

28.13 Jesus Is Baptized (Matthew 3:13–17; Mark 1:9–11; Luke 3:21, 22) [Save John 1:29–34 for after the temptation of Jesus.]

✓ “Check” it out; opinion, inference, supposed conversation, or fact one can verify follows
[. . .] indicates a remark to the teacher that usually should not be read. It also indicates answers to questions.

Visuals and Tools:

- Pictures and other visuals found at the end of this lesson. Please give credit to the sources of pictures.
- Check “Activities” and “Handwork” found below for additional materials.

Bible Time Tips and Terms to Teach: Vocabulary words are enlarged for flashcards at the end of this lesson. Print, cut out, and glue to card stock, or just print on colorful cardstock.

- *the Trinity*: three persons of God—Father, Son, Holy Spirit
- *to baptize*: to dip, to dunk, to immerse. John's baptism was for repentance; Christian baptism is to identify oneself with Christ and to show a desire to live for Christ.
- *repentance*: being sorry for one's sins and turning from them to serve God
- *beloved*: well loved

Scripture (ESV):

Matthew 3:13 Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptized by him. 14 John would have prevented him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?” 15 But Jesus answered him, “Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.” Then he consented. 16 And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; 17 and behold, a voice from heaven said, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.”

Mark 1:9 In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. 10 And when he came up out of the water, immediately he saw the heavens being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. 11 And a voice came from heaven, “You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.”

Luke 3:21 Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heavens were opened, 22 and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form, like a dove; and a voice came from heaven, “You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.”

Introduction/Review:

John the Baptizer preached repentance “for the kingdom of heaven is very near.” By *kingdom of heaven* John meant Jesus Himself. He knew this because he was the messenger who was to go ahead of the Christ in order to announce His coming.

John's baptism was a baptism of repentance. He baptized those who repented of their sin.

Story:

Coming to be baptized

Jesus grew up in Nazareth of Galilee. It was time for His ministry to begin, but first He needed to do something—to be baptized. Therefore, he walked the ✓70 or 80 miles (3 or 4 days' walk) from Nazareth [locate on map] to the Jordan River—to the ✓same place east of Jericho where Israel had crossed with Joshua, and later where Elijah and Elisha had crossed. This is where John the Baptizer had been baptizing, perhaps for six months (Gill in Online Bible). He had been preaching the doctrine of repentance—to be sorry for sins and to change one's way of life. He had baptized large numbers of people.

So here Jesus comes down the road to John. ✓“You need to baptize Me, John,” said Jesus.

“Do you come to me?!” exclaimed John, recognizing Jesus was superior to him. “I need to be baptized by you!”

Fulfilling all righteousness

But Jesus answered him, “Let it happen now, for I need to fulfill all righteousness.”*

What does *fulfill all righteousness* mean? It means to do all that is right to do. Why had people been baptized? [To show repentance, sorrow, and change because of sin.] That was not why Jesus needed to be baptized. Why not? Because He had never sinned and didn't need to repent or change. Jesus wanted to be baptized to do what God required for righteousness.

Being baptized

✓“Okay, then,” replied John, and he baptized Jesus—he dipped Jesus under the water and brought Him back up out of the water.**

As Jesus, praying, came up out of the water, something amazing happened: the heavens tore open, the Holy Spirit of God descended in bodily form like a dove and landed on Jesus.

Revealing the Trinity

But then something even more amazing took place: A voice from heaven (whose voice would that be?—the voice of God Himself) stated, “You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.” Look up Isaiah 42:1. Read the verse: “Behold my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my Spirit upon him. . . .” What does this verse sound like? It is like what God said about Jesus in Isaiah.

What a marvelous things was happening here. God was fulfilling prophecy with all three Persons of the Trinity present: God the Father—how was He there? [in the voice], God the Son—how was He there? [in the body], and God the Holy Spirit—how was He there? [in the form of a dove]. All these were present and acclaiming the godness and goodness of Jesus Christ. What an endorsement of Jesus as He begins His work in the world!

*“It should be noted that this protest of John’s needed to be made, for it saved Jesus from being baptized without explanation, as if he were a sinner. Baptism without such explanation might have compromised our Lord’s claim as the sinless one” (Unknown source at Online Bible).

[Jesus answered John,] ““Permit me for this moment to appear as your inferior. The future will make plain and clear the difference between us, both as to our missions and our natures.’ The words show a Messianic consciousness on the part of Jesus” (Unknown source at Online Bible).

**“[S]ince it is said, that he came up out of the water, he must first have gone down into it; must have been in it, and was baptized in it; a circumstance strongly in favour of baptism by immersion” (Unknown source at Online Bible).

Lessons from this lesson:

- Jesus is God: God attested to this fact by speaking from heaven; the Holy Spirit, by descending upon Him. The fact that the heavens tore open at that very moment indicates a work of God to show Jesus is more than man.
- Jesus always did what was right to do. May we follow His example as He gives us grace to do so.
- Jesus prayed as He was lifted out of the water. Praying at all times is good. When we pray at special times (like at a baptism), we can express our gratitude to God for that experience and blessing.

Activities:

- Play dough: bird
- Sing “John Baptized Jesus” found below.
- Print, front to back, the visual below for Matthew 3:17. Shine a flashlight from the back so that the words show through.
- In your church visit the baptistery so that students can see how a person would be dipped. Explain what happens in preparation for and at a baptism. Be sure students understand that Christian baptism takes place *after* a person has received Christ as Saviour. (I personally believe we should be cautious about baptizing children, seeking, rather, to see the fruit of repentance and faith.)
- Print and prepare take-home booklets for this story. The online source for ordering or downloading for \$12.99 is <https://www.carsondellosa.com/products/0499--New-Testament-Take-Home-Bible-Stories-Resource-Book-0499#/?book%20media%20type=f389e45b92884d48844baaf09d49e3c5>. The book is less expensive at other sites, but those sites do not offer the ebook.
- Review questions: (Game: Since baptism is a solemn and important ordinance, be careful not to let the following activity become irreverent. For each correct answer, a student may “baptize” a wooden figure in a small square plastic container with water deep enough to completely submerge the figure.)
 1. At what river was John baptizing? [The Jordan River.]
 2. From where did Jesus come to John? [Nazareth of Galilee.]
 3. How long did this journey take? [Three days.]
 4. Why did Jesus come to John? [To be baptized.]
 5. How did John respond to Jesus? What did he say? [“I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?”]
 6. Since Jesus had not sinned and didn’t need to be baptized for repentance, why was He baptized? [To fulfill all righteousness—to do what is right.]
 7. If Jesus “came up out the water,” what kind of baptism took place? [Dipping or immersion, not sprinkling.]
 8. When Jesus came up out of the water, what happened to the heavens? [They were torn open.]
 9. Who descended upon Jesus? [The Holy Spirit in the form of a dove.]
 10. What did the voice from heaven say? [“You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.”]

Memory Verse[s]:

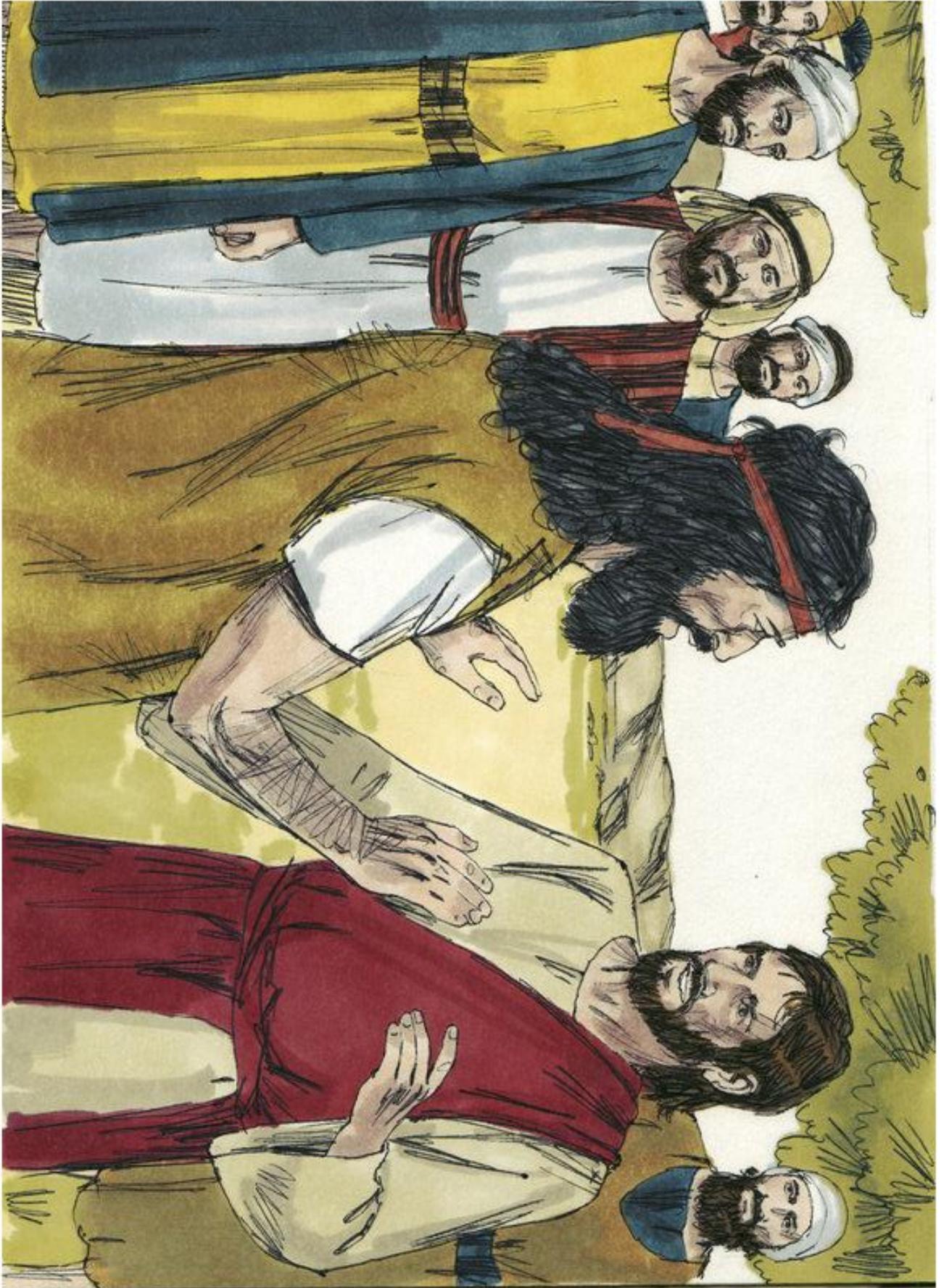
- Matthew 3:17— “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.”
- John 1:1–14:
 - 1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
 - 2 He was in the beginning with God.
 - 3 All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.
 - 4 In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.
 - 5 And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.
 - 6 There was a man sent from God, whose name was John.
 - 7 This man came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all through him might believe.
 - 8 He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light.
 - 9 That was the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world.
 - 10 He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him.
 - 11 He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him.
 - 12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name:

13 who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

Handwork:

- Make a flying dove according to directions found below. It might be best to print the dove itself on card stock and the wings on paper.







John Baptized Jesus

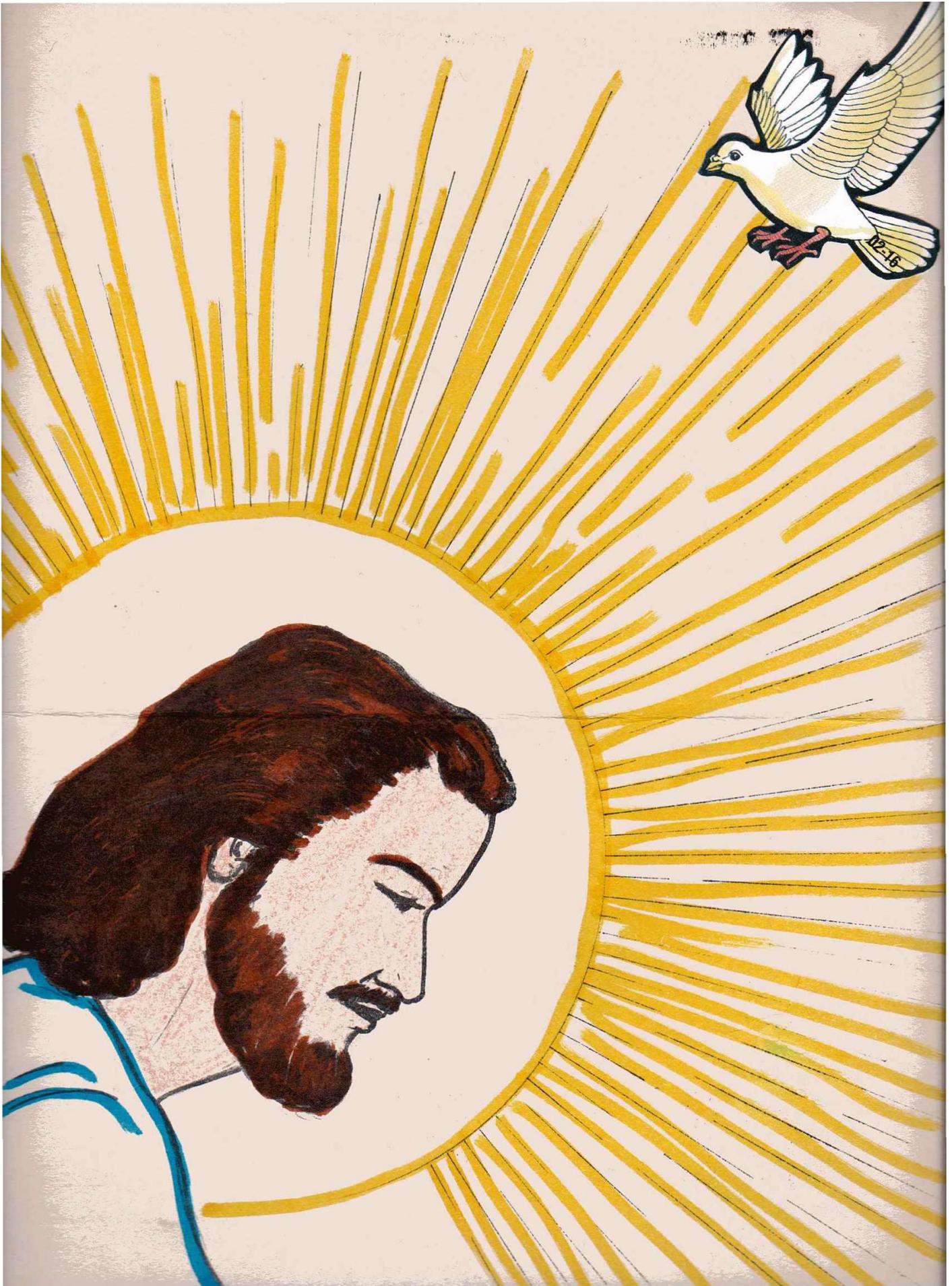
Words and Music by Marilyn Alexander

John bap - tized Je - sus in the riv - er Jor - dan. dan. The

heav - ens o - pened; the Spir - it came down. God said, "This is My Son." John bap - tized

Je - sus in the riv - er Jor - - - -

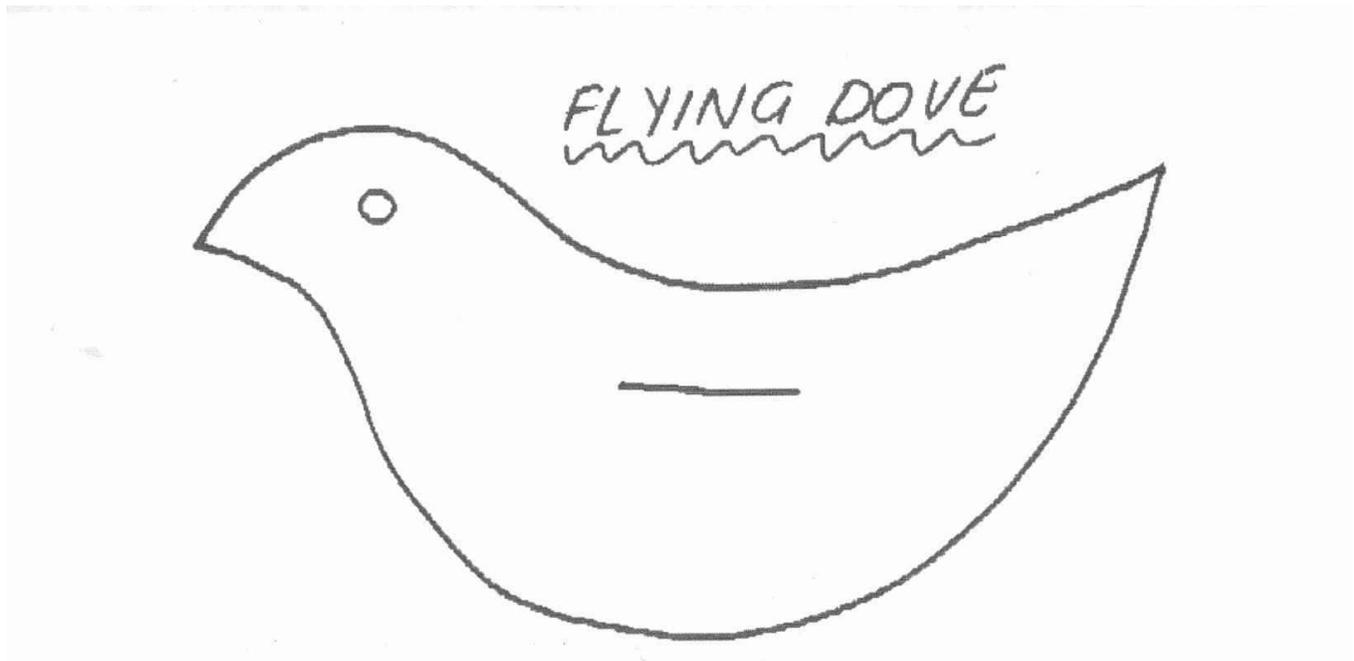
The musical score is written for piano and voice. It consists of three systems of music. The first system has two staves: a vocal line in the treble clef and a piano accompaniment in the bass clef. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: "John bap - tized Je - sus in the riv - er Jor - dan. dan. The". The second system also has two staves. The lyrics are: "heav - ens o - pened; the Spir - it came down. God said, 'This is My Son.' John bap - tized". The third system has two staves. The lyrics are: "Je - sus in the riv - er Jor - - - -". The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line and chords that support the vocal melody.



This is my
beloved
in whom I
am

well

pleased.



Color the dove. Cut out and color the other side of the dove. Glue small wiggly eyes to both sides of the dove. Cut the slit. Fold the above rectangle on dashed lines accordion style for wings. Insert the “wings” through the slit, centering them. Tape the ends of a 12-inch string to each of the wings. Cause the bird to fly by moving the string up and down.

<http://www.dltk-kids.com/t.asp?t=http://www.dltk-kids.com/animals/image/bflyingdove.gif>