

# MONMOUTHSHIRE Free Press

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Dear Friends,



God dag, Buenos dias, Guten tag, Bon jour, Mahalo, Ohayo gozaimasu, Dobri ranok, Shalom, Good day!

Danish, Spanish, German, French, Hawaian, Japanese, Ukrainian, Hebrew and English – hello, everybody! So many languages yet the same meaning. Just like that first Pentecost two thousand or so years ago when God sent His Spirit to all those waiting in Jerusalem and ensuring that the world would never be the same again.

Sunday June 9<sup>th</sup> was Pentecost Sunday, also known as the birthday of the Church when the Spirit came to give new life and hope and assurance. Following so soon after Ascension Sunday (which was Sunday June 2<sup>nd</sup> this year) when we remember how Jesus left us for a while but assuring us that 1) He will return and 2) While we wait, God's Spirit is with us, within us and above us too. The Coming of the Spirit was the common denominator in a way that enabled all peoples to understand one another, if not always by their language alone then certainly by freeing their spiritual dimension and wanting to praise the Living God. They did then and billions of people throughout the world continue to do so today.

The 19<sup>th</sup> century poet William Blake wrote a poem entitled Pentecost. It is brief but profound and I want to share it with you here. "Unless the eye catch fire the God will not be seen. Unless the ear catch fire the God will not be heard. Unless the tongue catch fire the God will not be named. Unless the heart catch fire the God will not be loved. Unless the mind catch fire the God will not be known."

The Book of Acts tells what happens at Pentecost in a very dramatic way and in a form which can only be an eye witness report. Read it for yourselves in Acts 2: 1-21 and rejoice, in whichever language you are comfortable. God bless you.

**Rev Preben Andersen**