

**“Then Came Jesus”**  
**by Rev. John C. Tittle**

**Scripture: Matthew 3: 13-17 NRSV**

Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. <sup>14</sup> John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?"

<sup>15</sup> But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. <sup>16</sup> And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. <sup>17</sup> And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."

**Discussion Questions:**

1. What jumps out at you about this passage?
2. What do you think Jesus did between the manger and his baptism?
3. How does Jesus' baptism indicate his identification with us?
4. Since Jesus identified with us, we're to follow his lead and identify with the left out, leftovers, and least of these. Why is this important?
5. The Father said to Jesus at his baptism: "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."
6. What do you think this meant to Jesus?
7. How does it make you feel hearing it about yourself in Christ Jesus?
8. How can remembering Christ's baptism and our baptism help us in challenging times?