

Sacred Encounter

Matthew 17:1-9

Tin Can Luminaries

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Acrostic Poems

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Today's Bible Reading

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Additional Bible Readings

[Exodus 24:12-18](#)

[Psalm 2](#)

[2 Peter 1:16-21](#)

O Sacred Love, you encounter us in places where we seek you and in places where we flee from you. Ease our fears. Open our ears and eyes to you, wherever and in whomever you reveal yourself to us. Prepare us to journey as you call. Amen.

The word *transfigured* in verse 2 translates the Greek verb metamorphoo. Elsewhere in the New Testament, that verb suggests changes deep within a person. The story of Jesus' transfiguration uses outward details to hint at the deeper mystery of metamorphosis. The report of how three of Jesus' friends react to it reveals the tension between the desire humans have for illuminated truth and empirically demonstrative truth. Peter tries to contain the surprise and delight he feels at the shining Jesus before him by building three dwellings for the apparitions that are loosening his tight grasp of truth.

In the Season after the Epiphany, we celebrate revelations big and small. We call out the need to be present in the moment to catch them, and we track how memory, contemplation, and reflection on them change us. Epiphany culminates in the dazzling vision of Jesus on a mountaintop in which heaven and Earth, history and future, all come together with sun, cloud, past prophets, and a voice from above to reveal the unique and beloved nature of Jesus as God's son.

Epiphany began with the revelation of the promise of the change a child's life will bring to the magi and ends with the secret of the freedom that Christ's death and resurrection will bring. Throughout, we are reminded of how extraordinary the ordinary can be. In this season and at all times, we must live in the potential of the mundane to become sacred through revelation and reflection and in the challenge to make perfect love more real through action and devotion. To do this, we are called to be present and open ourselves to the numinous experience at any time and in any place.