim to you what is to come. He will glorify me, because he will take what is mine and proclaim it to you.

#### **Observation**

Jesus spoke of an Advocate, or Companion, who would carry on his work after he left earth. The Holy Spirit would help lead Jesus' people into truth, inspiring them to seek Jesus in the midst of hatred. Jesus reminded his followers that even after he left, they should not lose hope, but take comfort that the Holy Spirit was with them wherever they went. Jesus was direct with the disciples: "I have much more to say to you, but you can't handle it now" (John 16:12). However, the Holy Spirit would continue his work of teaching them (John 16:13).

#### **Application**

Even before Jesus died, he had provided for an active Companion to be with us until the end of time and space as we know it. Jesus has not forgotten or deserted us—he is constantly with us through the Holy Spirit. What word or phrase in today's passage about the Holy Spirit speaks most to your heart? When have you most sensed Jesus' presence with you?

## **Prayer**

Lord Jesus, guide me by your Spirit each day. I pray that I might have a teachable spirit to know more about you and your plans for this world. Thank you for loving me. Amen.

## **Tuesday, May 30**

### **Scripture: Acts 2:1-21**

When Pentecost Day arrived, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound from heaven like the howling of a fierce wind filled the entire house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be individual flames of fire alighting on each one of them. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages as the Spirit enabled them to speak. There were pious Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. When they heard this sound, a crowd gathered. They were mystified because everyone heard them speaking in their native languages. They were surprised and amazed, saying, "Look, aren't all the people who are speaking Galileans, every one of them? How then can each of us hear them speaking in our native language? Parthians, Medes, and Elamites; as well as residents of Mesopotamia, Judea, and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the regions of Libya bordering Cyrene; and visitors from Rome (both Jews and converts to Judaism), Cretans and Arabs—we hear them declaring the mighty works of God in our own languages!" They were all surprised and bewildered. Some asked each other, "What does this mean?" Others jeered at them, saying, "They're full of new wine!" Peter stood with the other eleven apostles. He raised his voice and declared, "Judeans and everyone living in Jerusalem! Know this! Listen carefully to my words! These people aren't drunk, as you suspect; after all, it's only nine o'clock in the morning! Rather, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

In the last days, God says,

I will pour out my Spirit on all people.

Your sons and daughters will prophesy.

Your young will see visions.

Your elders will dream dreams.

Even upon my servants, men and women,

I will pour out my Spirit in those days,

and they will prophesy.

I will cause wonders to occur in the heavens above

and signs on the earth below,

blood and fire and a cloud of smoke.

The sun will be changed into darkness,

and the moon will be changed into blood,

before the great and spectacular day of the Lord comes.

And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.

### **Observation**

Pentecost was a Hebrew harvest festival, which came seven weeks after Passover. On this day of Pentecost, seven weeks after the Passover when Jesus died on the cross, God sent the Holy Spirit, marked by amazing signs. At first, some skeptics in Jerusalem claimed the Spirit-filled Christians had just started drinking early. Peter forcefully told them this wasn't inebriation. It was God pouring out the Spirit, as promised in Joel 2:28.

### **Application**

In Acts 1:4, Luke wrote that Jesus told his followers "not to leave Jerusalem but to wait for what the Father had promised. He said, '... in only a few days you will be baptized with the Holy

Spirit.” Acts 2 recorded how that promise came true. When have you needed to wait for God? Were you able to wait, or not? What did you learn through the experience?

### **Prayer**

Heavenly Father, you kept your prophetic promise on Pentecost, as in the end you keep all your promises. I claim your promise today and call on the name of the Lord for my salvation. Amen.

### **Wednesday, May 31**

#### **Scripture: Acts 2:22-36**

“Fellow Israelites, listen to these words! Jesus the Nazarene was a man whose credentials God proved to you through miracles, wonders, and signs, which God performed through him among you. You yourselves know this. In accordance with God’s established plan and foreknowledge, he was betrayed. You, with the help of wicked men, had Jesus killed by nailing him to a cross. God raised him up! God freed him from death’s dreadful grip, since it was impossible for death to hang on to him. David says about him,

I foresaw that the Lord was always with me;

because he is at my right hand I won’t be shaken.

Therefore, my heart was glad

and my tongue rejoiced.

Moreover, my body will live in hope,

because you won’t abandon me to the grave,

nor permit your holy one to experience decay.

You have shown me the paths of life;

your presence will fill me with happiness.

“Brothers and sisters, I can speak confidently about the patriarch David. He died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this very day. Because he was a prophet, he knew that God promised him with a solemn pledge to seat one of his descendants on his throne. Having seen this beforehand, David spoke about the resurrection of Christ, that *he wasn’t abandoned to the grave, nor did his body experience decay*. This Jesus God raised up. We are all witnesses to that fact. He was exalted to God’s right side and received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit. He poured out this Spirit, and you are seeing and hearing the results of his having done so. David didn’t ascend into heaven. Yet he says,

The Lord said to my Lord, ‘Sit at my right side,

until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet.’

“Therefore, let all Israel know beyond question that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ.”

### **Observation**

The dramatic signs (the sound of a mighty wind, “what seemed to be individual flames of fire,” and speaking in various languages) caught the attention of the large crowd of Pentecost worshippers. The Holy Spirit led Peter to boldly preach the saving news of Jesus’ victory over death, which had happened just 50 days earlier in that very city.

### **Application**

In John 15:26, Jesus said the Holy Spirit “will testify about me.” And that’s what the Spirit did at Pentecost. Peter’s Spirit-inspired sermon said, “Listen to these words! Jesus the Nazarene was a man whose credentials God proved to you through miracles, wonders, and signs.” How have you sensed the Spirit testifying about Jesus to your heart? When you have a chance to share your experience with Jesus, how can you rely on the Spirit to make your sharing as effective as possible?

## **Prayer**

Lord Jesus, through the Spirit's power, the same Peter who denied even knowing you at Passover boldly preached your victory 50 days later at Pentecost. Send your power into my life, stirring me to live boldly for you. Amen.

## **Thursday, June 1**

### **Scripture: Acts 2:37-47**

When the crowd heard this, they were deeply troubled. They said to Peter and the other apostles, "Brothers, what should we do?" Peter replied, "Change your hearts and lives. Each of you must be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. Then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. This promise is for you, your children, and for all who are far away—as many as the Lord our God invites." With many other words he testified to them and encouraged them, saying, "Be saved from this perverse generation." Those who accepted Peter's message were baptized. God brought about three thousand people into the community on that day.

The believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, to the community, to their shared meals, and to their prayers. A sense of awe came over everyone. God performed many wonders and signs through the apostles. All the believers were united and shared everything. They would sell pieces of property and possessions and distribute the proceeds to everyone who needed them. Every day, they met together in the temple and ate in their homes. They shared food with gladness and simplicity. They praised God and demonstrated God's goodness to everyone. The Lord added daily to the community those who were being saved.

### **Observation**

Acts said the Holy Spirit's stirring coming at Pentecost had very specific, tangible, measurable results. It shaped Peter's preaching and touched so many hearts that it changed the disciples from a tiny, at-risk group to a movement of thousands. And it was not a one-day event—the Spirit's power kept right on changing lives for the better (verse 47).

### **Application**

Feeling deep inner conviction, the crowd asked Peter, "What should we do?" "Change your hearts and lives," he answered. Scholar William Barclay wrote, "When repentance comes something happens to the past. There is God's forgiveness for what lies behind ... When repentance comes something happens for the future. We receive the gift of the Holy Spirit and in that power, we can win battles we never thought to win and resist things which by ourselves we would have been powerless to resist." Have you claimed the Spirit's power to give you not only a fresh start from your past, but a future altered decisively for the better? What is one way you want to claim the Spirit's power to make God's impact on you and your world better in the year ahead?

### **Prayer**

Come Holy Spirit, I need you. Come, Sweet Spirit, I pray, come in your strength and your power. Come in your own special way. Come like a spring in the desert; come to my dry, weary soul. O, let your sweet healing power touch me and make me whole. Amen.



## Friday, June 2

### Scripture: James 1:19-21

Know this, my dear brothers and sisters: everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to grow angry. This is because an angry person doesn't produce God's righteousness. Therefore, with humility, set aside all moral filth and the growth of wickedness, and welcome the word planted deep inside you—the very word that is able to save you.

### Observation

James, Jesus' half-brother, apparently became a Christ-follower when Jesus appeared to him after the resurrection (1 Corinthians 15:7). He became a widely-respected leader in the early Jerusalem church. In his short letter, he linked hasty, angry speech with "moral filth." To James, a cutting outburst was no small matter, but rather a hurtful, destructive force.

### Application

Early Christians faced social rejection and legal persecution. (The historian Josephus said enemies stoned James to death in Jerusalem about 62 A.D.) Christians in those conditions must have felt like raging against people who treated them so unjustly. How does James 1:19-20 speak to you when you find yourself feeling angry and eager to denounce some person or group over a milder test of your faith? For centuries, some Christians have talked in harsh, vindictive ways about other Christians over issues like circumcision, slavery, women in ministry, and (today) same-gender marriage. How can the "humility" of which James wrote move us away from arguing and toward living out what James called "the word planted deep inside you"?

### Prayer

O God, make me ever more "quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to grow angry." You know that's not my natural condition, Lord—but I know you can change me from the inside out. Amen.

## Saturday, June 3

### Scripture: John 4:4, 9-10, 39-40; Ephesians 3:10-15

Jesus had to go through Samaria.

The Samaritan woman asked, "Why do you, a Jewish man, ask for something to drink from me, a Samaritan woman?" (Jews and Samaritans didn't associate with each other.) Jesus responded, "If you recognized God's gift and who is saying to you, 'Give me some water to drink,' you would be asking him and he would give you living water."

Many Samaritans in that city believed in Jesus because of the woman's word when she testified, "He told me everything I've ever done." So when the Samaritans came to Jesus, they asked him to stay with them, and he stayed there two days.

God's purpose is now to show the rulers and powers in the heavens the many different varieties of his wisdom through the church. This was consistent with the plan he had from the beginning of time that he accomplished through Christ Jesus our Lord. In Christ we have bold and confident access to God through faith in him. So then, I ask you not to become discouraged by what I'm suffering for you, which is your glory.

This is why I kneel before the Father. Every ethnic group in heaven or on earth is recognized by him.

**Observation**

In Jesus' day, Jews hated Samaritans, a mixed race born of Assyria's policy of wiping out the identity of conquered peoples (2 Kings 17:24). Samaritans hated Jews, who had snubbed their offer to help rebuild the Temple (Ezra 4:1-4). Each side's hatred had hardened for 700 years. Yet Jesus didn't fear or avoid Samaritans but reached out to them repeatedly. Ephesians 3 said God's plan is to use God's people, working together in the church, to restore our broken world to its intended total wholeness (Revelation 21:1-5). Clearly understood, God's mission crosses all human boundaries.

**Application**

In Luke 9:51-56 Samaritan villagers rudely refused to welcome Jesus. James and John reacted the way we often feel. "Lord, do you want us to call fire down from heaven to consume them?" they asked. But Jesus said no. Have you ever been in a position to either fan the flames of hatred higher, or to lower the temperature and move toward peace? Which course did you choose? How did things work out?

**Prayer**

Lord Jesus, you refused the path of fear and anger even when snubbed. Help me to live into your spirit as a member of your church and join in doing your work in our big, diverse world. Amen.