

# Reader's Theatre – Voices this Christmas

*A reading for four voices*

- Voice 1: The earth's soundscape  
roars and lifts these days  
as we listen for God's voice  
at Christmas.
- Voice 2: Marketers trumpeting,  
drawing our attention  
to all that we lack,  
claiming only they can save us.
- Voice 3: Politicians posturing,  
those with power telling us  
soothingly, "All is well,"  
their opponents yelling, "All is lost!"
- Voice 4: Protesters chanting,  
outrage in their voices,  
as they call for justice,  
accountability and change.
- Voice 1: Social media buzzing  
with the world's gossip,  
the doings of the rich and famous  
and the fall of the glamorous.
- Voice 2: News announcers reporting  
the bad news from everywhere,  
every evil thing done  
and the daily list of casualties.
- Voice 4: And then there are our own to-do lists,  
that haunt our days and nights  
reminding us with insistent voices  
of all we have failed to accomplish.
- Voice 3: Words clatter all around us,

and we wonder if, this Christmas,  
we will have ears to hear  
the message of angels on any level.

Voice 1: This Christmas will teenage girls  
drop their phones as they see light,  
not from a screen, and respond,

Voice 2: "Here am I, a servant of the Lord"?

Voice 3: This Christmas, will men dream dreams,  
that speak of things to come  
and safe paths in dangerous times,

Voice 1: and will they wake and take them?

Voice 4: This Christmas will seniors,  
who are long past childbearing,  
hear prophecies in a personal way,

Voice 2: and have their lives changed by that revelation?

Voice 1: This Christmas, will construction workers  
in the field drop their tools  
and fall face down

Voice 3: overcome by the glory of God?

Voice 2: Will they hear the message

Voice 4: "Fear not"

Voice 3: and the rock solid words,

Voice 4: "Look, I am bringing good news  
of great joy for all people.

Voice 1: This Christmas will we hear  
the bold words of the angels  
still ricocheting through space,

Voice 2: "A child is born this day, the Messiah, the Lord."

Voice 3: This Christmas will we leave our business  
abandoned on the ground,  
dropping everything for the chance  
to worship for a moment on our knees?

Voice 4: This Christmas will we be amazed  
at what God can do,  
will we treasure these things,  
these amazing things, in our hearts?

Voice 2: This Christmas will we go to our homes,  
our bodies humming with the vibrations  
of the harmonies of heaven  
sung by ageless choirs?

Voice 1, 2, 3: Listen!

Voice 4: They are still singing,

Voice 1: "Glory to God in the highest,  
and on earth peace,  
good will to all people."

Voice 2: God who brought to life  
this story of salvation,  
give us ears fine-tuned  
to the message of hope.

Voice 3: Like a mother who can hear  
her baby crying through any crowd,  
give us all ears to hear  
the voice calling to us,  
the voice of Jesus this Christmas.