

## An Awfully Big Adventure

*Sometimes it is tempting to close the door on the world and hunker back down into our cosy beds. But as Peter Pan asserts, "to live would be an awfully big adventure" and God teaches us and shakes us up through the parables of everyday life and challenges us to go out and live our lives to the full.*

God of the changing seasons  
It's a dark autumn morning  
the wind blows an icy chill  
the rain patters against the windowpane  
and leaves lie soggy in the gutter  
it's the kind of morning  
when all we want to do  
is hunker down in our cosy beds  
and go back to sleep.

God who shakes us out of our slumber  
life is more than sleeping  
more than protecting ourselves  
in a blanket of comfort  
life is an adventure to be lived  
there are people to meet with  
wonders to be celebrated  
stories to share  
dreams to dreams.

And so we are gathered here  
God of sharp contradictions  
on a blustery autumn day  
to learn of your wisdom  
in the here and now  
in the everyday  
to share in each others lives  
to look at the world around us  
and grow in our understanding.

And so we are gathered here  
God of ancient parables  
as the rain lashes down outside  
to learn of your wisdom  
from stories of long ago  
retold in the present  
to learn from each other  
from our lived experience  
and the mistakes we have made.

And so we are gathered here  
God of puzzles and riddles  
as the days shorten their span  
to learn of your wisdom  
in our surviving  
and in our waiting  
in our meeting  
and in our dreaming

as we long for Openshaw to be reborn  
as we long for a future filled with your hope.  
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