



Love
December 19, 2021
Luke 1:46-55

Connect

- It's cram week! Are you *ready* for Christmas? (*Is this a surface question or a trick spiritual question? Such is for you to decide.* 😊).
- Today's scripture passage may be the first ever Christmas song. Are you a fan of Christmas music? Why or why not? If so, what is your favorite Christmas song?

Engage

- Read *Luke 1:46-55*. Today's passage is known as Mary's Magnificat (*Latin for 'magnify'*). Sometimes we simply refer to it as Mary's Song. It's a prophetic word about what God is doing through her and the incarnation. What lyrics of her song comfort you? Which ones challenge you? Why?
- According to the text, this is the first word Mary speaks (*albeit via song*) about what the angel told her about bearing the Messiah. She has yet to tell Joseph. She didn't spill the beans to her parents. She sings, first, in the presence of her cousin, Elizabeth, who the angel also named to Mary as being pregnant with child. Aunt Liz embraces Mary at first sight and affirms her with love. Only then does Mary sing. Who is an older, more experienced and trusted person in your life that affirmed/affirms you, helping you find courage to live your life forward and sing your song? How might you be an Elizabeth for someone else?
- Each Sunday in this series, a lyric from the song, "*Right Here, Right Now*" by Jesus Jones has served as a theme lyric connected to the scripture focus of the day. This week's lyric is: "*I saw the decade in, when it seemed the world could change.*" Do you still believe the world can change or have you taken a more cynical approach to change in the world? Discuss your vantage point.

Next Steps

- These last few days before Christmas are great days to get our hearts, minds and spirits focused on what matters most. Beyond shopping lists, baking, and parties to attend, do something this week intentionally focused on sharing the love of God with someone unexpectedly. See, in their pleasant surprise, the gift of love you have shared. Imagine if everyone made this same effort. The world may look a lot more like LOVE!

Pray

- "*The song names it, O God: 'Love came down at Christmas.' Nothing could be truer! Jesus taught that loving You and loving our neighbors are top priority. Love is clearly the gift you long for us most to give and receive. May we honor your gift at Christmas and always, following where Love leads us. Amen.*"