



Hill Cliffe Study Guide
Sunday 10 December 2023
#2 The Angel Gabriel appears to Mary

1. What impacted you most from the Sermon on Sunday?

Please read Luke 1 26-28, and Daniel 8.1-2, 15-17 and Daniel 9.20-24

2. What do we learn here about how God has previously involved the angel Gabriel in bringing prophetic vision and understanding to Daniel and the people of God - concerning the time of the coming of the Messiah?
3. Why is it somehow poetic and fitting that it is also the angel Gabriel whom God commands to bring the message of the time of the arrival of the Messiah to Mary?

Please read Luke 1. 26-40, 45

4. What do you think about the way that Gabriel delivered the message from the Lord to Mary?
5. What strikes you about how Mary responds to Gabriel and, ultimately, to the word of the Lord for her?
6. How is Mary's response to Gabriel's message different to Zechariah's response to Gabriel's message (**Luke 1.18-20**)?

Please read Luke 1.46-55

7. What can we learn from Mary's example in her response to the prophetic word from God in v46-55?

Advent is intended to be a Season where we are waiting, open and ready to hear afresh from the Lord. Sadly, it is often the case that due to our perceived familiarity with the story, and with the repetition of our Christmas songs and traditions, we can lose our sense of wonder and awe at the story of Christ's coming.

God is very creative in how he communicated with people in scripture -

Just read Luke chapter 1, or the book of Acts – God communicates with some via dreams, visions, strange circumstances, angelic appearances, miraculous events - as well as through the reading and preaching of his word and the leading of the Holy Spirit – which is accessible to all.

He is the same God today – with the same creativity and desire to communicate with us.

In this time of Advent – let's keep all channels open to God – HE is a creatively communicative God.

8. How is God speaking to you this Advent?
9. What is God saying to you this Advent?
10. How will you respond to God's word?