

## **Discussion and Reflection Questions Into The Light: Love - 11<sup>th</sup> of January 2026**

### **Read: Matthew 3:13-17**

<sup>13</sup> Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptised by him. <sup>14</sup> John would have prevented him, saying, ‘I need to be baptised 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 fulfil all righteousness.’ Then he consented. <sup>16</sup> And when Jesus had been baptised, 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.’

### **Questions**

1. God is described as “love” in scripture. How do you find this image of who God connects with you?
2. Why do you think Jesus, who was without sin, chose to be baptised by John at the Jordan? Does this say anything about love?
3. How do you think that John the Baptist felt throughout this experience? Does this reflect anything about responding to God’s love?
4. What is the significance of the heavens opening and the Spirit descending like a dove? What might this say about God’s love and presence with Jesus and with us?
5. God calls Jesus the “beloved”. Do you think God thinks of us the same way. What gives you the confidence or doubt in your response?
6. How can we walk into the light of God’s love?
7. The first value of our church is Love: (God’s love propels our love) Love is at the heart of everything we do. Loving God with all our heart, mind and body, we allow God’s love to flow through us towards others. How can we demonstrate this value in our everyday lives?

### **Prayer**

Eternal God,  
at the baptism of Jesus in the river Jordan  
you proclaimed him your beloved Son,  
and anointed him with the Holy Spirit:  
grant that all who are baptised into his name  
may keep the covenant they have made,  
and boldly confess him as Lord and Saviour;  
who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns,  
one God, in glory everlasting.