

# RESOUNDING

## *Songs of Advent*

### Mary

Read Luke Chapter 1

- Prior to the event of the Annunciation (when the Angel visited Mary) there was a period of 400 years of silence. Take some time to consider how long 400 years is. How do you think the scattered Hebrew exiles managed to keep a thread of faith through all of these generations? How surprising would it have seemed when the Angel Gabriel suddenly appeared to Zechariah and then to Mary & Joseph?
- Consider Mary's song as a poetic response to the blessings that Elizabeth pronounces over Mary. What feelings or emotions does the song evoke? What are the primary themes? Who or what is the song about? Is the song primarily looking ahead or is it describing events that have already occurred?
- Based on Mary's song and actions, what can you infer about her character? What do we know about her circumstances? Why do you think God chose Mary to carry His child?
- Do you agree with C.S. Lewis that the Incarnation (God becoming human) is the Central Miracle of Christianity and that all other miracles prepare for it, exhibit it or result from it. Consider other miracles in the scriptures and discuss how they might relate to the Incarnation.
- Read Philippians 2: 1-11. Why is it significant that God chose to come to Earth in such humble circumstances?
- Consider Hebrews 2:14,15 as well as Hebrews 4:14-16 and John 1:14. Why does it matter that God became human? How does this play out in our day-to-day faith? Why is this Good News?