



## Acts: We Don't Go Back, We Follow

**Date:** Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> October

**Speaker:** Andrew McNeil

**Key Verses:** Acts 2:42-47. Acts 8:1-4

### Talk Summary:

- Are we getting back to normal? That's not how Jesus works, we don't go back, we follow. So how and where is Jesus leading us?
- The bible shows that God's Kingdom is always expanding, both in us and through us.
- So what might Jesus be doing? Has he been putting the spotlight on our own faith and discipleship?
- As God grows his children he builds his Church. This time of devotion (Acts 2:42-47) prepared them for what was to come, (Acts 8:1-4) the spontaneous expansion of the Church.
- History helps us see how God is in control and when his people trust him he can repurpose a crisis.
- We are going to remain responsive to God, responsive to feedback and the opportunities that God makes available.
- We want to prayerfully seize what this moment presents and have other Sunday Services in other locations. We are called to be a large, growing, missional, multisite church. We exist to help people follow Jesus, live life to the full and make a difference. Our vision is to start groups, communities and congregations where people can encounter God.
- How might Jesus be leading us through this time?
- **Communion** - In a world that celebrates individuality - we celebrate what we believe. In an age that avoids commitment, we pledge ourselves to a set of convictions and therefore we pledge ourselves to each other. At a time when accepted wisdom changes by the minute, we affirm that some truths are so timeless that they must be celebrated and declared again and again. In a world of uncertainty, we declare what is certain. So reciting a creed in our collective worship is a countercultural act.

## A Celtic Creed

We believe in God above us, maker and sustainer of all life, of sun and moon, of water and earth, of male and female.

We believe in God beside us, Jesus Christ, the word made flesh, born of a woman, servant of the poor, tortured and nailed to a tree. A man of sorrows, he died forsaken.

He descended into the earth to the place of death.

On the third day he rose from the tomb.

He ascended into heaven, to be everywhere present,  
and His kingdom will come on earth.

We believe in God within us, the Holy Spirit of Pentecostal fire, life-giving breath of the Church, Spirit of healing and forgiveness, source of resurrection and of eternal life. Amen.

## Worship

- What are you thankful for this week?
- Where has God been at work in your life?
- When have you taken risks in faith and obedience this week?
- What has God been speaking to you about this week? (*Go around the group quickly don't spend a long time on it*)

## Discussion Questions (choose some which are most relevant to your group)

- How have you seen Jesus leading you in the last few months?
- How do examples from Acts or Church history help you in our own times of trial?
- What is most encouraging or challenging from the story in Acts?
- What do you think is the most crucial thing we can pray for our church and the Church in our nation at this time?

## Witness

*We want to be investing in authentic relationships with those who don't know Jesus yet and inviting them to anything where they might meet other Christians and Jesus.*

- How would you share what you have learned with a non-church friend?

**Note to Small Group Leaders:** Please note that if you'd like to review the sermon, or have a hard time following the video, you can use subtitles on YouTube. On the YouTube video, click the "closed captioning" button (bottom left of YouTube video screen, first button). Google "how to show subtitles on YouTube videos" if you need help with this.