



# A Journey through Advent

Week 3: Saturday

**O Root of Jesse,  
set up as a sign to  
the peoples,  
come to save us,  
and delay no more.**  
Gospel Acclamation



During a severe drought, people gathered in the church to pray for rain. Their priest was not sure what to say them. Would they turn from God if there was no rain? Did they really believe God was listening? Were they just there out of desperation? Then the priest noticed something that cheered his soul. A young girl in the front row had not just come to pray; she clearly trusted God to respond. She was the only one who had brought an umbrella!

Zechariah had prayed for a child but when Gabriel said to him, "Your prayer has been heard," Zechariah seems to lack the faith to accept the angel's word without question. He more or less says "...but that's not possible." (Did he not expect his prayer to be answered?)

For his doubts, Zechariah is struck dumb and remains so until he is called on to name his son, John. Silence allowed, or even forced, Zechariah to consider deeply his relationship with God. His silence was a punishment but also an opportunity to learn that, when God answers prayer, it is best not to ask for proof or a second opinion.

adapted in part from P Gallagher SJ *The Silence Speaks Still*: [jesuit.org.uk](http://jesuit.org.uk)

## Music to listen to...

***Comfort my People***

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WJG AkpsgSWQ>

***Father, I place into your hands***

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pwu M4Div-y4>

## A Mindful Moment...

Could you be God's answer to someone's prayer?

## A Thought to Carry Through the Day...

This is a test to see if your mission in this life is complete: if you're alive, it isn't.

*Richard Bach Illusions*

**How green is your Advent?** Have a look at <https://scotland.lovefoodhatewaste.com/>

from an idea in *Jesuits and Friends Advent Calendar 2020*