



SEASON OF CREATION

September 19, 2021

Wonderful Water

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF FIRST PEOPLES

(A bowl of water can be prominently displayed. At the beginning of the service the worship leader can cup some water from the bowl in their hand, raise it up and then let it trickle back into the bowl)

For thousands of years the indigenous people have walked in this land, have harvested from its rivers, lakes and seas and have never defiled those waters.

We acknowledge the (.....) People of this place, who have dwelt here and who have cared for the land and its waters.

We are attentive to their wisdom in managing the waters without destruction, in harvesting from their bounty of life without exploitation, and we live in commitment to the ongoing journey of reconciliation between indigenous and non-indigenous Australians.

CALL TO WORSHIP

As many rivers merge together into the sea,
we have come together to worship our God, the fountain of living water.
As we worship God in spirit and in truth, let our hearts overflow with praise, ***let us be cleansed by the waters of God's grace and forgiveness.***
Let us be refreshed and restored by Jesus Christ
who promises us the waters of life through his resurrection.

SONG

Peace like a River

<https://vimeo.com/worshipwell/download/561639225/ba1377d70b>

PRAYER OF ADORATION AND THANKSGIVING

With hearts welling up in praise for God the fountain of all goodness, let us adore the Lord.

we praise you and adore you for the gift of water that sustains all life.

At this time of worship, we remember with thanksgiving

the manifold manifestations of your grace through the gift of water

God of the deep ocean and the tiny brook,

we praise you and adore you for the gift of water that sustains all life.

At this time of worship, we remember with thanksgiving

the manifold manifestations of your grace through the gift of water.

We remember the waters of Massah and Meribah

And we praise and thank you for you are the God of gracious provision.

We remember the healing waters of the pool of Siloam

And we praise and thank you for you are a God of ceaseless compassion.

We remember your baptism in the waters of the river Jordan

And we praise and thank you for you are a God of transformation.

Today we worship and adore you, God of provision, compassion and transformation.

Let this worship enable us to be responsible stewards of your provision, channels of your compassion and agents of your transformation.

Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God, the very source of life, whose spirit hovered over waters at the time of creation;
God in Jesus Christ, who came as living waters to quench the thirsty;
God the Holy Spirit, who waters and brings forth the fruit; we come to your presence
confessing our attitudes of greed, dominance and insensitivity towards your wonderful
creation, and particularly towards water.

Let justice roll down like rivers, and let rivers roll out in justice.

We confess that we have been irresponsible in our use of water, wasting it to satisfy our
comfortable lives.

In many places we have commodified and privatised water, a natural resource, denying
people access to it.

In the name of development projects, water sources have been drained or polluted with
industrial waste, causing risk to flora and fauna.

Let justice roll down like rivers, and let rivers roll out in justice.

We acknowledge the lack of cooperation between different authorities and organisations
to manage water resources fairly.

We confess our failure, as faith communities, to address water justice and seek
forgiveness for not speaking out for the thirsty and the dying in situations of drought.

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We confess to being silent spectators as many vulnerable communities walk miles every day in search of water for their families.

We come to your presence ashamed of our apathy and insincerity towards the abuse of water and other natural resources, asking you to inspire us to be challenged to conserve, preserve and use water prudently.

ASSURANCE

***Let justice roll down like rivers, and let rivers roll out in justice.
God who brought water out of the rock,
God who quenched the thirst of those dying in the wilderness,
God who in Jesus gave us living waters,
listen to all those who truly confess and grant us forgiveness so that we act responsibly in our use of water,
become sensitive to the desperate needs of those without water,
and gain wisdom in conserving and preserving water
so that rivers will roll out in justice among all nations and all peoples. Amen.***

SONG

As the Deer Pants – Robin Mann

<https://vimeo.com/worshipwell/download/597580505/71c1762e44>

PRAYER FOR OTHERS

You will need: a glass of clean water, a glass of salty water, a bottle of cool drink and an empty glass. You might like to play soft music in the background.

Let us pray for the whole universe.

(Hold up the glass of clean water.)

Lord let this glass of clean water remind us of the available sources of fresh drinking water.

Help us to protect the gift of water and utilise it with the spirit of sanctity and responsibility.

May our lives be so balanced that greed makes way for need and the tendency to waste makes way for a commitment to save.

Fountain of life, let there be water for our world.

May our lives be so balanced that greed makes way for need and the tendency to waste makes way for a commitment to save.

Fountain of life, let there be water for our world.

(Hold up the glass of salty water.)

Let this glass of salty water remind us of the tears of those whose lives have been threatened by the excessive salination of their water resources. Let those who contribute to the rising sea levels shed tears of repentance and learn

to lead a simple life so that others can 'simply live'.

Creator of new life, transform us so that we may be channels of life.

(Hold up a bottle of cool drink.)

God of justice, we pray for all those who are resisting multinational corporations and developmental processes which plunder our natural resources and threaten the livelihood of millions.

We pray for all organisations involved in the preservation of water, and with it, your gift of life. Help, guide and sustain them in their endeavours.

God of justice strengthen those who seek to preserve your creation.

(Hold up the empty glass.)

Lord, we pray for all communities involved in issues of water justice.

Give us compassion to walk with those who lack the water of life.

Help us to empty ourselves of prejudice and fill us with a vision of solidarity and fellowship so that we can work together in conserving the Gift of water.

God of justice give us your vision for justice.

Lord, we pray for the Church and its mission and vision.

Inspire us to work towards justice for all.

Transform our lives so that we may be channels of justice - not just in what we preach, but in our daily practice.

Let your churches be role models within our communities in conserving water and preserving life in all its fullness.

Bring churches together to work in unity so that justice will prevail and water will be available for ours and future generations.

God of hope make us instruments of hope.

Let us pray together this contemporary version of the Lord's Prayer

Our God, father and mother,

From whom and to whom all lives flow,

Your name is holy for you water every creature with life.

May your justice roll down like waters among us and throughout all the world.

Give us water sufficient for our living,

and help us to share what we have with those who are dying of thirst.

Forgive us our insensitivity and irresponsibility, and our abuse of creation.

And teach us to forgive one another.


Lead us not into the temptation of accumulation, greed and power, and deliver us from our endless consumption.

For your word is like water cleansing us from evil,

your reign is righteousness flowing like an ever-flowing stream

dismantling the powers and principalities from generation to generation, from history to history, for ever and ever. Amen.





READINGS Proverbs 1: 20-33 Mark 4:35-41

REFLECTION

Wonderful Water

<https://vimeo.com/worshipwell/download/598053278/d1b262be11>

SONG

Still – Hillsong United

<https://vimeo.com/worshipwell/download/597578222/dcc15abfd9>

BLESSING

May God the Creator send rains on your land with water for life.

May Christ our Redeemer give you the living water of eternal life.

And may the Spirit of God quench your thirst with springs of life flowing up from within.

We go in peace to love and serve the Lord

In the name of Christ. Amen.

The peace of the earth be with you, the peace of the heavens too;

the peace of the rivers be with you, the peace of the oceans too.

Deep peace falling over you, God's peace growing in you.

BLESSING SONG

Deep Stillness – Robin Mann

<https://vimeo.com/worshipwell/download/558964781/18a1e37f99>

Prayers have been adapted from Anglican EcoCare, Diocese of Perth resources for Sustainable September, 2018 (Week 2)