



9-15 January 2022 • Faith 24/7

## Re-sourced by God

 **Luke 3.15-17,21-22**

John the Baptist promises that someone greater than him is coming who will baptize with the Spirit and with fire. Jesus himself is baptized, and his mission is affirmed by the presence of a dove and God's voice promising that he is dearly loved.

Now read Luke 3.15-17,21-22 see p.2 for text.

### A note on the passage

John the Baptist's message may, understandably, bring some fear with talk of Jesus winnowing and burning. But, for followers of Jesus, this fire comes to purify so that we too may understand ourselves to be beloved of God.

## Daily Prayer

Whenever you have a bath or shower this week, as you lather yourself, say sorry to God for wrong things you've thought, said or done, and things you have omitted to do. Try to be specific rather than vague and general. Remember that one aspect of baptism is cleansing. As the water pours over you to rinse away the soap, feel God's forgiveness and love washing your sins away. Thank God for forgiving you.



Find a way to show God's love to someone this week. Perhaps by sending a 'God loves you' card to someone who is struggling. Or buying a teddy bear for a child who may not have experienced much love this Christmas. Or visit/phone someone who is lonely. Maybe step out of your comfort zone by enlisting with a charity that writes to prisoners. The possibilities are endless! Think together as a household how you might continue to support people in your locality throughout the year.



What experiences do you have of feeling loved by God? What is it that resources and refreshes you?



Make time this week to indulge yourself with something you find relaxing and comforting – e.g. (but not limited to!) curling up with a teddy bear, watching a favourite film, reading a favourite story, drinking hot chocolate with sprinkles. You could do this together as a household. Ask God to bring you some restoration and refreshment as you do your thing. Think about how what you are doing might reveal an aspect or example of God's love. How can you show that love to others?



## POSTER

Make a family/household poster on a large sheet of paper. In the centre, write: 'We are loved'. Then ask each person to draw a self-portrait around the words. Invite each person to say one thing they especially love about each of the others, and write or draw these under the portraits. Use the poster as a 'thank you' prayer. If you live alone, write 'I am loved' in the centre, and write promises of God (e.g. from Isaiah 43.1-7) around it to show how much God loves you.

## LISTEN

Search the internet for Matt Redman's song, 'The Father's Song'. Listen to this, using the time to reflect and for meditation. For example, ask God to help you truly believe the words! Why not make up a dance or some actions to go with the flow of the music? Think about who else might need to hear these words this week. Is there someone you can share the song with? Write a reply to the words, telling God how you feel about him. Maybe you could write it to fit the same tune.



Today we welcome Chris Boden as our guest preacher. Chris is the Diocesan Stewardship Officer. This gives me the opportunity to say a huge THANK YOU to you all for the financial support you have given to Holy Trinity & St Matthew over the last year. We are truly grateful for the generosity you show in supporting the mission and ministry of this place.

Over the coming weeks you will receive further information about how your giving has impacted on the mission of the church over this last year and the plans we are making for the future – especially as we look towards setting up a Parish Giving Scheme.

This will become more important as we begin to move forward with our building project plans and as the new Ministry Share System is put in place. Hopefully you will feel encouraged to continue to give your time, talents and monies to the church, and to review that giving regularly.

Once again, thank you for all your support.

**Rob**

Daily Readings for week commencing 10 <sup>th</sup> January 2022		
<b>Monday</b>	Genesis 1: 1-19	Matthew 21: 1-17
<b>Tuesday</b>	Genesis 1: 20-2:3	Matthew 21: 18-32
<b>Wednesday</b>	Genesis 2: 4-end	Matthew 21: 33-end
<b>Thursday</b>	Genesis 3	Matthew 22: 1-14
<b>Friday</b>	Genesis 4: 1-16, 25-26	Matthew 22: 15-33
<b>Saturday</b>	Genesis 6: 1-10	Matthew 22: 34-end

***Pray for those in need...***Sally, Tristan, Mark, Katie-Louise, Pam, Sue, Bryn, Evelyn, Shane, Pat, Heather, Dorothy, Mandy, Joyce, Ian, Pamela, Juliette and Nicki. ***Please remember those who mourn the loss of loved ones at this time...***Jean Townsend