

Resources for worship

(You will need a two large glass bowls of water, a drinking glass of water, and if possible an overhead projector, and 3 or 4 Bibles. Set up one of the bowls on the overhead until you can see the water moving. There is also a PowerPoint presentation available that can be used as part of this worship– If you are interested contact Cath James 9852 7433)

Call to worship

We are called to worship

God our creator

Who in the beginning formed us out of water

Who made a covenant with us amidst flooding water

And who promises us new life in Christ through the baptismal water

We give thanks for the life that emerged from the deep

Let us worship God

Song: *Wellsprings*, by Don Stewart, NCYC '99 Songbook no. 1 (available from the Christian Education and Congregational Mission Unit ph 9852 7433)

Prayers of Confession and Adoration

[prayer by Sean Walsh]

We come together with our prayers of thanksgiving and confession, let us pray.

God,

We thank you for rain and thunder,
We thank you for rivers and waterfalls.

We are so lucky to be on this planet,
Just the right distance from the sun,
So that water is water and not ice or steam.

We thank you God for lakes and oceans,
For snowflakes and rainbows.

Your work is a great mystery to us.
God, we owe you everything.

Thank you for the clean water we drink
We pray for people living in the dry country of the Outback
We pray for people in India with contaminated water supplies, and
for those whose lands suffer from floods and droughts.

Too much, too little,
Can we ever understand that all we have - has been given to us, as a gift of love.

We pray for the lakes and rivers of Victoria,
Which have been progressively degraded over the years, because of our actions,
and because of our lack of action.

God please teach us to protect our water supplies
And to use less water

So our rivers will never run dry,
And our children will not go thirsty.

Dear God
Help us to see that all of your creation is sacred.
Thank you for the gift of water, and the gift of life.

Amen.

Bible Readings

The following short readings can all be read out together by different people or you may wish to focus on one or two in more detail. You might like to have different people read them out loud a number of times.

Genesis 1:1 In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, 2 the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. (NRSV)

2 Peter 3:5 ... by the word of God heavens existed long ago and an earth was formed out of water and by means of water, 6 through which the world of that time was deluged with water and perished. (NRSV)

Isaiah 58:11 The LORD will guide you continually, and satisfy your needs in parched places, and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters never fail. (NRSV)

Jeremiah 17:7 Blessed are those who trust in the LORD, whose trust is the LORD. 8 They shall be like a tree planted by water, sending out its roots by the stream. It shall not fear when heat comes, and its leaves shall stay green; in the year of drought it is not anxious, and it does not cease to bear fruit. (NRSV)

Listen to the song *Washing of the Water*, by Peter Gabriel, track 6 from the album *US*, 1992, Virgin, distributed by EMI.

Litany to be read by three people

Person 1. Water

Person 2. Water

Person 3. Water

1. From the beginning of creation when the earth was a formless void, there was water

2. God created us out of water

3. We evolved within water

1. From the time I was inside my mother's womb I have known water

2. I have tasted water

3. I have felt water

1. My body is made of water

2. I am water

3. I breathe water,

1. From when I was learning I played in water

2. I drank water

3. I threw water

1. Then I grew older and looked at water differently

2. I cleaned with water

3. I recognised water

1. God calls us to touch the water

2. To taste it as wine

3. To touch it preciously

1. Look at the water

(Person no. 1 swirls the water in the bowl on the overhead)

2. Feel the water

(Person no. 2 passes the bowl of water around for people to look at, feel and play with
(setting up lights or semi darkness can also produce beautiful effects)

3. Taste the water

(Person no. 3 passes a cup of water around for people to drink)

Song: The river is flowing (traditional Indigenous American)

The river is flowing
flowing and growing
down to the sea
Mother carry me
Your child I will always be

(You can listen to or sing with this song *A gift to be simple*, by Fay White, available from Grapevine music (03) 5461 5471)

Prayers for others

Invite people to spend time in praying for others. As part of this, people can light candles (tea light candles are perfect for this) and place them in one of the bowls of water.

Prayers could be spoken or unspoken depending on your community.

Sending out

All: And if the earthly no longer knows your name

Whisper to the silent earth: I'm flowing

To the flashing water say: I am

Rainer Maria Rilke