

2020 Advent Reflection

December 20, 2020

Reflection by Sister Gabriella Crowley

A messenger can come in any attire

Luke 1:26-38

The Gospel for the fourth Sunday in Advent tells of Gabriel's visit to Mary. I once read a commentary on the appearance of the messenger of God to this young woman in Nazareth. It pictures Mary entering her home carrying a pitcher of water. She spills some on the floor and as she wipes up the water a light comes into the room. Looking up she sees the angel. I like the idea that she might have been doing an ordinary task that resulted in such an extraordinary outcome. We might receive a visitor like that while we are doing an ordinary task on an ordinary day. It could be a visit that has a life changing outcome for me too. The encounter that changes me might change the other person also. **To be present to the other brings the opportunity for grace to enter in.** It is an encounter of the highest order when we bring the gift of the Godhead to one another. A messenger can come in any attire. It could be an angel or a street person. It's all the same. Mary welcomed the visitor and responded with a yes to the gift being offered. That made all the difference. I ask for the grace to answer yes just like Mary did.