

The Story of Pentecost

Adapted from a variety of Godly Play resources by Jerome Berryman

Scene 1 *The Tower of Babel*

Narrator: Once upon a time, there was a great tower.

Everyone working the tower spoke the same language and worked together. But as the tower grew taller and taller, they began to talk in different ways. The tower came close to God, but the people forgot why they were building it. They grew so proud of themselves that they began to think that they were even greater builders than God. Each group thought that it was better than any of the others.

Suddenly, a huge noise replaced their talking.

Narrator: The noise made no sense. Everyone was babbling.

Soon, the tower fell down.

It was called the Tower of Babel, because the builders' talking sounded like babbling. The languages of the people of the earth were shattered too. Broken into splinters. Each one was beautiful, but it was broken.

Scene 2 *Ascension and Pentecost*

Narrator: Thousands of years passed. Then Jesus came and lived with the people. Then Jesus died on the cross. He was buried in the tomb. And then He was raised to new life. And somehow, he was still with the people around Him. They kept seeing him, and they couldn't let him go.

Then one day, something amazing happened. The disciples were in Jerusalem. Jesus took them outside of Jerusalem to a Mountain called Olivet. It was as far as Bethany. Jesus went up. But He also promised that soon the Holy Spirit would come down. The Holy Spirit would be with them.

The eleven disciples went back into the city. They were full of joy and wonder and they went to an upper room.

Finally, it was the day of Pentecost. It was the time of greening and blooming in the spring. Seeds were being planted in the fields. The streets of Jerusalem were full of Jews from all over the Roman Empire. They were going to the Temple for the festival. The disciples remained in their upper room. A place

some say was the very room where they had shared the Last Supper with Jesus. They talked quietly and they prayed.

Suddenly, they heard the sound of a mighty wind.

Narrator: The sound filled the whole house. And then, bits of fire began to float down and dance around each one.

The Holy Spirit had come!!

The disciples were filled with awe and wonder. They became so full of the Spirit's power that they seemed to be on fire. Even their tongues felt like they were burning. In their joy and excitement, they rushed out of the house and into the streets to tell everyone. They were so excited that people on street wondered what was going on.

On the streets, there were many different people from many different countries. They were all speaking in their own languages.

Crowd: *A selection of parishioners begin to say the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20) in a language other than English to create a cacophony of voices and languages.*

"Jesus came and said to them, 'all authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.'"

Narrator: The people passing by and going to the Temple thought that they were crazy. Maybe they had drunk too much wine.

Still, what they were saying was understood by all – no matter what language they spoke.

Peter stepped into the chaos with a confidence and calm that the disciples had never seen before.

Peter: These people are not drunk, like you think. After all, it is only morning. What has happened is what the prophet Joel wrote about. He said that God will pour out God's Spirit on us, so that our sons and daughters will prophesy. The young will see visions. The old will dream dreams. This is what just happened!

Narrator: Everyone could see that the Twelve had come close to God – and that God had come close to them. God had come close to them in a new way. It no longer mattered that they spoke different languages. They had all come close to God.

On this day, the disciples became Apostles. They went out into the world to tell the story of Jesus. Many listened and many became baptized too. Ever since, Pentecost has been celebrated to remember that day.