Sermon:

**“Suddenly there was a noise from the sky which sounded like a strong wind blowing”** (Acts 2.2)

Invercargill is said to be the 2nd windiest place in NZ, after Wellington. TEXT – no problem, used to it!

Pentecost = 50th day (after Passover ≈ Easter), for Jews 2nd most imp festival to celebrate renewal of covenant, possibly by then the Giving of the Law, and the Wheat Harvest. Hence many in Jerusalem.

All believers in one place (120? See Acts 1.15), inc women. Wind, tongues of fire, strange speaking, which Peter explains as the coming of HS as prophesied by Joel. The birth of the church.

Wind & fire ≈ to what J/B predicted: Luke 3.16: **“someone is coming who is much greater than I… he will baptise you with HS and with fire.”** Since choir sang ***Wind Wind***, I will focus on that today.

Wind in Hebrew (*ruach*) and Greek (*pneuma*) = wind, breath, spirit. All relate to activity/life.

Eg Genesis 1.2: **the *ruach* of God was moving over the water.**

 Ezekiel 37.9: **Tell the *ruach* that the Sovereign Lord commands it to …. breathe into these dead bodies and
 bring them back to life.**

 John 20.22: **Then (Jesus) breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy *Pneuma*”.**

Wind is invisible, unpredictable (in power and direction), strong. Yet you can see the effects. Same is true for the Holy Spirit. Have you met people who clearly have the Spirit within them?

Two more interesting things:

[1] Big Bang for the start of universe. So also Big Bang for the start of the Church!

[2] As Jesus’ mission depended upon anointing of the Holy Spirit at the start, so does the Church’s mission depend upon anointing of the Holy Spirit at the start.

If we want to continue as God’s people we need HS, today, every day. Not an option.

Prayer: Come Holy Spirit, **come to us today.**