



Charity No 251394

May 2024



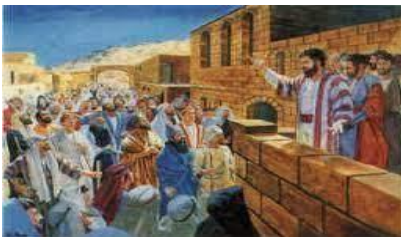
WIND AND FIRE FROM HEAVEN



The Christian church is about to celebrate a birthday, on May 19th. Not a birthday of the buildings we call churches, but the birth of the groups of followers of Jesus, the people themselves. This is the festival of PENTECOST.

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 sent 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 like the roaring of a mighty wind that filled the house. 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.



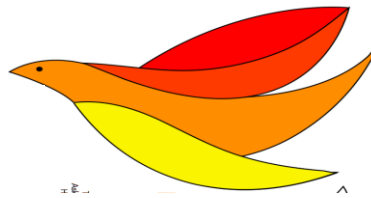
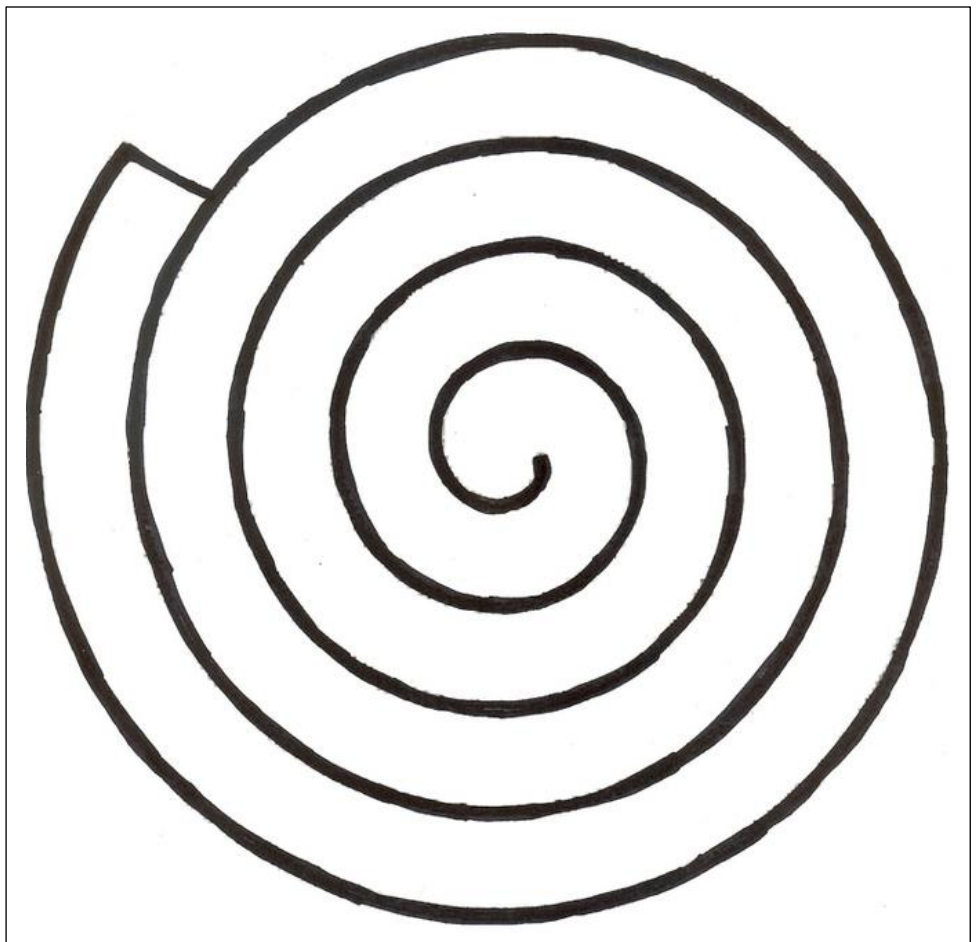
The love of Jesus is freely given to all who wish to know and follow him, wherever they come from.



Pentecost Wind Twirls



Either cut out a round piece of card then cut around in a spiral until you get to the middle of the circle. Or copy the pattern on the right and cut along the black lines. Decorate the spiral with flames and doves, then hang it up with a piece of yarn, to remind you that the Holy Spirit is present even though we can't see it.



Y	L	T	G	F	L	Z	B	T	M	X	L
D	X	T	C	M	J	L	E	I	E	C	K
T	Z	M	K	V	T	R	L	R	L	K	K
N	O	M	K	N	I	X	I	I	A	R	L
K	V	G	E	F	M	M	E	P	S	W	E
J	F	P	E	X	R	J	V	S	U	G	P
M	E	M	M	T	J	C	E	Y	R	N	S
R	F	Z	J	T	H	D	R	L	E	P	O
K	W	I	N	D	B	E	S	O	J	R	G
Y	P	N	T	M	K	M	R	H	N	Y	B
N	N	F	D	E	S	I	T	P	A	B	M
G	L	E	G	A	U	G	N	A	L	N	G

JERUSALEM HOLY-SPIRIT FIRE WIND
 TOGETHER BELIEVERS REPENT
 BAPTISED LANGUAGE GOSPEL

A Pentecost Dove Copy each section of the dove above – the body and the wings. Cut them out or colour in, in shades of yellow, red and orange. Assemble them like the picture and attach a cord to the end of the beak. Then attach the cord to a straw so that you can make the dove appear to fly.