



“Voices of Advent: The Woman Who Carried God in Her Womb”

by
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What The plan that brought salvation to the whole world didn’t originate with the genius of men. God surprised the world with a dangerous plan. A lowly teenaged girl in Nazareth became an origin story for the first Advent, the first in a string of miracles that changed the world forever.

Part of the *Voices of Advent* series, the script will help your community reimagine a famous passage of the Bible and experience the miracle of Christmas with renewed wonder. It can be performed as a monologue or read aloud in-person or online.

Themes: Advent, Christmas, Monologue, Grace, Miracle, Angels, Reader’s Theatre

Who Actress, female, late 30s or older

When Present

Costumes and Props The actor can wear casual clothing. If you want to suggest the first century, the actor can be dressed in a long robe and a head covering.

Why Luke 1:26-38; 46-55

How Think of this character as the quiet, faithful aunt that you always loved. A woman who is quick to listen, but when she talks, has command of the room.

Time Approximately 3 minutes

Actress enters and speaks to the audience.

Actress: People ask me about that first Christmas.

The way it's described today, I barely recognize the story! It sounds almost like a myth. Yes, there were animals. Yes, it was a long journey. And yes, the shepherds came.

But baby Jesus...no crying? I'm sorry to break it to you, he wailed. Crying he *made*. Did he ever have a set of lungs!

It wasn't an easy night.

No mother imagines having their first baby—or any baby—in a glorified barn. In a packed city filled with weary travelers. Even the stables were full! But it was a beautiful night, because of what it meant. For me, and for everyone else. I can say that now.

Would I have chosen to do that first Christmas differently if I could?

One hundred percent yes!

But if I did it the way I thought it should have been done, we probably wouldn't even have a Savior!

God used my womb, my life, my family to bring Jesus into the world. What a mystery! You'll be disappointed to learn that I don't fully understand it. I mean, *Why me?* Why that way?

I don't get stuck on those questions, though. If I did, I guess I wouldn't have been chosen.

It was through my womb that God kicked open the door for salvation. And I can't tell you why. Other than God chose to do it that way.

Between my son Jesus' birth and death, there were many miracles. Women and men healed of diseases: leprosy, bleeding, blindness, paralysis. Resurrections of the dead!

To live to tell about just one of these events would have been enough for a lifetime of reflection.

Perhaps the greatest miracle I experienced was that God empowered me to stay out of the way of *His* way.

You know how the ancients prophesied the Messiah. Ever since, everyone, including the women and men of my day, imagined the way he would take back power for Israel.

Would it be like Joshua? Shedding blood and purging the lands of all evil and idolatry?

Or would it be like Solomon, drawing the world with startling feats of wisdom, marvels of engineering and staggering wealth?

For hundreds of years my people looked to, prayed for, longed for and awaited Redemption. It was our whole history. And when the answers to all those prayers finally came, it was not the way any of us thought it would happen. It wasn't the miracle we thought we wanted.

But it was *His* way.

Who was I to object to the way God chose to fulfill his promise?

We are human. We think a certain way. We have hopes and many prayers. God intervenes. And he does it differently than we expect or imagine.

At this point, the Advent candle should be lit.

The way God worked out his purpose and promise was different than I expected. But it changed me and the world forever. I thank God I said yes.

This Advent season may you ponder the ways God demonstrates his power. And may your "yes" to His way kick open some redemption.

Lights out.