

Nurturing Faith...
Every Day in Every Way



March 12, 2017

Second Sunday in Lent

Genesis 12:1-4a

Psalms 121

Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

John 3:1-17



Measuring God's Love. Object: A measuring cup, a tape measure, a watch.

One of my favorite Bible verses begins, "For God so loved the world." I was thinking about that verse and wondering -- just how great is God's love and how could we measure it? This morning I brought several things that we often use in measuring other things. I thought they might help us measure God's love.

Sometimes we use a measuring cup to measure things. If I were making some cookies, I would use a measuring cup to make sure that I put in exactly the right amount of flour, sugar, and milk. I wonder if we might use a measuring cup to measure God's love? The Bible says that "the Holy Spirit has flooded our hearts with God's love." (Romans 5:5) Well, if our hearts are flooded with God's love, I don't guess we could use a measuring cup to measure it.

If we were building something, we might use a tape measure to measure the length, width, and height of different things. I wonder if we might use a tape measure to measure God's love? The Bible tells us that God's love is higher than the heavens. (Psalm 108:4) If God's love is higher than the heavens, I don't think we could use a tape measure to measure it, could we?

We use a watch to measure time. There will probably be some people here this morning who will use their watch to measure how long the pastor's sermon lasts. I wonder if we could use a watch to measure how long God's love will last. The Bible tells us that God's love is from everlasting to everlasting. (Psalm 103:17) Wow! If God's love is from everlasting to everlasting, I don't guess we could measure it with a watch.

"For God so loved the world, that he gave His one and only Son that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." How do you measure a love like that? We can't measure it -- we don't need to -- but we do need to experience it.

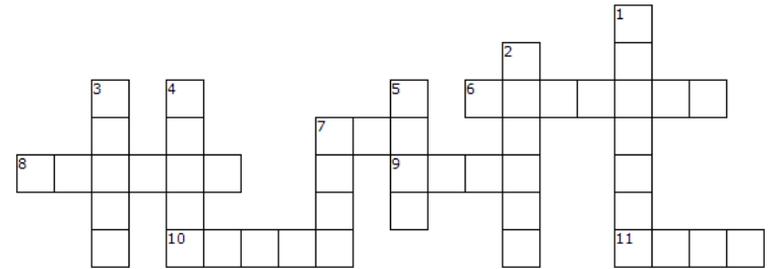
My prayer for you today is, "That you may understand how wide, how long, how high, and how deep his love really is. May you experience it, though it is so great you will never fully understand it." (Ephesians 3:18-19)

Heavenly Father, we thank you for your love -- a love so great that you gave your one and only Son so that we could have eternal life. Amen.

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Gospel Acclamation: The Son of Man must be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. (John 3:14-15)

Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

- 6. To accept something as true, genuine, or real
- 7. A male child
- 8. To die or be destroyed
- 9. To care very deeply for someone
- 10. A serpent or reptile
- 11. The period of time from birth to death

DOWN

- 1. Lasting forever, without end
- 2. Hot, dry area of land with few trees or plants
- 3. The earth with its inhabitants and all things upon it
- 4. Received the ten commandments from God
- 5. Alone in its kind, nothing like it
- 7. To rescue from danger or harm

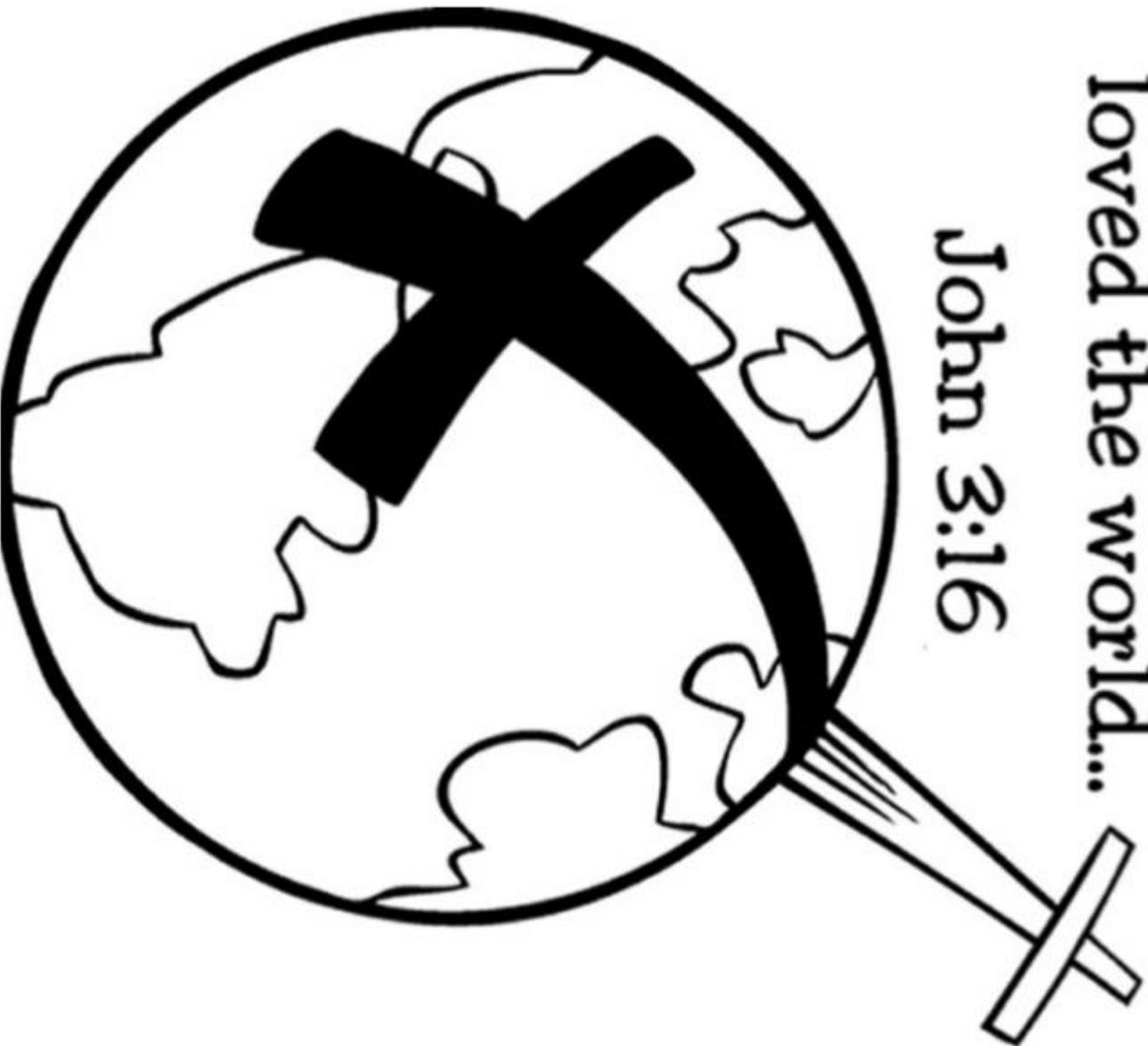
SNAKE	ETERNAL	SAVE	LOVE
LIFE	SON	PERISH	DESERT
ONLY	BELIEVE	MOSES	WORLD

CLOCK MAKING: Give the child a round piece of paper and supplies to draw a clock and to make the "hands" that move around and show the time. Use a brad to hold the cut-out hands in place. Have the child write Ps 103:17 in the middle of the clock. Write the words "GOD'S LOVE LASTS FOREVER!" around the outside edge of their clock.



**For God so
loved the world...**

John 3:16



**For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes
in him shall not perish but have everlasting life.**

John 3:16 (NIV)