



THE UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA

Ballarat Central Uniting Church

Sunday 27th September 2026 @ 10 a.m.



Living Water
Season of Creation 2026

Immersion in Living Water
EZEKIEL 47:9, 12

Season of Creation 4

“River Sunday!”
The River of Life!

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

INTROIT: TiS 672 – Lord of earth and all creation!

Lord of earth and all creation,
Let your love possess our land:
Wealth, and freedom, far horizons,
Mountain, forest, shining sand:
May we share, in faith and friendship,
Gifts unmeasured from your hand.

People of the ancient Dreamtime,
They who found this country first,
Ask with those, the later comers,
Will our dream be blessed or cursed?
Grant us, Lord, new birth, new living,
Hope for which our children thirst.

Lord, life-giving healing Spirit,
On our hurts your mercy shower;
Lead us by your inward dwelling,
Guiding, guarding, every hour.
Bless and keep our land Australia:
In your will her peace and power.

Author: Michael Rayner Thwaites 1915- and Honor Mary Thwaites 1914-1993

Music – R Boughen

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GREETING

Leader: May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all,

All: *and also with you.*

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF THE TRADITIONAL CUSTODIANS

WELCOME & INTRODUCTION

CALL TO WORSHIP

Forest, Land, Wilderness, Rivers ...

Sun, Moon, Planets, Stars ...

Animals, Birds, Trees, Humans ...

Come, let us worship our Creator and Maker of Heaven and Earth.

See the clouds part on this new day and the colourful bow that reaches across
the sky as a sign of welcome and promise.

Come to remember all that is between us and God, not just us.

Come to remember that that promise reaches to Forest and Land.

***It runs through Wilderness/Outback, and gushes up from River, where we
might see that colourful reflection.***

Let us quake with anticipation and wonder, feeling the water tickle our toes
and call us into the fullness of life.

You and I, let us ride on the rapids of hope.

Let us find the beauty and wonder in being so connected to creation.

OPENING PRAYER

Flow with us, Creator God, through the loud rushing rapids and among the deep silent pools. Acknowledge our many sources and outlets for sharing our gifts as we come together to find all that bubbles up in your wisdom. Move us into the current of your creative energy as we immerse ourselves in worship and praise with River as our guide. **Amen.**

REMEMBERING

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 and the feeling of celebration as we splashed each other.

We remember and rejoice.

Thank you, God, for rivers and streams flowing with life's water.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

WORDS OF AFFIRMATION

One: Rivers are made for flowing free – and so are our lives.

May God's forgiveness and transformation flow through and from us, bringing life to us and all, now and always.

All: Thanks be to God for the water of life. Amen.

HYMN/SONG: TiS 494 - In water we grow!

In water we grow, secure in the womb,
and speechlessly know love's safety and room.

Baptizing and blessing we publish for good
the freeing, caressing safe keeping of God.

In water we wash: the dirt of each day,
its trouble and rush are carried away.

In Christ re-created by love's cleansing art,
self-will and self-hatred dissolve and depart.

In water we dive, and cannot draw breath,
then surface alive, rebounding from death.

Our old self goes under, in Christ dead and drowned.

We rise, washed in wonder, by love clad and crowned.

In water we dwell, for by its deep flow
through bloodstream and cell, we live, think, and grow.
Praise God, love outflowing, whose well of new birth
baptizes our knowing, and waters the earth.

*Author: Brian Arthur Wren 1936- © 1996 Hope Publishing.
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SHARING OF JOYS, CONCERNS & NOTICES

SPECIAL TIME WITH THE CHILDREN – *Early Word*

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

Leader: "Your Word O Lord is a lamp to our feet".

ALL: "*A light to our path.*"

SCRIPTURE READINGS:

Revelation 22:1–5 (NRSVUE)

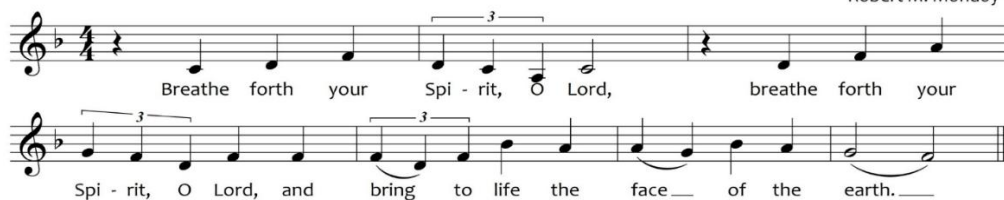
The River of Life

22 Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb ²through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month, and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. ³Nothing accursed will be found there any more. But the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him; ⁴they will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. ⁵And there will be no more night; they need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

PSALM 104:27-33

Text and music: Robert Mondoy

Robert M. Mondoy



Response: *Breathe forth your Spirit, O Lord,
breathe forth your Spirit, O Lord,
and bring to life the face of the earth.*

God how fertile is your genius,
you have wisdom far beyond the reach of time.
You shape each work and thing,
making rich the world about.

Response

In its hunger, all of creation looks to you
for food and every wondrous grace.
You open wide your hand, bringing joy the world around,
Your open hand provides a feast for all.

Response

If you steal their breath, then they drop back to the dust
silenced, waiting for your touch.
You breathe into their lives, bringing life the world around.
They rise, and all on earth comes forth alive!

Response

Let God's glory endure forever,
may the Lord delight in all of his creating.
O let my song give joy, give joy to my saving God,
who is a joy to me, a joy to all.

Response

Matthew 28:1–10 (NRSVUE)

The Resurrection of Jesus

28 After the Sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. ² And suddenly there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. ³ His appearance was like lightning and his clothing white as snow. ⁴ For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. ⁵ But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. ⁶ He is not here, for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. ⁷ Then go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.' This is my message for you." ⁸ So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy and ran to tell his disciples. ⁹ Suddenly Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. ¹⁰ Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers and sisters to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

Leader: Lord, may your Word live in us!
All: And bear much fruit to your glory!

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD: *The River of Life!*

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

OFFERING

(Your offerings for the mission and ministry of God through Ballarat Central Uniting Church will be gratefully received during the hymn. Please remain seated until the last verse)

HYMN: Alexander's Hymns 86 – Shall we gather at the river!
Shall we gather at the river, where bright angel-feet have trod,
with its crystal tide forever, flowing by the throne of God?
*Yes, we'll gather at the river, the beautiful, the beautiful river;
gather with the saints at the river, that flows by the throne of God.*

On the margin of the river, washing up its silver spray,
we will walk and worship ever, all the happy, golden day.
*Yes, we'll gather at the river, the beautiful, the beautiful river;
gather with the saints at the river, that flows by the throne of God.*

Soon we'll reach the silver river; soon our pilgrimage will cease;
soon our happy hearts will quiver with the melody of peace.
*Yes, we'll gather at the river, the beautiful, the beautiful river;
gather with the saints at the river, that flows by the throne of God.*

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OFFERTORY PRAYER

God of transformation, we thank you for your continued promise to care for and sustain all Creation. Help us to follow your example, raising our concern and care for one another and all of Creation. Bless the offering of your people – food, money, gifts and graces, for your mission and ministry to all creations.
Amen.

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION *(Followed by the Lord's Prayer)*

*Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive
those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.*

SENDING FORTH OF GOD'S PEOPLE

WORD OF MISSION

Voice 1: Forest, Trees, Leaves of healing, carry you into new life;

Voice 2: Land, Earth, Dust of being, ground you, Child of Creation;

Voice 1: Wilderness/Outback, untouched wild beauty, transform you,
Spirited Child;

Voice 2: River, Water, Rain refracting Light, flow through you, Family of
Holy One.

All: ***May Creator birth love in us, Wisdom instil hope in us, and Spirit
breathe us into life. Amen.***

DISMISSAL BLESSING: TiS 779 – May the feet of God!

May the feet of God walk with you,
and his hand hold you tight.

May the eye of God rest on you,
and his ear hear your cry.

May the smile of God be for you,
and his breath give you life.

May the Child of God grow in you,
and his love bring you home.

Author: Aubrey W. Podlich 1946- © 1983, Open Book Publishers.

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Worship Leaders – Rev Lauleti Tu’inauvai; **Elder** – Merriel Le Marshall; **Readers** – Heather Gilbert, John Olsen, Bron James; **Prayer** – Andrew Boatman; **BCUC Choir, Music & Choir Director** – Helen Duggan; **Organist** – Ray Hodder; **IT, Video & Audio** – Ben Daniel, Andrew Boatman; **Welcome** – TBC, Jen Mitchell; **Door Stewards** – Nancy O’Loughlin, Rod Devenish; **Morning Tea** – Miriam Peck, Betty Stewart, Tofila Fifita, Jan Jenkyn.

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www.youtube.com/c/BallaratCentralUnitingChurch

For more information, visit our website – bcuc.org.au and Church Facebook Page – **Ballarat Central Uniting Church Facebook**.