



One Page Sermon

By Pastor Robb McCoy

December 18, 2022

Worship Every Sunday at 9:30 AM

The Fourth Sunday of Advent: Mary magnifies the Lord (Luke 1:39-58)

I recently went with my family to a place in Chicago called The Museum of Illusions. Just a block from Millennium Park on Wabash and Washington, it is easy to miss. Inside however is a line of optical illusions. Some in print, some set up with distorted furniture, slanted floors, or swirling lights. Some of the illusions are set up to take pictures. One of my family's favorites was the one on the right that makes it look like my daughter Lucy is about a foot taller than me.

It is an illusion using forced perspective and appears to magnify Lucy while at the same time it diminishes me.

Diminishment is a common, and often difficult to notice, form of abuse in relationships. The tools of sarcasm, ignoring emotions, gaslighting, and belittling are ways that someone can diminish someone. Diminishment however, it is the lie. The truth of God magnifies.

A loving relationship magnifies someone's desires, hopes, achievements and abilities. This is what Mary experienced with Elizabeth. In a time when Mary was vulnerable, Elizabeth magnified her. She reminded her that she was blessed and highly favored. Through her relationship, Mary was magnified. Her response then, was to magnify the Lord!

Be a magnifier. I know that all of us at times diminish others, but that is always a sin. Instead, we can magnify each other. And in so doing, we magnify the Lord. We who are created in God's image magnify God when we magnify others. We can raise each other up. We can remind each other of our favor.

This is the purpose of Church. It should be a place where we magnify each other. It is a place where generations can come together and magnify each other. Like Mary and Elizabeth, we may find favor in each other and magnify the Lord.



As I studied the text, I was drawn into the energy of praise. "My spirit rejoices..." (Luke 1:47) Drawing inspiration from long exposure images of dancers, I overlaid three poses, which made the flow of light become abstract. The front foot steps forward while the figure leans back. The dancer leaps, one knee pulled up toward the chest, head and hands forward. The head almost touches the toes in a 'c' shape while the arms spin outstretched. The energy of Mary's soul creates a trinitarian flow as she rejoices in the hope, the healing, and the freedom from oppression that her son will provide as a precedent for generations to come.

— from the artist statement for "Dance of the Soul" by Hannah Garrity | @sanctifiedart

