

September 24, 2023

RIVER SUNDAY

Nurturing Faith and Spirituality at Home

Together and apart, we celebrate with Creation, heed the call to serve and sustain life, and recognize how Creation serves and sustains life.



Throughout this short Season of Creation, we are in the company of our Creation-companions Forest, Land, Wilderness/Outback, and River. We listen attentively to their stories, cries, and longings and take their lead.

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This week, an image of River flowing with the fullness of life encourages us to find joy in God's justice and healing.

Healing River Waters

Read [Revelation 22:1–5](#) or **listen** to the audio story "[River of Life](#)" or gather around as someone tells the story "[River's Story](#)."

Healing and renewal are the themes of this Revelation 22:1–5; these flow from God's healing spirit and the river of life. Water is vital to sustaining life – all Creation depends on it. In John's vision, the water of life quenches thirst, the tree of life provides nourishment, and its leaves heal the nations. The vision is full of light and life, where everything is healthy and free, and Creation is renewed.

- **What visions do you have for the future of Creation?**
- **What compels you to keep dreaming and hoping for more healing and renewal?**

Watch and listen to a reading of Carole Lindstrom's book [We Are Water Protectors](#).

Throughout the Season of Creation, we have pondered the interconnection of all living things. It is said so simply in this book: "The four-legged, the two-legged, the plants, trees, rivers, lakes, the Earth. We are all related."

- **How do you feel connected to Creation? What would make you feel more connected?**

Conserve, Pledge, Make, Connect

Conserve water in a [DIY rain barrel](#). (You might opt for a smaller version using an empty, clean laundry detergent jug or a coffee tin.) Celebrate your conservation by painting your hope for Creation on the top and sides of your new barrel.

Pledge to be a [water protector](#).

Make river story stones. Find some ideas for using your new story stones [here](#).

Connect with three wonders of Creation on this week's [activity sheet](#).



During the Week

Down by the riverside

Visit a river, stream, or other waterway. Imagine God's waters of healing and renewal flowing over you and the places in Creation that are hurting.

Flow with river

Create a playlist of [your favourite river songs](#) and have a dance party to celebrate your connection to River. Find River's strength in each movement, encouraging you to seek a deeper connection with all Creation.

Water rights

Water is sacred in many indigenous communities. It is true among [Native Americans](#), [Canadians](#), and considered a sacred gift by [Indigenous peoples of Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand](#). Spend some time this week learning about the water justice issues within your community and how you can advocate for water protection.

Prayer

Thank you for the water, O God, that washes over us and changes us. May healing water flow in us and through us so that we always remember our connection to Creation and to you. Amen.

Listen to the song "God Grant that We May Be Transformed" (MP3 available [here](#) for purchase as a single download).

Visit [Lecture Connection](#) for current events that connect with this week's scriptures.

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