

November 13, 2022

## Celebration Service

Pastor David Uth

### Passage: Acts 1:6-11

[6](#)So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” [7](#)He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. [8](#)But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” [9](#)And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. [10](#)And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, [11](#)and said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

### Background

Over the course of this fall, we have been challenged to consider what it looks like to be *Living with the End in Mind* and to be *For Orlando*. Today, we want to celebrate both how *YOU* have committed to give and serve in the community and what God has done for us in Christ (through communion). As Pastor David teaches from Acts 1, we will be encouraged to continue carrying out the mission Jesus gave to His first followers to make disciples of all nations. Even as we wait for His return one day, may we not just “gaze into heaven,” but go out in the power of the Holy Spirit to follow Him and lead others to do the same.

### Sermon Notes

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## Instructions

Since we believe we are BETTER TOGETHER, this discussion guide serves as a conversation guide with your small group. The “Belong” section offers an ‘ice-breaker’ or reflection question to start your time together. In the “Believe” section, feel free to use all or only some of the questions. Our hope is to have meaningful conversations around God’s Word, not simply answer all the questions. Finally, the “Become” section is to help identify a specific next step. Use these questions as a guide to find practical ways to apply the passage to our everyday life and to pray for one another.

## Belong

- What is your favorite tradition to celebrate with your family during the holidays?

## Believe

- What was the biggest take away from the message and worship service this week? How were you encouraged or challenged? What has been the most significant lesson you have learned over the course of our series on “end times” and serving our local community? Ultimately, how does knowing Jesus will return one day shape the way we should live right now?
- **Read Acts 1:1-8.** What question did the disciples ask Jesus when they came together before His ascension? What does this reveal about their priority or thinking? Why would restoration of the kingdom of Israel be so important to them? How did Jesus answer their question? What does this teach us about Jesus’ priority for them? What is Jesus going to give to them? What will they receive from the Holy Spirit and for what purpose? Why is this important for us today?
- **Read Acts 1:9-11; Acts 2:1-13.** What did the angels say to the disciples? What can we learn from the angels’ instructions? In what ways do followers of Jesus today get distracted “looking up” instead of “going out” to make disciples? How can we keep the right perspective on the return of Jesus in our daily lives? In what specific ways has the Holy Spirit given you opportunity recently to point people to Jesus or serve others in the community? What was the effect of the Spirit upon the disciples in Acts 2? What can we learn about the promises of Jesus and the power of the Holy Spirit from this passage? In what ways does the Holy Spirit work in us and through us today to accomplish the Great Commission of Jesus?

## Become

- As we celebrate what God is doing in and through us and our community partners, there is still opportunity to give and serve. As always, you can give by texting the word GIVE to 40777. To find a place to serve in the community, you can see a list of partners and ways to serve, here: <https://www.firstorlando.com/missions/for-orlando/serve/>
- **PRAYER POINTS:** How can we pray specifically for one another this week? Choose a ministry partner to specifically pray for this week. Ask God to give your group a willingness to sacrificially obey whatever He is calling you to do to serve the community. Pray for those effected by Hurricane/Tropical Storm Nicole in the region, especially the eastern coast.