



WODEN VALLEY UNITING CHURCH

Pentecost 18, 27th September 2026



LIVING WATER , Season of Creation 2026

“There will be large numbers of fish, because this water flows there and makes the salt water fresh; so where the river flows everything will live. Fruit trees of all kinds will grow on both banks of the river. Their leaves will not wither, nor will their fruit fail. Every month they will bear fruit, because the water from the sanctuary flows to them. Their fruit will serve for food and their leaves for healing.” (Ezekiel 47:9,12)

WE GATHER AS PEOPLE OF GOD

The Gong calls us to gather, to be present in this time of worship.

Prelude invites us to a time for quiet preparation

Lighting the Community Candle

As light comes from this candle, may the blessing of Jesus Christ come to us and brighten our way. May the word of Christ bring light in to the darkness of this world, and also to us as we gather in worship today and await his coming to make all things new. Amen.

Acknowledgement of Country

For this Land

All: We give thanks!

For the First Peoples

All: We give thanks!

We honour the custodians of sacred stories, of dreamings and the connections with the deep earth and oceans.

All: We pay our respect to the elders past, present and emerging.

May we work together for the restoration of the Land and Sea and Her Peoples

All: We commit for the true reconciliation between all people.

Call to Worship

Mighty God, we enter your presence with thanksgiving and hope. You have formed us as your people. We set our attention and seek your wisdom, encouragement, and grace. Reveal your will and display your glory among your people as we worship your holy name.

Let us worship God !

Hymn of Worship TiS 111 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty , the King of creation

Opening prayer

L: In the beginning =, the Spirit of God hovered over the waters. And God called them good.

All : Come Holy Spirit and cleanse the waters.

L: The prophet saw a river flowing from the Temple, and wherever the river flowed, everything lived.

All: Come Holy Spirit and renew the face of the Earth.

L: Jesus cried out, ‘ Let anyone who is thirsty come to me.. Out of the believer’s heart shall flow rivers of living water.”

All: Come, Holy Spirit and heal your people.

Almighty and ever living God, we thank you for your love in all creation, and especially for your gift of water to sustain and cleanse all life. Christ is the living water, cleansing, refreshing and making all things new. So now we offer our

thanks for the waters that bring beauty to all that we enjoy, the wild places, the bush, the mountains, coast and the sea. We give thanks and praise for all good lands, for the trees and pastures, for our plentiful crops, and for the living water that quenches them.

(Adapted from Anglican Aotearoa NS prayer book_

Prayer of Confession

For our prayer of confession today , we will watch a video filmed Kamilaroi woman, Diane Whittaker who says the responsibility to protect and nurture our rivers and waterways back to health lies with Aboriginal people.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7VkPVIzpJz0>

Gracious God, we look upon your waters, and we grieve; Rivers run polluted, oceans choke with plastic. Marine life disappears from warming seas. Coral reefs fade and fisheries collapse. We confess that we have not guard your waters.

Kyrie , Kyrie, Eleison, Kyrie, Kyrie, Eleison. (Taize song)

We have treated water as a commodity not as a sacred gift, and consumed without thought of others who struggle without sufficient water.

Kyrie, Kyrie,...

Gracious God, we have been silent and turned out head the other way to the injustice done to the rivers, seas and underwater

Kyrie, Kyrie,...

Declaration of forgiveness

Hear then the Christ's word of grace to us;
Your sins are forgiven.

Thanks be to God.

The Peace

Friends, we are forgiven people. Let us share a sign of peace with each other.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

WE RECEIVE THE WORD FOR OUR TIME

Prayer of Illumination

Reader : Holy One, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit, that, as the Scriptures are read and proclaimed, we may hear your word with joy.

Exodus 17: 1- 7

Water from the Rock

17 From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. ²The people quarreled with Moses and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?" ³But the people thirsted there for water, and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" ⁴So Moses cried out to the LORD, "What shall I do for this people? They are almost ready to stone me." ⁵The LORD said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile and go. ⁶I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. ⁷He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the LORD, saying, "Is the LORD among us or not?"

Responsorial Psalm 78: 1-4, 12- 16

Give ear, O my people, to my teaching;
incline your ears to the words of my mouth.

² I will open my mouth in a parable;

I will utter dark sayings from of old,

³ things that we have heard and known,
that our ancestors have told us.

⁴ We will not hide them from their children;

***we will tell to the coming generation
the glorious deeds of the LORD and his might
and the wonders that he has done.***

In the sight of their ancestors he worked marvels
in the land of Egypt, in the fields of Zoan.

***¹³ He divided the sea and let them pass through it
and made the waters stand like a heap.***

***¹⁴ In the daytime he led them with a cloud
and all night long with a fiery light.***

***¹⁵ He split rocks open in the wilderness
and gave them drink abundantly as from the deep.***

***¹⁶ He made streams come out of the rock
and caused waters to flow down like rivers.***

Hymn TiS 668 Touch the earth lightly use the earth gently

Reflection ‘Living Water in Australian Context ‘

Dr. John Williams, a founding member of the [Wentworth Group of Concerned Scientists](#) and advocated for a rational debate on Australia's water resource, and a lay preacher of Uniting Church.

Music for Reflection

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD

Offering

Prayer of the people

Lord's Prayer

We pray our common prayer that Christ taught us.

Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver, Source of all that is and that shall be, Father and Mother of us all, Loving God, in whom is heaven: The hallowing of your name echoes through the universe! The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world! Your heavenly will be done

by all created beings! Your beloved community of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come on earth. With the bread we need for today, feed us. In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us. In times of temptation and test, strengthen us. From trials too great to endure, spare us. From the grip of all that is evil, free us. For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and forever. Amen.

Adapted from The New Zealand Book of Prayer | He Karakia Mihinare o Aotearoa. This version of the Lord's prayer was influenced by Maori theologians.

WE GO OUT INTO THE WORLD

Closing Hymn 'For you deep stillness of the silent inland'

For you deep stillness of the silence inland
For you deep blue of the desert skies
For you flame red of the rocks and stones
For you sweet water from hidden springs
From the edges seek the heartlands and when you're burn by the journey
May the cool winds of the hovering spirit
soothe and replenish you
in the name of Christ.
In the name of Christ.

For you, deep stillness of the silent inland.
For you deep blue of the desert skies
For you flame red of the rocks and stones
For you sweet water from hidden spiring
From the edges seek the heartlands
and when you're burnt by the journey
may the cook winds of the hovering spirit
soothes and replenish you
In the name of Christ
In the name of Christ
In the name of Christ.

Julie Perrin and Robin Mann, From NCYC '99 Songbook.

Word of Mission

When our wells have dry,

You befriended us with water

When we doubt our own value

Yet you disagree

When we are scared to be vulnerable

You lead from the cross

When we are trapped in denial

You speak through earth and sky

Thus enfolded and equipped for lives of love and justice.

Blessing Song

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 ocean too.

Deep peace falling over you;

God's peace growing in you.

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Extinguishing the candles

As we extinguish our candles, we know that the light of the risen Christ continues to shine through the living of our lives.

Postlude

Sharing and Notices