

**Worship Material**  
**Meeting in the waters**  
**Material from Roots Bible Study**  
**Sunday 12th January**

**Begin with an opening prayer**

God, our loving parent,  
you encouraged Jesus at his baptism,  
saying you were well pleased  
when he presented himself  
along with the community  
for baptism in the Jordan.  
May you be pleased with us  
as we present ourselves here today.  
**Amen.**

**Read Luke 3:15-17,21-22**

**Bible notes**

This passage tells us who Jesus is via the witness of John the Baptist and an Old Testament-style theophany as the voice of God identifies Jesus as his Son (The voice from heaven is fulfilment of Genesis 22:2, Psalm 2:7 and Isaiah 42:1). The plunging of the person into the waters and the raising up again into the new life is intimately related to an experience with God in the Spirit. This is referred to again in Acts 10:38 when Peter recalls the 'anointing' of Jesus.

There is also an element of judgement in this passage. The 'fire' (v.16,17) relates to the fire of judgement for the sinful who do not repent. We are to expect a divided response to the message and person of Christ. The fire here also suggests Pentecost, and this is linked with the baptism of the Spirit both in the waters for Christ and in the future at the beginning of Acts.

## Prayer

Praise the Lord's glorious name.

Praise the Lord for glory and power.

Praise the Lord for his voice heard above the storms of life.

Praise the Lord for strength in our weakness.

Praise the Lord who blesses us with peace.

Praise the Lord whose Spirit is poured out for us.

Praise the Lord whose Spirit is kindled within our hearts.

Praise the Lord whose love everlasting is forever our comfort.

Praise the Lord whose very being has transformed us.

Praise the Lord who walks each step of life with us.

Praise the Lord, Praise the Lord!

**Amen.**

## A prayer to conclude

*Blow up a pair of water wings, put them on and hold out your arms, saying:*

Father, fill our water wings

with the breath of the Spirit,

so that holding the hand of your Son

we may be supported

through the waters of this week.

**Amen.**