*“All of them were filled with Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.” Acts 2:4*

1. Introduction – Link back to last week
   1. Last week we heard about the promise of the Holy Spirit
   2. Waiting upon the Spirit
      1. In prayer
      2. together
   3. Witness
2. Today is Pentecost – As Anglicans we can be maligned for a lack of focus on the Holy Spirit – not fully true – we are comfortable with some images of the Spirit
   1. Holy Spirit as Comforter (KJV) – John 15:26
   2. Holy Spirit as Teacher – John 14:26|John 16:13
   3. Holy Spirit as Advocate -
      1. Luke 12:12 (*For at that time the Holy Spirit will teach you what to say*)
      2. Romans 8:26-27 (*Holy Spirt intercedes for us with sighs too deep for words*)
   4. Holy Spirit as giver of gifts
      1. Galatians 5:22 (*Fruit of the Spirt is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control)*
      2. 1 Corinthians 12*|*Romans 12 (*Gifts of the Spirit)*
   5. But this doesn’t get to the whole story
3. We have a tendency to domesticate the Spirit
   1. Predictability
   2. Routine
   3. Spirt as ‘safe’, ‘comfortable’
   4. Dullness

“*And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them.” Acts 2:2-3*

1. The Holy Spirit comes in power just as Jesus said it would
   1. Physical power – sound of the violent wind, tongues of flame
   2. Spiritual power – it mobilizes the timid disciples into action
   3. Disruptive power – the Spirit is not calm and gentle, results likened to public drunkenness
2. The Holy Spirit comes with power to witness
   1. Disciples speaking about God’s deeds of power
   2. Breaking down the barriers of language (All the nations surrounding Judea represented)
3. The Holy Spirit reorients and transforms the disciples
   1. Peter who denied Jesus, who misunderstood Jesus, who didn’t get it - preaches, witnesses to Jesus
   2. Witnesses to Jesus using the common history – he was preaching to Jews using the prophet Joel
4. Peter’s use of the prophet Joel (2:28-31) highlights the power of the Holy Spirit
   1. Not just the prophets will receive the Spirit
      1. Prophecy as declaring the truth of God, not predicting the future
   2. Sons and daughters will prophesy
   3. Young men/women who are hopeless will see God’s vision of the future
   4. Old men and women who have stopped dreaming will dream dreams
   5. Even those who serve you (slaves/servants) will receive the Spirit of God and know the truth of God
   6. Ultimately everyone who calls on the name of the Lord, on the name of Jesus, is given the opportunity to receive the Holy Spirit and experience salvation through the very same Jesus.
5. Are we ready for this kind of disruptive, powerful Spirit in the Church today? Are we ready for the Holy Spirit to transform us?
   1. To transform the way we live (Acts 2:42-47)
      1. Radical hospitality
      2. Generous and Sacrificial giving
      3. Reconciliation/Forgiveness
      4. Witness to Jesus
   2. To transform our understanding of God
      1. Who has access to the truth of God?
      2. Who is welcome to receive God’s truth, God’s power?
      3. Who has a responsibility to be God’s witness through the power of the Holy Spirit?
6. We might not feel ready for this, but neither were the disciples
   1. The need for prayer in opening us up to the Holy Spirit
   2. The need of being together to help us open up to the Holy spirit
   3. The need to call upon the name of Jesus, to open us up to the Holy Spirit
7. Not only will our lives be changed, but others around us
   1. 3000 people were baptized that day (Acts 2:41)
   2. Whose lives will be changed by our witness to the love of God made known in Jesus?
   3. How might the Holy Spirit be pushing us to go where we are naturally uncomfortable/resistant?