**Sunday 31st May Pentecost**

Acts 1: 8

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.’

Firstly, may I wish you a Happy Birthday! You are approximately 2000 years old! Pentecost Sunday marks the birth of the church, and the church was born when Holy Spirit was poured out in power!  Sometimes the word ‘power’ doesn’t have good connotations for us – that’s mainly because we have seen power misused, abused and become an idol that corrupts. But the power that Jesus is speaking of in Acts 1 is power to see love win; power that causes good to overcome evil; power to see orphans become sons and daughters of the living God; power to make right choices and walk in the ways that lead to life; power to break the chains of injustice, addiction and fear; power to make way for the glory of God to be revealed; power to heal the sick and raise the dead; power to end torment. Now that’s the sort of power that the world needs! All creation is straining to see the sons of daughters of God, empowered by His Spirit, revealed (Romans 8: 19). When Holy Spirit-filled children of God are unleashed on the earth, Jesus is glorified and the powers of darkness run for cover! Amen Lord, let it be so!

Worship Jesus that He didn’t leave us as orphans, but sent His Spirit to change the world!

<https://youtu.be/Of5IcFWiEpg>

*Father, we thank you and praise you for the gift of your promised Holy Spirit! Please forgive us where we have side-lined Him, where we have striven in our own strength rather than waiting for power from on high. We pray today that you would pour out your Spirit again upon your church. Lord, light the flame of your love and power in our hearts again! Raise us up to be Good News throughout the earth. For the glory of Jesus we pray. Amen*

Spend some time waiting on the Lord and praying that most ancient prayer: ‘Come Holy Spirit’.

