

# *Advent Reflections*

**A series of four Advent monologues by four characters who knew about the birth of Jesus.**

**Written by Brian T. Whitaker, Whitaker Writings**

**Summary: This is a series meant to be done over the four weeks of Advent. Each week a different person shares his or her perspective on the birth of Jesus.**

**Week 1: Isaiah contemplates the future coming of the Messiah.**

**Week 2: The Angel (Gabriel) is all set to make the announcement, but is shocked at the details he hears from the Lord.**

**Week 3: Elizabeth marvels over her honor of bearing the forerunner of the Messiah.**

**Week 4: Herod flies into a rage when he realizes the Magi are not returning, and decides to kill anyone who might become King in his place.**

**Time: roughly 3 minutes each week**

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## **Week 1: Prophet (Isaiah)**

Written by **Brian T. Whitaker**

Worship Leader: This is the first Sunday of Advent. Each week through the Advent season, a character from the Bible will come and share some thoughts about the coming of the Messiah. Today, the prophet Isaiah gives us a visit.

[Worship Leader lights one of the purple candles]

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**The Messiah is coming! He will save Israel! We know not when, but “a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; and the government will rest on His shoulders; and His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace”** (Isa 9:6).

**The Lord has revealed these great truths to me, the prophet Isaiah. This is all too wonderful for words! “The people who walk in darkness will see a great light”** (Isa 9:2a). **He will come and save Israel. “He will bring forth justice to the nations”** (Isa 42:1).

**“A virgin will be with child and bear a son, and she will call His name Immanuel”** (Isa 7:14). **God will be with us. He will walk among us.**

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## Week 2: Angel (Gabriel)

Written by Brian T. Whitaker

Worship Leader: This is the second Sunday of Advent. Each week through the Advent season, a character from the Bible will come and share some thoughts about the coming of the Messiah. Today we observe the Angel Gabriel at a crucial moment in history.

[Worship Leader lights two of the purple candles]

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*(looking up, as if speaking to God)* **Wow! I can't believe it! I get to do both of them? Are you sure? I mean, it was enough of an honor to announce the forerunner to Zechariah and Elizabeth a few months ago. But to announce the coming of the Messiah?**

*(to himself)* **This has to be the greatest honor an angel can have! To announce the coming of Messiah to earth. He is coming to save His people.**

*(to God)* **OK, what do You want me to say? [pause, as if listening] What was that? I don't think I heard You right. [pause, listening] (In disbelief) You can't be serious! This has to be a mistake. ...Oh yeah, You don't make mistakes. But...to send him to earth as a helpless baby? I mean, He's going to save Israel, isn't He? Surely it would be better for Him to come down in a blaze of glory, wouldn't it? [pause] (resigned) OK, I'll trust You on this.**

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## Week 3: Elizabeth

Written by Brian T. Whitaker

Worship Leader: This is the third Sunday of Advent. Each week through the Advent season, a character from the Bible has come and shared some thoughts about the coming of the Messiah. Today we hear Elizabeth’s story.

[Worship Leader lights three of the purple candles]

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**My name is Elizabeth.** *[Looks down at pregnant stomach]* **Yes, it’s quite unusual for someone my age to be pregnant. Who would have thought? Zacharias and I had given up praying for children; we thought our child-bearing days were over. Zacharias is a priest, and we have followed the Lord faithfully throughout our lives. But because the inability to have children is viewed as God’s curse, we have lived in shame, feeling the judgment of people around us, even sometimes wondering ourselves if perhaps we had displeased the Lord somehow.**

**So Zaharaias was totally surprised when the angel Gabriel told him we would have a son. Imagine me, bearing a child at my age! And then to find out that he would be the forerunner for the Messiah! This was too wonderful for words!**

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Director’s Notes:

This should be played by an older woman, probably in 80’s (or a younger woman made up to look that old), looking eight or nine months pregnant.

Time period of this monologue: partway through Mary’s three-month visit.

Author’s notes: Elizabeth lived a life of devotion to the Lord. Yet, because of the shame of having no children, I (Brian) picture Elizabeth as very quiet, reserved, and wise. She should have a humble dignity in all she says. Throughout the monologue, she should have a smile,

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her voice on the edge of a chuckle, as she views the humor inherent in the whole situation. Her words of praise to God are deeply heartfelt and full of joyful, quiet reverence.

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## Week 4: Herod

Written by Brian T. Whitaker

Worship Leader: This is the fourth Sunday of Advent. Each week through the Advent season, a character from the Bible has come and shared some thoughts about the coming of the Messiah. Today we will observe some of King Herod's thoughts about the newborn King.

[Worship Leader lights all of the purple and pink candles]

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*Herod is ranting and raving, pacing back and forth, furiously taking to himself*

**They're not coming, are they? These "Magi" aren't coming back to tell me where this new King lives. I can't believe it. The treachery! Do they think they can thwart the plans of Herod the Great?! I'm the king! [shaking his fists in the air] Nobody messes with me!**

*[pause]* **I can't believe they even came here in the first place. I guess it makes sense to start your search for a new King in the palace, but there is no new King here. I'm the king of the Jews! [shaking his fists in the air] And nobody is going to take that away from me!**

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Director's Notes:

Worship Leader might follow with words like these: "Even Herod could not thwart God's plan for Jesus to become the King of kings and the Lord of lords. The Lord is truly sovereign, and He will always accomplish His will."

Herod should be dressed in royal garb.

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Perhaps follow with “All Hail King Jesus” or “Amazing Love” (with “You are my King” bridge) or another song about the Kingship of Jesus.

Author’s Notes: Herod (the Great) ruled as King of Judea from 37 B.C. to 4 B.C. To be blunt, he was a lunatic. He was jealous, ruthless, power-hungry, and willing to kill to keep his position (he killed all of the young boys in Bethlehem, and even killed his own wife and several of his own children). Herod was part-Jewish, the self-proclaimed “king of the Jews,” but loyal to the Roman Empire, and not at all liked by his subjects.

Throughout the monologue, Herod is ranting and raving, pacing back and forth, talking to himself. The Bible says that Herod was troubled, and all of Jerusalem with him (Matt. 2:3). It is quite obvious from the Bible and from history that Herod frequently took his anger out on the people around him, so an unsettled king made for an unsettled kingdom.

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