

Message from Pastor John
May 31, 2020 – Pentecost

-- “suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. 3 Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. 4 All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit”

What an image!

- After losing Jesus, after the shock and amazement of the empty tomb,
- After the claims of resurrection,
- After locking themselves away to avoid the authorities, the public and perhaps even God..... Here comes that great rush of ...something ...something they cannot explain.

God power!

It certainly gave them the energy and the courage and the words to teach and preach and heal and spread the Good News in a way- that up to now -the disciples had not even dreamed they were capable of.

- Yes they had followed Jesus.
- Yes they knew His teaching
- Yes they had witnessed healing.
- Yes they had received His commands
- Yes they knew His promise of a helper.
- NO they had not acted!

Feeling fearful, lost and powerless they cowered away from public view. They clung to one another seeking some form of mutual support and strength. Like us they were very, very aware that there are many, many Powers active in this world.

On that first Pentecost the ones who had followed Jesus felt:
God power!

I can only turn to another piece of poetry to try and express what that means:

"Power" A poem by JL Bell.

"Power stalks the earth both by purpose and accident,
Filling with pride those it does not fill with fear.
Power may be hidden, or power may be evident,
macro or micro, far off or very near.

Look to the One who has chosen to live
without power to seduce or corrupt or repel.
Learn from the One who refuses to scream,
and shout yet can convince that with Him all will be well.

Power of computers to file information may keep for the few,
what many should be told.
Power of the party which governs the nation
can seldom be challenged and rarely cajoled.

Look to the One who embraces the frightened folk,
those more aware of their wrong than their right.
Learn from the One who will speak for the silenced ones,
hear for the deaf, and provide the blind with sight.

Power of the privileged in talent or parentage,
discounts whoever it cannot understand.
Power of the bureaucrat anxious at every stage,
struggles to keep what's unstructured close at hand.

Look to the One who forgoes His advantages,
sits on the ground with whoever cannot stand.
Learn from the One who has known our predicament,
baffled all systems, and lived from mouth to hand.

Power of the press on a button or media
kindling the fuse to a scandal or bomb.
Power of the keeper of secret or confidence,
puzzles what purpose to use the secret for.

Look to the One who speaks peace unpretentiously,
defuses hate and is antidote for fears.
Learn from the One who accepts, unconditionally
those whom He summons to share His joy and tears.”

Peter is speaking to us as well as the people in Jerusalem that day when
he says “let this be known to you, and listen” Pentecost is here.

God Power is real. Amen