

*Nurturing Faith...
Every Day in Every Way*

February 23, 2020

Exodus 24:12-18
Psalm 2
2 Peter 1:16-21
Matthew 17:1-9



Transfiguration of Our Lord

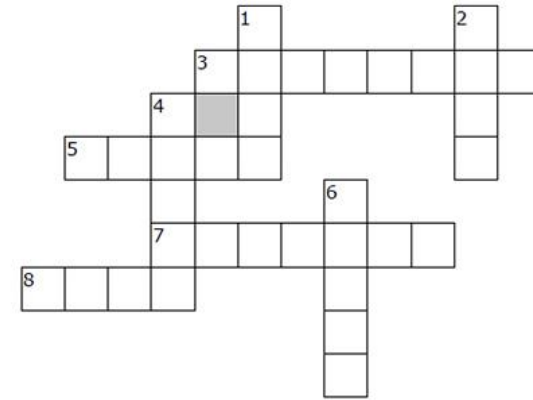
Good morning, friends! (Hold up one unlit candle) Can you tell me what this is? What does this candle do? (allow for answers) So, is this candle doing its job right now? Why isn't it lighting up things? How do we make it work? *light candle from altar candle*

In today's gospel message from Matthew, we hear about something other than a candle that lights up. Our story tells us that Jesus goes up a mountain with his disciples to pray. And then, while he's praying, Jesus starts to shine. Did you hear that part? There's this part in the story where it says that Jesus' face "shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white." We even have a special name for this story. We call it the Transfiguration story. "Transfiguration" is a fancy word that means "to be changed." And in a lot of ways, Jesus in today's story and this candle here are a lot alike. On its own, this candle cannot shine. But, with a little help from our other candle, then this candle is changed, or "transfigured," and is able to do what it's supposed to do: It shines a light. The same was true for Jesus. Because Jesus keeps inviting and receiving God's light and love into his life, then Jesus shines very brightly with God's light and love.

Did you know that we can do the same thing? God's love changes us and we carry that love around in our hearts. Let me show you. I want you to smile at our congregation...a great big toothy grin. Did you see their reaction? They smiled back at you, didn't they? Some even giggled. Because of God's love, you have the ability to shine so brightly that it brings light and joy to others. Let's pray together.

Gracious God, Thank you for your son, Jesus who received your light and love and who shares that light and love with us. Help us to share this gift with the rest of the world so that all may know how wonderful you are. Amen.

Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

- 3. A raised part of the earth's surface, larger than a hill
- 5. A white or gray mass of very small drops of water that floats in the sky
- 7. Articles of apparel such as pants, shirts, dresses, etc.
- 8. To have a strong feeling of affection for someone

DOWN

- 1. Something that is pleasing, enjoyable, or of high quality
- 2. Having a great distance from top to bottom
- 4. The sound produced by the vocal organs; what we use to speak
- 6. The color of snow or milk

HIGH VOICE	CLOUD GOOD	WHITE LOVE	MOUNTAIN CLOTHES
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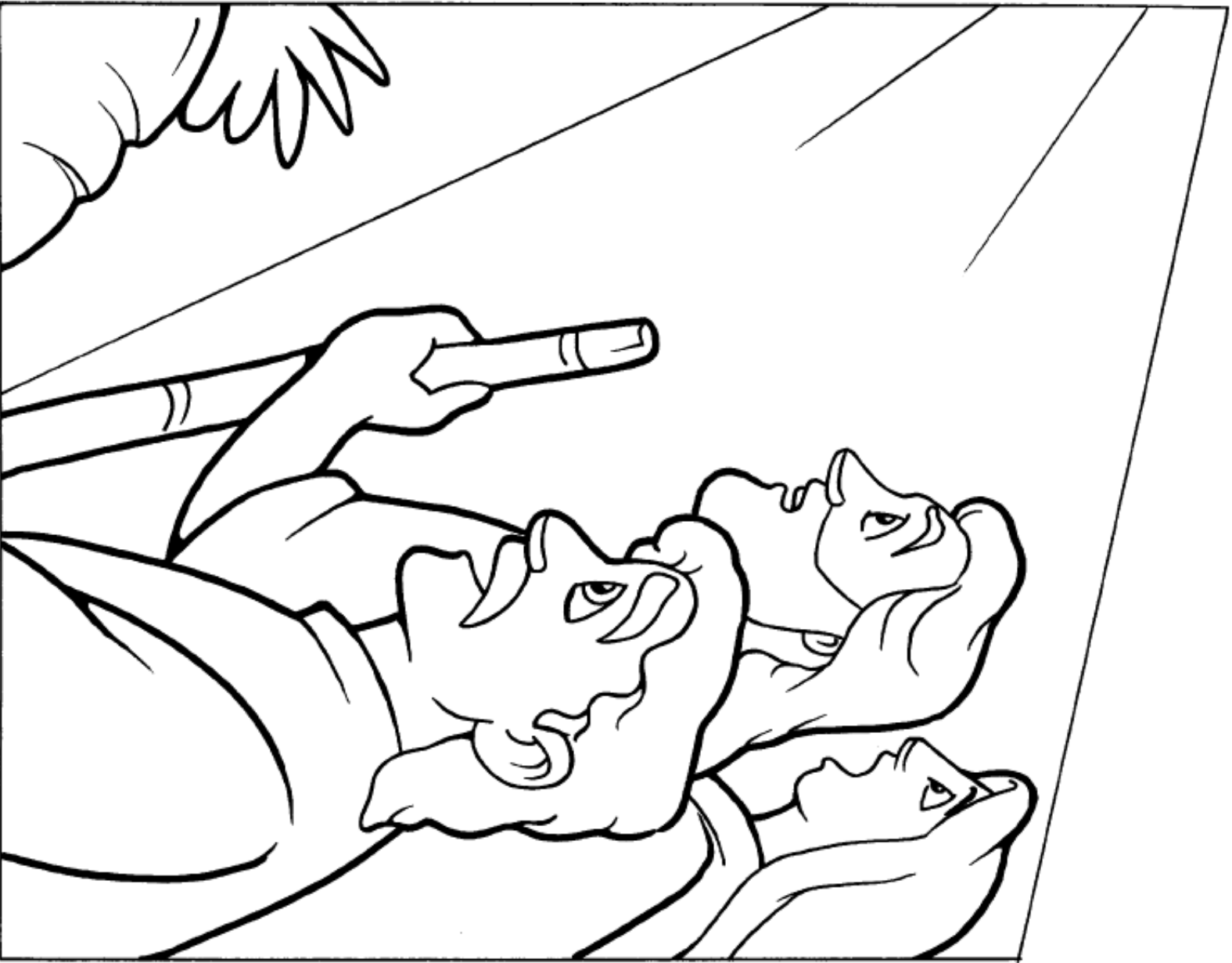
Activity: Using colorful construction paper, cut out medium size circles. On those circles, draw a big smiley face. Hand out your smiley faces to those who need a reminder of God's love.

Discussion Question Where/When do you most feel God's love?

Family Table Prayer for February:

God of Love and of my heart
You fill us with your light.
Help us to share your love with the world
morning, noon, and night. Amen.

February Memory Verse: 1 Corinthians 13:4 Love is patient, love is kind.



"This is my Son, whom I love; with
him I am well pleased. Listen to him!"

Matthew 17:5b

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