



Charity No 251394



WIND AND FIRE FROM HEAVEN

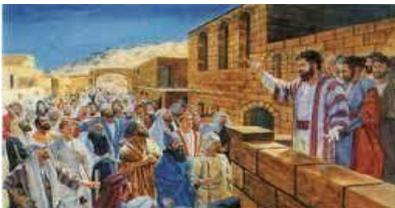


May 2021

The Christian church is about to celebrate a birthday. Not a birthday of the buildings we call churches, but the birth of the groups of followers of Jesus, the people themselves.

The momentous events of the time we call Easter were behind them for the followers of Jesus. Picture yourself in Jerusalem at that time. Forty days have passed. The atmosphere is tense. The Jewish authorities are known to still be keen to wipe out all memory of Jesus and the things he had done. The disciples had met with the risen Christ on a number of occasions. Some had been there to witness his last moments on earth before going back to his Father in Heaven (remembered in the church as Ascension Day). He had told them to return to Jerusalem and wait for a gift which would be set to them. So they returned to the upper room of the house in the city where they were staying. They were gathered together to celebrate the Jewish festival of Pentecost.

Suddenly, there was a sound from heaven like the roaring of a mighty windstorm, and it filled the house where they were sitting. Then, what looked like flames or tongues of fire appeared and settled on each of them. And everyone present was filled with the Holy Spirit and were no longer afraid. This was Jesus' promised gift. They all felt a need to speak out about Jesus and his wonderful promise of salvation for all.



Outside the streets were filled with visitors to the city from many of the surrounding countries, there to celebrate Pentecost. Seizing the moment Peter stood and spoke to the crowds about Jesus. Each person could hear what he was saying in their own language! (Read all about it in Acts 2:1-4)

Below is a very interesting picture of the artist Rebecca Brogan's depiction of the meaning of Pentecost.

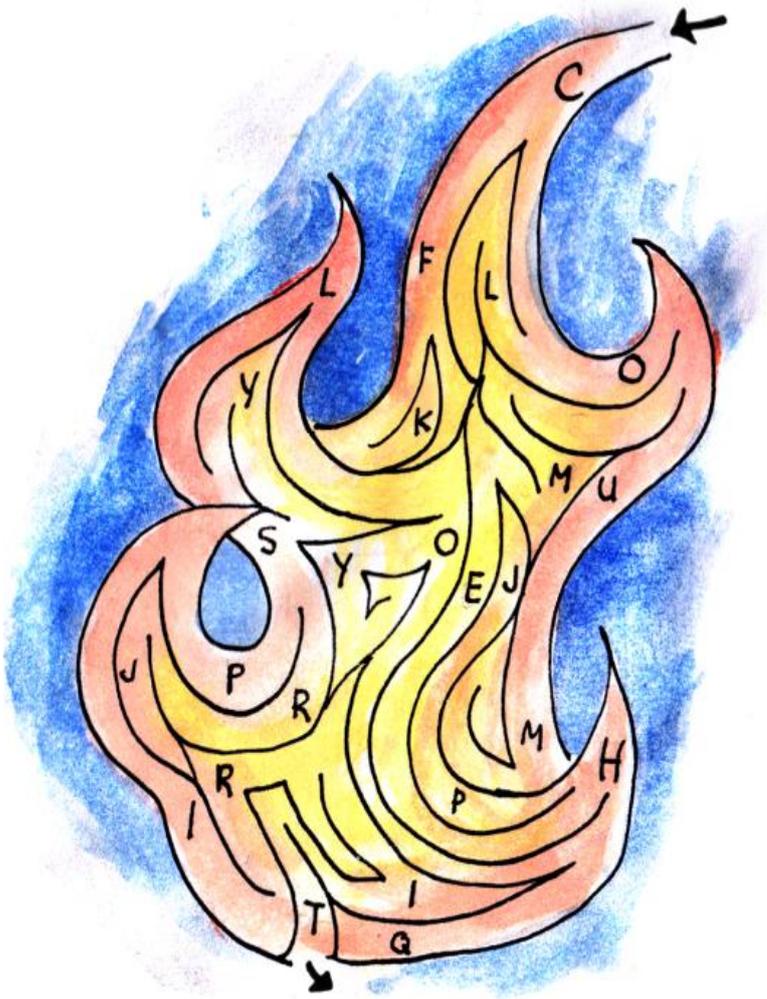
Look at it carefully, can you see the hands of Christ at the top, showing the marks of the nails? He seems to be releasing a dove (a symbol of the Holy Spirit) while at the same time rivers of fire are pouring down on the people below. People who are dressed in the costumes of many nations.



The love of Jesus is freely given to all who wish to know and follow him, wherever they come from.



Pentecost Puzzle



Beginning at the top from the letter C, can you follow a path through the flame, finding the letters in your path and fill in the blanks below. Be careful not to take a wrong turn!



Make yourself a Flame Crown and perhaps wear it to church on Pentecost Sunday, May 23rd.

Cut out the flames in a long strip to fit round your head. Then use different shades of red, orange and yellow tissue paper to cover it. Or you could paint the tongues of flame. Then join the ends together to make a headband.



Make a Pentecost Picture

Draw a picture of the dove in white. Cut it out and stick it to the centre of a sheet of black or dark blue paper. You could add cotton wool feathers. Then cut out flames in red, yellow and orange paper and add them, around the dove.

