

4 God of all living,
God of all loving,
God of the seedling, the snow and the sun,
teach us, deflect us,
Christ reconnect us,
using us gently and making us one.

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Dismissal

Go, knowing that God flows through you,
filling you and refreshing you.

Go, to carry God's living water to others
that they may be refreshed also.

The Grace

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with us all.

Amen.



Welcome to Worship

River Sunday

September 27, 2020



Greetings and Notices

Lighting of the Candle

Call to Worship

We call to the rivers to worship with us:

**the Clutha, Rakaia, Manawatu,
and Waikato -**

all rivers that flow to the sea.

We invite the streams to sing:

**Trout and koura, inanga whitebait,
cockabullies and eels sing praise.**

We invite the river birds
to add their praise

**Whio, and mallard duck,
kingfisher and pukeko call their praise.**

We join with the waters
in their hymn of praise:

**waterfalls, singing streams,
rushing rapids and still pools,
ripples that dance at the river mouth.**

We celebrate the song of the river

Sing, river, sing praise to your creator.



Adapted from Season of Creation worship resources

Fill Your Heart with Joy and Gladness

1. Fill your hearts with joy and gladness,
sing and praise your God and mine!
Great the Lord in love and wisdom,
might and majesty divine!
He who framed the starry heavens
knows and names them as they shine.



2. Praise the Lord, his people, praise him!
wounded souls his comfort know;
those who fear him find his mercies,
peace for pain and joy for woe;
humble hearts are high exalted,
human pride and power laid low.

3. Praise the Lord for times and seasons,
cloud and sunshine, wind and rain;
spring to melt the snows of winter
till the waters flow again;
grass upon the mountain pastures,
golden valleys thick with grain.

4. Fill your hearts with joy and gladness,
peace and plenty crown your days;
love his laws, declare his judgements,
walk in all his words and ways;
he the Lord and we his children
praise the Lord, all people, praise!

Opening prayer

We remember the rivers
God created in Eden and across our planet,
**rivers that are the lifeblood of Earth
and vital for all that lives.**

We remember the streams of our past,
the pools and ponds where we played

We think of those in the Western world
who use more water than they need.

Prick our consciences and stir us to action to conserve water.

God of the living water

Like the beating of our hearts, water is so much a part of our surroundings
and our bodies that we tend to take it for granted.

Without water there is no life as we know it.

We thank you for your abundant gift of water
and ask that you help us become responsible guardians of it
and generous in sharing your gift with other.

Amen

Touch the earth lightly

Touch the earth lightly,
use the earth gently,
nourish the life of the world in our care:
gift of great wonder,
ours to surrender,
trust for the children tomorrow will bear.

2 We who endanger,
who create hunger,
agents of death for all creatures that live,
we who would foster
clouds of disaster,
God of our planet, forestall and forgive!

3 Let there be greening,
birth from the burning,
water that blesses and air that is sweet,
health in God's garden,
hope in God's children,
regeneration that peace will complete.



and the feeling of celebration as we splashed each other.

We remember and rejoice.

**Thank you, God, for rivers,
streams that flow with the water of life.**

Amen
Creation worship resources

Adapted from Season of



Prayer of Confession

God of the Living Water,
*You show your care for the land by sending rain;
you make it rich and fertile. You fill the streams with water;* (Psalm 65:9)

But we have allowed our cattle to foul your once pristine waters.
We have treated the streams as waste dumps.
We have diverted or covered over streams for our convenience.

We are sorry and promise to protect and nurture the streams

Wherever the river flows, life will flourish and there will be swarms of living things (Eze 47:9)

But we have polluted the rivers with our industrial waste.
We have cut down trees, so topsoil is washed into the rivers.
We have dammed rivers, destroying the habitats of many creatures
and made it almost impossible for others to complete their life cycles.

We are sorry and promise to protect and nurture the rivers

God made pools from which to water the forest of growing trees. (Ecc 2:6)

But we have turned some pools into stagnant, lifeless areas.
We have been greedy takers of water causing some pools to empty and some
rivers to run dry.

We are sorry and promise to protect and nurture the pools.

God of the Living Water,
we know you hear and forgive us.
Strengthen our resolve to become kaitiaki of the life-giving waters
you have given us.

Amen

Bible Readings: Exodus 17:1-7
John 7:37-38



Reflection

Our Offerings

God of the rivers,
your love flows within us
filling us and spilling over to others.
This week we have shared this love
in gifts of time, money, and service
and we ask your blessing on these gifts.
Amen.

Prayer for Others

God of the rivers, streams, and lakes

We remember those who are without water
because their rivers have dried up.

**Help those responsible for damming rivers in China and elsewhere
to realise the long-term consequences of their actions.**

We remember those whose rivers have flooded,
destroying their homes and livelihoods.

We ask for them to receive the help they need.

We remember those who have to walk long distances
to access safe water.

**Thank you for those groups who work to ensure
all have access to safe drinking water.**

Be with them as they work and keep them safe and well.

We remember those who suffer from water-borne diseases.

May their suffering be alleviated, and their water supply made safe.

We think of those who pollute your waterways.

Help us to stand up to them and demand greater accountability.

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