

## Key Points

### “The Least Light”

Second Sunday of Advent, December 10, 2023

- Jackie Higgins' *Sentient* sheds light on the remarkable sensory abilities of animals and helps us understand the same powers that lie dormant within us.
- In terms of seeing, some deep-sea fish have incredibly large eyes that act like visionary satellite dishes to capture light particles. They also can have tubular eyes, extra reflective layers in their retina, bioluminescence and more.
- For human sign, we have more rods than cones in the eyes, which are highly sensitive to light in low-lighting conditions. Rods also use multiple neural pathways and have rhodopsin coatings.
- Scientists at the University of Vienna conducted experiments to determine the "bare minimum of light" required by humans to see. The experiment determined that the probability at which a human can register a single photon is just above chance.
- Humans have an innate ability to perceive light, even when it is seemingly absent. We are reminded of the Advent witness of hope that "A Light Shines in the Darkness, and the Darkness Did Not Overcome it."