

ANGELS UNITED!

This script imagines a scenario in which the Archangel Michael has been tasked with recruiting a choir to announce the birth of Jesus to shepherds.

Cast:

Archangels: Gabriel (AG); Michael (AM)
Angels: Daniel (Dan); Jophiel (Joe);
Kamael (Kam); Samael (Sam); Zachariel (Zac)

Props: Angels to wear similar clothes, whether that's 'traditional' white with wings and halos or a more modern take.

The younger angels are interested in sport so they could wear sports clothing with wings.

It should be clear that Gabriel and Michael are of a higher rank than the younger angels.

Both archangels carry an iPad and wear a watch. The younger angels carry smartphones.

Performance notes: This script would work well if you have a number of peers that could play the younger angels – particularly if they are enthusiastic about performing.

Depending on the confidence of those playing the younger angels, the singing elements could be performed a capella in parts, or accompanied by a piano or band with the angels singing the tune in unison.

Angels United!

Written by Rachel Gotobed

Scene 1

(Michael enters, sits down and starts looking at his iPad. Gabriel enters.)

- AG** There you are, Michael – did you not see the message I sent you on Messenger? I've been waiting for you to respond.
- AM** Sorry, Gabriel. I've had a busy morning so I'm only just logging in now – was it important?
- AG** Important? Yeah, it's of world-changing significance!
- AM** Wow, that sounds ominous, Gabe! World-changing?
- AG** Yes! The Boss has decided it's 'the time'.
- AM** 'The time'? *(Looks at watch)* 'The time' for what?
- AG** Michael! 'The time'... 'The time' the whole of Heaven has been waiting for!
- AM** Surely not 'the time'?
- AG** Yes! Exactly that – 'the time'!
- AM** Wow! We've been waiting so long for 'the time' that I actually thought 'the time' would never come!
- AG** Well 'the time' has come and we have a lot of work to do in order that everything happens according to 'the plan'.
- AM** Right – ah, yes – 'the plan'... Could you, er, just remind me of 'the plan', Gabriel? – It's a while since I read it!

- AG** 'The plan', Michael – which every angel should know – is that the Boss is sending his son to earth as a baby to be the Saviour of the world! I have already visited the woman who has been chosen as his mother – her name is Mary – and let her know that, even though she is still a virgin, she is going to have a baby and that he will be God's Son and that his name will be Jesus.
- AM** *(Shocked to silence, before answering sarcastically)* I'm sure she was thrilled at that news!
- AG** I have to admit she was a little disturbed at first, but I reassured her that everything was part of 'the plan' and she accepted it.
- AM** And is there a man in 'the plan' too?
- AG** There is. She has a fiancé called Joseph, and he was a little trickier to convince. When Mary told him the news he couldn't believe it and was going to break off the engagement. So God sent me to visit him in a dream and to assure him that Mary had spoken the truth and that the baby she was carrying was the fulfilment of 'the plan'.
- AM** You really have been a busy angel, haven't you, Gabriel? So what is it you need me for?
- AG** The Boss has decided that he needs a choir of angels to announce when the baby is born, and because of your, um, musical prowess he has assigned you to be the choir leader.
- AM** What? You are kidding, aren't you? How in heaven's name does he expect me to do that? Just because I like to sing in the shower doesn't mean I can lead a choir of angels!
- AG** Well, the Boss obviously believes you are the right archangel for the job. So you need to put together a choir that will be able to proclaim the Saviour's birth – and you've got just less than nine months to get it sorted.
- AM** And pray tell me, Gabriel, which palace do we have to sing this proclamation in?

- AG** What makes you think you will be singing in a palace?
- AM** Because even I know that the Boss's son is the King of kings, so where else would he be born?
- AG** My understanding is that the birth will actually take place in a more humble dwelling and that the proclamation is going to be sung to some shepherds on a hillside.
- AM** *(Flabbergasted)* Ha! I don't believe it! You're telling me that I have to find a choir of angels and prepare them to sing in a field! I'm sure they will all be queuing up to be part of that gig!
- AG** I understand that it may not appear to be the most glamorous of locations, but announcing the Saviour's birth is a once-in-an-eternity event, and I have no doubt in your skills to find other angels who will want to join the choir. I will let the Boss know that 'the plan' is in safe hands and look forward to receiving a progress report in due course. *(Gabriel starts to exit)* And of course, if you need any help, you only have to ask.
- AM** Thank you for your confidence – I wish I shared it! And you may well regret that offer of help!
- (Michael exits.)*

Scene 2

(Angels enter and sit around chatting and checking their phones.)

- Dan** Hey you lot – have you seen this on Wingstagram?
- Zac** Seen what?
- Dan** This advert.
- Joe** What advert?
- Dan** This advert looking for a team!
- Sam** Yeah – I've just seen it too.

- Kam** I haven't checked Wingstagram today – what's it about?
- Dan** It says, 'Wanted – Angels for a once-in-an-eternity dream job! Ideal for team players who are good in the field. Message now if you are interested!'
- Zac** What do you think it is?
- Sam** I reckon they could be looking for a sports team – after all, it does say you have to be good in the field.
- Joe** It could be cricket?
- Kam** I'm not doing that – I don't like insects!
- Zac** What are you talking about, Kam?
- Kam** Well, didn't the Boss send crickets as a plague to the Egyptians?
- Zac** I think you'll find that was locusts!
- Joe** Cricket is a team sport, Kam – you play it with a bat and ball.
- Kam** In a field?
- Sam** Yes, in a field! Of course, there are lots of sports played in a field, so it could be anything!
- Kam** But what if it's not a sport? What if it's ploughing or harvesting – they happen in a field too!
- Zac** Yes, but they happen every year, and this advert says it's a 'once-in-an-eternity' job.
- Dan** Do you think it might be football? I've heard a rumour before that the Boss was thinking about starting a Divinity League.
- Joe** I'm definitely up for that – and if we all apply we could be the dream team together.

Zac Yeah that would be brilliant... but we'll have to think of a good team name.

Sam What about Celestial City?

Dan Or Cherubs Rangers?

Joe I think it should be Heavenly Hotspurs!

(Angels start to argue about the team name.)

Kam *(Shouts)* Guys! We shouldn't be arguing about this. If we are a team, we have to be united! *(All stop and look at Kam)*

Zac That's brilliant, Kam!

Kam What is?

Dan Yes! We'll be Angels United! *(All agree – High 5s, etc)*

Joe It says we have to Message if we are interested. So come on, let's do it now. *(All start tapping into their devices)*

Kam I'm so not sure about this. Do you think we should research a bit more before signing up?

Sam Come on, Kam – we're going to be a great team – Angels United!

Dan And we promise that whatever happens we won't leave you out of the action.

(Angels leave chanting 'Angels United!')

Scene 3

(Gabriel and Michael enter and sit behind a table.)

AG Well, I'm very impressed, Michael. The Boss knew you were the right angel for 'the plan' and I have to admit he was right – how in Heaven did you manage to get this lot to sign up for a choir?

- AM** Let's just say that I used a little poetic licence in the advertising.
- AG** How poetic?
- AM** I just said it was a once-in-an-eternity opportunity for team players who are good in the field!
- AG** Did you mention anything about singing?
- AM** Not really – do you think I should have?
- AG** So what do these young angels think they are being auditioned for?
- AM** Heaven knows – but they signed up, so they must think they can do the job. Shall we see them now?
- (Angels enter and line up.)*
- AM** Welcome, angels – thank you very much for coming today. I would like to introduce you to Archangel Gabriel, who is helping me with team selection today.
- Kam** *(Aside to Joe)* Wow, this really must be an important job if Gabriel is here! *(Angels on both sides dig him in ribs to be quiet)*
- AG** Yes, this is indeed a hugely important job you have applied for. You will be representing Heaven for all the world to see and your efforts will be remembered for the rest of time and eternity.
- AM** Now, to ensure you are the right angels for this spectacular job, I need to test your skills. The Boss has suggested I get you to sing something to show how passionate you are about being selected for this divine team.
- Dan** *(Confused)* You want us to sing?
- AM** Yes, please.
- Sam** What shall we sing?

AM That's up to you really, but maybe something that shows us just how much this job means to you.

(Young angels huddle for a team talk.)

Kam We could sing 'God Save the Queen' – even footballers usually know the words to that one!

Joe No, I think 'Swing Low Sweet Chariot' is a better idea.

Sam But that's a rugby anthem, Joe, and we don't want to end up playing with the wrong-shaped ball!

Dan What about 'Abide with me' – surely the Boss will love it if we sing a hymn?

Zac Great idea, Dan – that should show them how much we want this job.

(Young angels stand back in a line.)

Zac All ready – after four – one, two, three, four...

(Angels sing first verse of 'Abide with me' – tuning is a little off!)

Sing *Abide with me; fast falls the eventide;
The darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide!
When other helpers fail, and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, O abide with me!*

AM Ummm... very impressive, young angels! What did you think, Gabriel?

AG Yes – well – I think you may have your work cut out there, Michael!

(Speaks to Michael as an aside) Remember the importance of this undertaking cannot be underestimated. The Boss has spent centuries getting ready for 'the plan' and his ultimate victory is dependent upon you getting it right.

AG *(Addressing young angels)* I will leave you now in Archangel Michael's capable hands to sort the training schedule.

(Gabriel exits.)

AM Right you lot. The job is yours... but it's going to mean a lot of practice – all your free time given to fieldwork. Are you sure you're all up for it? *(Angels all nod enthusiastically.)*

Excellent. So I'll see you all tomorrow for our first session.

(Michael exits. Angels all whoop and hi-5 in excitement.)

Sam I can't believe we've been selected, and all we had to do was sing!

Kam I can't believe it either – are you sure there isn't a catch somewhere?

Zac How can there be? We've just heard two archangels tell us we'll be perfect in the field for an ultimate victory.

Dan Yes, Kam – and Gabriel also said we'd be remembered for all time and eternity – how great will that be?

Kam I suppose so. But I just keep getting this feeling that all is not what it seems!

Joe Come on, Angels United – it's break time – we need to keep our strength up in preparation for this special assignment ahead. And I'm starving!

(Angels exit singing 'Food glorious food!')

Scene 4

(Angels enter jogging and chanting 'Angels United' – Dan first and Kam last!)

Dan Come on, you lot – we need to look enthusiastic. It can't be long now until the big match! We need to be fighting fit!

Kam But fit for what exactly, Dan? We seem to have done lots of singing with Archangel Michael but not a lot of playing football.

Joe Well, that's because he said he trusted us to practise our field skills in our own time and that a team that sings together will surely play well together.

Zac And I've actually enjoyed the singing anyway – much better than kicking a ball around in a muddy, cold field.

Kam Hmm – I'm still not convinced!

(Enter Archangel Michael.)

AM Not convinced about what, Kam?

Sam Oh, he's not convinced that we're quite ready for our big day – thinks we need more singing practice.

AM Well, I'm afraid you all have to be ready, as this will be our last rehearsal. The field awaits us – and Archangel Gabriel is coming to hear you – in fact, here he is now.

(Enter Archangel Gabriel.)

AG Ahh, there you all are. I'm so looking forward to this – Michael has assured the Boss that you are the dream team he wanted for 'the plan' and that your field play will be premier league.

Dan We'll do our very best, Archangel Gabriel.

Joe Yes – give it our all on the day.

AG Excellent! Perhaps I may be permitted a sneak preview?

AM Why, of course – we were just preparing for a final run through
Are you all ready?

(Angels sing, to the tune of 'Sweet Chiming Christmas Bells!')

All Sing

*We're here as Messengers from God
With such exciting news.
So shepherds, do not be afraid,
Instead put on your shoes!*

***Now go to Bethlehem (Yes, go!)
Now go to Bethlehem (Yes, go!)
For there you'll find a baby boy –
he's Christ the Lord.
He's come to bring you peace and joy –
he's Christ the Lord.***

*This baby he is God's own son,
A gift to all mankind.
So do not hesitate to go
But seek and ye shall find!*

***Now go to Bethlehem (Yes, go!)
Now go to Bethlehem (Yes, go!)
For there you'll find a baby boy –
he's Christ the Lord.
He's come to bring you peace and joy –
he's Christ the Lord.***

*This is a celebration day,
It's one you won't forget.
You've seen the dream team in the field,
And that you'll not regret!*

***Now go to Bethlehem (Yes, go!)
Now go to Bethlehem (Yes, go!)
For there you'll find a baby boy –
he's Christ the Lord.
He's come to bring you peace and joy –
he's Christ the Lord.***

AG Brilliant! Amazing! Fantastic! Michael, you have done a great job in preparing these angels – you can be really proud.

AM Why, thank you, Gabriel – I only hope the Boss will think so too.

AG I have no doubt he will be thrilled. *(Gabriel's phone rings)*

AG Hello... Yes, Boss... yes, they're ready... Right, so they need to go now? OK – I will send them straight away!

Well, I'm sure you heard that, Michael. 'The time' has finally come! You're needed in the field now – you must go!

Zac Did he say we are going now?

AM Yes!

Joe To the field?

AM Yes, to the field. Are you all ready? *(Starts to exit – angels follow excitedly, except Kam)*

Kam *(To Gabriel)* Excuse me, but can I just ask where this field is exactly?

AG Kam! You know where it is – the prophets foretold it. It's Bethlehem Town!

Kam Bethlehem Town? We're playing Bethlehem Town?

AG Yes!

Kam But isn't that where the Messiah is going to be born?

AG Yes! And if you hurry and catch up with the others you will be part of the greatest event in all history.

Kam *(Hurriedly starts to exit)* Hey, you lot – wait for me! Angels United!

(Michael re-enters.)

AM Aren't you coming with us, Gabriel? We could sure use your help.

AG Thought you'd never ask!

(All exit.)

Optional Scene: Nativity tableaux forms during singing of a carol

Scene 5

(Angels enter all talking excitedly.)

Dan We were amazing! The best team ever!

Sam Our singing lit up the whole sky – it was awesome.

Zac Did you see their faces? Those poor shepherds didn't know what had hit them!

Joe You're right there – they looked petrified! *(Sings)* 'Now go to Bethlehem!'

All *(Sing)* 'Yes, go!' *(All laugh)*

Dan But to their credit, they did go and, having seen the Christ-child, they soon spread the good news that the Saviour had been born, all across the fields.

Zac Ha ha, yes – the fields! Oh how we fell for that one! 'A once-in-an-eternity dream job! Ideal for team players who are good in the field!'

Kam Not me! I always knew there was something not right about that, but none of you would listen to me.

Sam So you were a right cleverwings... but just think what we would have missed if we hadn't signed up!

Joe And just as Gabriel said, we did represent heaven for all the world to see.

(Enter Archangels Gabriel and Michael.)

AG You did indeed – and it was a spectacular performance, may I add. I'm so glad I got to come too.

- AM** Well, you did say I only had to ask if I needed help!
- AG** Always true to my word, Michael, and the Boss thought it was only right for me to be there when I'd already been to see Mary and Joseph. All part of 'the plan'.
- AM** Everyone did brilliantly... the sound was stunning... an outstanding team effort!
- AG** The Boss is so pleased with how it all went that there is a celebration party for all of Heaven and you are invited as special guests.
- Dan** The Boss wants us to go to his celebration as special guests?
- AG** Yes – so quickly go and polish your haloes, it starts in half an hour!
- Kam** We don't have to sing again, do we?
- AM** No – I think other people will forever sing about you and what you all did tonight. But as for you, Angels United (*sings*) 'You're not singing anymore!'

(All exit.)