

Bible reading Acts 2:1-21

Hymn 395- Singing-The Faith- *Spirit of the living God fall afresh on me*

The Holy Spirit Comes at Pentecost

2 When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. ²Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. ³They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. ⁴All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

⁵Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven.⁶When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard their own language being spoken. ⁷Utterly amazed, they asked: “Aren’t all these who are speaking Galileans? ⁸Then how is it that each of us hears them in our native language?⁹Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, ¹⁰Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome ¹¹(both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs—we hear them declaring the

wonders of God in our own tongues!” ¹²Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, “What does this mean?”¹³Some, however, made fun of them and said, “They have had too much wine.”

Peter Addresses the Crowd

¹⁴Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: “Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say. ¹⁵These people are not drunk, as you suppose. It’s only nine in the morning! ¹⁶No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:

¹⁷“In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams.

¹⁸Even on my servants, both men and women,

I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy. ¹⁹I will show wonders in the heavens above and signs on the earth below, blood and fire and billows of smoke. ²⁰The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord. ²¹And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.’”

New International Version (NIV)

Reflection

Last month I read a story of a woman in Zimbabwe who rescued her baby son from the jaws of a crocodile. When she was being interviewed how she managed to do it, she said she did not know. All she kept saying is she thanked God for the power she got. Science would suggest it's the works of Adrenalin when someone is faced with danger. Adrenaline gets the body in a fight or flight mode. In Acts 1:6-14 Jesus promised his disciples the coming of the Holy Spirit, that will give the disciples power to do the unusual, the extraordinary. Our text for the week says, the disciples were sitting in a room scared of the Jewish authorities, but when they were filled with the Holy Spirit which came like a violent wind and tongues which seemed like fire rested on them, they were empowered. The fear disappeared and they started speaking in tongues. Peter stood up and proclaimed the gospel leading to the repentance of over 3000 people, the same people they were scared of. When the Holy Spirit fill us like Adrenalin we can do the unexpected. The power of the Holy spirit takes away our fear of proclaiming the word to a broken world. Let the power of the Holy Spirit fill us and do the extraordinary, change the environment in an extraordinary way and change the lives of others in an extraordinary way. Hallelujah! 🙏🙏

Prayer

Gracious God, whose Spirit help us in our weakness and guides us in our prayers. We pray for the Church and for the world. Renew the life and faith of the Church, your people. Strengthen us with the power of the Holy Spirit that takes away all fear and doubt. Make us credible witness to your word to proclaim that Christ is our Lord and saviour. Unite us as one as you are united with God. May the power of the Holy Spirit enable us to face the challenges of today with courage and boldness as you did with your disciples in Jesus' name we pray. Amen 🙏🙏

*Prepared by **Rev Mary Sachikonye Methodist Minister for (Mile Cross, Costessey, Trinity Thorpe Marriott, Hosford and Drayton) for a time as this. We are a church without walls. We should therefore, continue to proclaim the good news. I will be sending **Words of Hope** every week so that we may continue to nourish our spirits and continue to live in HOPE!***