

Waiting for The Gift (of the Holy Spirit)

Acts 1:1-8 and 2:1-4. For Pentecost.

When Jesus was arrested and crucified the disciples were terrified for their own safety and completely gutted that Jesus' ministry should have come to an end in this way. But after the resurrection and his appearances to the disciples, imagine how they might be feeling? Confused, elated, excited, wondering what comes next? In this in-between stage they haven't been given the Holy Spirit, so are still dependant on Jesus' actual presence and reassurance, and they are still in danger from the religious leaders and the Romans. But Jesus has told them to wait in Jerusalem, that they will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on them and that then they will be witnesses for Jesus "to the ends of the earth" [Acts 1: 8].

Andrew sitting looking dejected, about to tip cornflakes into a cereal bowl. Bartholomew and Peter burst on to stage, all are in pyjamas/ dressing gowns and slippers.

Peter: *[very excited - addressing Andrew]* Is it here? Has it come?!

Bartholomew: Have you hidden it somewhere?! *[searching about]*

Andrew: Every morning, it's the same! When will you two give up?

Peter: So it's not come then?

Andrew: No, it's not come. And I'm beginning to doubt it ever will.

Bartholomew: It will come! It will! He promised!

Andrew: This is so dangerous, waiting here in Jerusalem. *If* we are going to receive the gift he promised, I wish we could receive it somewhere else!

Bartholomew: I think it's really exciting! Hiding here, waiting for a special gift of God's power! *[Luke 24:49 and Acts 1:4]* I can't wait to get it!

Andrew: But we've been waiting for days. What if it doesn't come? What if it has come and we've missed it?

Peter: We won't miss it! We just need to be patient!

Andrew: That's funny! You! Peter, being patient!

Bartholomew: I wonder what being baptised in the Holy Spirit is like?

Andrew: Given that he's giving us this gift so that we have the right words to say when we are arrested, and I quote, "brought before governors and kings as witnesses to them" [Mat 10: 18-20] I'm not sure if I want to find out!

Peter: It's going to be fine. The Holy Spirit is going to be our Helper too, reminding us of how Jesus would do things [John 14:26] and guiding us [John 16:13]

Bartholomew: It's going to be like that feeling of courage and excitement we get when Jesus lets us in on the secrets of his kingdom. And we're going to have that flowing from us all the time [John 37-39]

Peter: We're going to be "clothed with power from on high" [Luke 24:49]

Andrew: Well, that's good, because I think you should be clothed in something other than pyjamas if you're going to go all over the world telling people about Jesus

[At same time as this, use something to represent "the blowing of a violent wind" (Acts 2: 2) eg. a powerful fan with ribbons attached blowing out, or a sound effect (use a search engine to find sound effects you can download for free)]

Bartholomew: You're so right, I can feel an awful draft...*[looks around for the source of the draft – everyone freezes]*

(based on a script called "Pentecost Present" by Martin Underwood and Peter Allday)

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