

# Season of Creation

## CELEBRATING THE RIVERS AND WATERWAYS

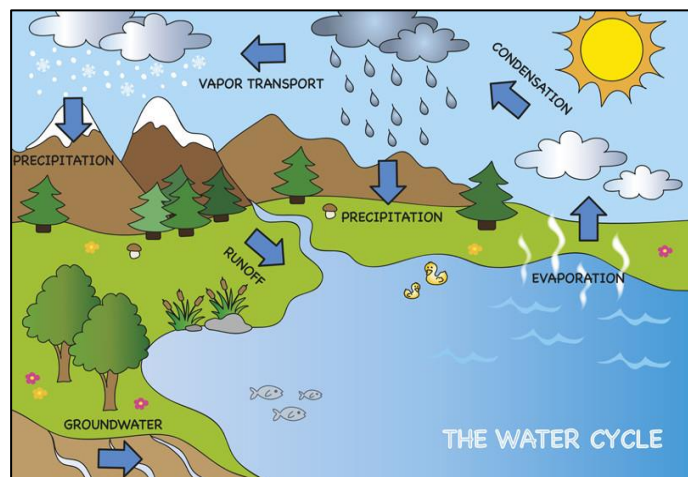


18 September – 24 September 2017

This week we celebrate the rivers as a part of God's Creation

71% of the earth is covered by water. Almost all water is salt water that is found in the oceans and seas. Less 0.5% of all water is fresh, meaning that we can drink it – that's less than 1/200 of the water on earth! Most of the fresh water we use comes from rivers. This means that it is really important for us to look after the rivers because we, and also the animals and plants need the water flowing in the rivers to keep us alive.

Rivers flow downhill, drawing water from the ground and from runoff caused by rain, melting snow and ice. Water runs downhill in streams and creeks before flowing into rivers, and eventually flowing into the ocean. Water from the ocean evaporates into the air forming clouds, which can move over land and if they rain or snow, the water will flow back into the rivers and the cycle will continue.<sup>1</sup>



Daily Prayer

Here is this week's daily prayer

Dear Jesus,

We celebrate your vibrant presence among us and everything you have made, especially in the rivers and waterways. Let us recognise your presence in the waters that provide life for animals and plants and people, and help us to hear your voice in the flowing water.

Thank you, Jesus. Amen.

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.basicplanet.com/water-cycle/>

## Connecting with Creation: Walking in Water

We begin our life in the water of our mother's womb. Seventy per cent of our bodies is made from water. In baptism, we are again born of water and the Spirit. All the water on Earth is recycled. Ultimately, we have shared the same raindrops as Moses or Jesus. We wade in the waters of life our whole life long.

Visit a local stream or river at a chosen place where you can stand in the water together. As the water washes over your feet, reflect first on the sources of the water flowing around you: springs, rain, clouds, oceans, the moist breath of God. Then reflect on the water within us, water we breathe, taste and drink to stay alive.

Reflect on the journey of the water after it flows downstream and into the sea. Part of that reflection may include the mystery of life in the water, both in the rivers and the seas. There are many more species of life deep in the ocean than there are on land. You may also consider how the clear waters of life are so quickly polluted with rubbish, chemicals and human pollution.

Take a small branch, dip it in the water and sprinkle it over everyone's heads, who all share birth by water and the Spirit. The key to this awareness experience is to recall not only your baptism but that, when God became a human being, Jesus was also born of water, and through the Spirit, God continues to be a living presence in water.<sup>2</sup>

Some places where you can go to do the activity are...

- Close by... Jindalee Boat Ramp, Mount Ommaney Drive, Jindalee
- A bit further ... Colleges Crossing, Mount Crosby Road, Chuwar
- A day trip ... Cormorant Bay Reserve, Brisbane Valley Highway, Lake Wivenhoe

## Weekly Photo Challenge

Take a photograph of a river or a creek and post it to the Centenary Uniting Church's facebook page ([www.facebook.com/centenaryUC/](http://www.facebook.com/centenaryUC/)) or to Twitter or to Instagram with the hashtag #CentenarySOC & #River – We will display the photos in the worship service on the following Sunday. If you don't have facebook, Twitter or Instagram, you can mail them to [minister@centenaryuca.org.au](mailto:minister@centenaryuca.org.au)



<sup>2</sup> <http://seasonofcreation.com/worship-resources/ideas-for-spiritual-reflection/ideas-for-spiritual-reflection-%E2%80%93-river%C2%A0sunday/>