

## Eleventh Day of Christmas, 1/4 – Pipers piping



**Scripture:** Then the apostles returned to Jerusalem from the hill called the Mount of Olives, a Sabbath day's walk from the city. When they arrived, they went upstairs to the room where they were staying. Those present were Peter, John, James and Andrew; Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew; James son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. They all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers. Acts 1:12-14

**These 11 are the inner circle of disciples who were left watching Jesus ascend into heaven.**

Judas had gone his way, remembered as a traitor, and the 11 now stayed together to figure out what was next. In the few verses after this they select the 12<sup>th</sup> disciple to continue Jesus' ministry guided by the Holy Spirit. They were not the only ones who would carry on but we remember Jesus' disciples as twelve minus one. Now they need to get going.

It's interesting to me that pipers were chosen here as the ones who would continue. Flutes and pipes are one of the earliest found musical instruments formed out of reeds. They could be played by a person's breath blowing over the opening which could be changed by the covering of holes in the instrument. It was a relatively easy thing to create.

Think of cultures and stories that you know... bagpipes, alphorns or flutes. They are used to communicate or celebrate in community. So, these pipers piping were to communicate this message that Jesus brought. And they did it well. They carried it far and wide with the enthusiasm of a piper...wanting others to know the saving power of the Christ and the love of God.