



Sermon Excerpts:

“Authenticating the Advent”

December 10, 2021

Luke 1:46-55 *“And Mary said: “My soul glorifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed, for the Mighty One has done great things for me— holy is his name. His mercy extends to those who fear him, from generation to generation. He has performed mighty deeds with his arm; he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts. He has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the humble. He has filled the hungry with good things but has sent the rich away empty...”*

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In her worship she proclaims a religious revolution: *that God has chosen a woman to be the vehicle which inaugurates his decisive revelation to the world, and a young, unmarried mother at that.*

In her worship she proclaims a social revolution: *that the proud, those who think themselves better than other people, will be brought down, and the humble, the despised and the outcast will be seen as the true recipients of God’s favor.*

In her worship she proclaims a political revolution: *that the powerful will be defeated and the oppressed will be freed and given fullness of life.*

In her worship she proclaims an economic revolution: *that the hungry will be fed, and those who are rich now will feel what it is like to go short.*

- If we are celebrating the Advent/Christmas authentically, we acknowledge God's immense love for the marginalized.
- If we are celebrating Advent/Christmas authentically, we must refuse to adopt the strategies of abuse and indifference from the powerful and prestigious.
- If we are celebrating Advent/Christmas authentically, we commit to seeing God's generosity and justice play out in our homes, communities, cultures, and nations.
- If we are celebrating Advent/Christmas authentically then our worship on Sunday should create a revolutionary perspective to use our "blessings" tangible and intangible to benefit others.

"It is easy to think Christmas, and it is easy to believe Christmas, but it is hard to act Christmas." Anonymous

This Christmas, make amends. Seek out a forgotten friend. Dismiss suspicion and replace it with trust. Share some treasure. Give a soft answer. Encourage youth. Keep a promise. Find the time. Forgo a grudge. Forgive an enemy. Listen. Apologize if you were wrong. Try to understand. Dismiss envy. Examine your demands on others. Think first of someone else. Appreciate. Be kind; be gentle. Laugh a little. Laugh a little more. Express your gratitude. Welcome a stranger. From the Editors of McCall's Magazine