



# The Messenger

St. Gabriel the Archangel Episcopal Church

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## December

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Home communion is available for those who are unable to attend

Sunday worship service.  
Contact Jeanne Koppel at 503-520-0240 to arrange for an appointed time.

## Vicar's Corner

A new light shines...above my desk! I am able, now, to see things I have missed - small print in the books I long to read and dust in places previously hidden by winter's hue. I wonder at the timing - I love this new light and I love the fact that it has arrived as I prepare to meet Advent. Advent, the first season of the church year, a season of growing light, calls us to look closely at the lives we live and to prepare ourselves to receive Christ.

What have we missed? What have we yet to see? How do we prepare to welcome Christ into our hearts, our community of faith, our Diocese?

The new light above my desk is there because someone looked, saw a need and found a way to meet that need. It took vision, planning, money, and "elbow grease" to illumine the nooks and crannies of my office. I am grateful. Working in the dark was a strain on my vision.

The ability to see and the courage to respond are the gifts that bring transformation. Advent is a season wherein we are given what we need to see more clearly - the light that grows as the weeks pass - will help us to see what needs to be done. We must be willing to look and willing to respond to what the growing light reveals. Our first step, however, is prayer - listening prayer, time to reflect, to dream, and to plan.

The busy, noisy world can make listening very difficult, especially at this time of year. We must all be intentional in setting apart time and space for the sacred work of Advent. Worship at St. Gabriel's will change a bit on Sunday mornings. The Eucharist at 10:00 will be sung, and we will chant the psalms. I have asked the choir to vest and process for all four Sundays of Advent, sharing the strength and beauty of their voices. The season begins on December 2<sup>nd</sup> with the Angel Choir, the youngest of our voices, singing as we light the first candle on the Advent wreath - followed by the Great Litany, traditionally used on Advent I.

On the fourth Sunday of Advent, December 23<sup>rd</sup>, Bishop Itty will make his visitation to St. Gabriel's. Having the Bishop visit the parish is a powerful gift to our community. Nine of our brothers and sisters, with the help of sponsors, have spent the last months in preparation to be confirmed or received into the Episcopal Church. They will be presented to Bishop Itty at the 10:00 service.

It is my prayer that our worship during this most blessed season will bring the gift of peace and hope. As the light of Advent grows, may we find illumination in our hearts and direction in our lives - may we embrace the gifts necessary for transformation.

A new light shines...

Blessings,  
LouAnn+

*The Mission of St. Gabriel the Archangel Episcopal Church is to share the knowledge and love of Jesus Christ and to help each other on our spiritual journey with God.*