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YrA Season of Creation @ Ashburton-Burwood UCA



**6th September 2026
We Gather**

Welcome Andrew Wilkinson

Good morning, everyone, and welcome.
Today we begin the Season of Creation—a season when Christians around the world are invited to remember that we are part of God's beautiful and fragile creation.
This year, our theme is: Living Water.

Water is so ordinary that we can easily take it for granted.
We turn on a tap, and water comes.
We drink it.
We wash with it.
We water our gardens with it.
But water is much more than something we use.

Water is life.

Today, through Scripture, prayer, song and the water of our baptismal font, we will reflect on the Living Water of God.
And we will ask ourselves:
Where is God's Living Water flowing in my life?

And perhaps even more importantly:
Where is God's Living Water inviting me to flow?

A reading from Psalm 148.
Praise the Lord!
Praise the Lord from the heavens;
praise him in the heights!
Praise him, all his angels;
praise him, all his hosts!
Praise him, sun and moon;
praise him, all you shining stars!
Praise him, highest heavens,
and you waters above the skies!

Let them praise the name of the Lord,
for at his command they were created.
Mountains and all hills,
fruit trees and all cedars,
wild animals and all cattle,
small creatures and flying birds,

let them praise the name of the Lord.
Let everything praise the Lord.

Opening Hymn Megan McLaughlin "For the Beauty of the Earth" by John Rutter *Selected by Anne Forrest*

For the beauty of the earth
For the beauty of the skies
For the love which from our birth
Over and around us lies
Over and around us lies
Lord of all, to Thee we raise
This our joyful hymn of praise

For the beauty of each hour
Of the day and of the night
Hill and vale and tree and flower
Sun and moon and stars of light
Sun and moon and stars of light
Lord of all, to Thee we raise
This our joyful hymn of praise

For the joy of human love
Brother, sister, parent, child
Friends on earth and friends above
For all gentle thoughts and mild

For all gentle thoughts and mild
 Lord of all, to Thee we raise
 This our joyful hymn of praise

For each perfect gift of thine
 To our race so freely given
 Graces human and divine
 Flowers of earth and buds of heaven
 Flowers of earth and buds of heaven
 Lord of all, to Thee we raise
 This our joyful hymn of praise
 This our joyful hymn of praise

Acknowledgement of Country

Andrew Wilkinson

We acknowledge the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nation as the Traditional Owners of the land on which we meet today. We pay our respects to their Elders, past and present, and acknowledge their continuing connection to Country, waterways, land and community.

As we begin this Season of Creation, may we learn again to listen to the wisdom of those who have cared for this land and its waters for generations. We acknowledge that we are part of creation, not separate from it.

Call to worship. Andrew Wilkinson

Come, let us worship the God who gives life.
We come with grateful hearts.

Come, let us praise the Creator of the heavens and the earth.

The sun, moon and stars declare God's glory.

Come, let us praise the God who gives water to the earth.

Rivers flow, rain falls, and life flourishes.

Come, let us remember the Living Water of God.

May God's life flow through us.

Come, let us worship.

**We worship the God of creation,
 the source of all life,
 the giver of Living Water. Amen.**

Peace Rev. Yoo Mi Park

The peace of the risen Christ be with you all.
And also with you.

Opening Prayer

Creator God,
 you are the source of all life.
 Before there was form and shape,
 your Spirit moved over the waters.
 You spoke, and light appeared.
 You breathed, and life began.
 Today we thank you for the gift of creation:
 for the earth beneath our feet,
 for the air we breathe,
 for the food we receive,
 for the rain that falls,
 and for the water that gives life.

Forgive us for the ways we have taken your gifts for granted. Forgive us when we have treated creation as something to use rather than something to cherish.

Open our eyes today.

Help us to see creation not simply as scenery, but as the home we share with all living things. And open our hearts to your Living Water. Where our lives have become dry, bring renewal.

Where relationships have become broken, bring healing.

Where we have become anxious and controlling, teach us to trust.

And where your life is flowing, help us to follow.

In the name of Christ, the One in whom is life. Amen.

Words of Assurance

Hear the good news:

In Christ, we are forgiven and renewed.

God's Living Water flows into our dry places, bringing healing, hope, and new life.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

Hymn of Praise: Megan McLaughlin

TIS 135 "All Things Bright and Beautiful"

We Listen

Megan McLaughlin, Richard Hedding

Your word is a lamp to our feet.

A light to our path.

EZEKIEL 47: 1-12 *NIV - p. 869 in pew bibles*

The River From the Temple

¹ The man brought me back to the entrance to the temple, and I saw water coming out from under the threshold of the temple toward the east (for the temple faced east). The water was coming down from under the south side of the temple, south of the altar. ² He then brought me out through the north gate and led me around the outside to the outer gate facing east, and the water was trickling from the south side.

³ As the man went eastward with a measuring line in his hand, he measured off a thousand cubits and then led me through water that was ankle-deep. ⁴ He measured off another thousand cubits and led me through water that was knee-deep. He measured off another thousand and led me through water that was up to the waist. ⁵ He measured off another thousand, but now it was a river that I could not cross, because the water had risen and was deep enough to swim in—a river that no one could cross. ⁶ He asked me, "Son of man, do you see this?"

Then he led me back to the bank of the river. ⁷ When I arrived there, I saw a great number of trees on each side of the river. ⁸ He said to me, "This water flows toward the eastern region and goes down into the Arabah, where it enters the Dead Sea. When it empties into the sea, the salty water there becomes fresh. ⁹ Swarms of living creatures will live wherever the river flows. 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. ¹⁰ Fishermen will stand along the shore; from En Gedi to En Eglaim there will be places for spreading nets. The fish will be of many kinds—like the fish of the Mediterranean Sea. ¹¹ But the

swamps and marshes will not become fresh; they will be left for salt. ¹² 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."

JOHN 1: 1-5 – *NIV- p. 1049 in pew bibles*

The Word Became Flesh

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was with God in the beginning. ³ Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. ⁴ In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

Lord, may your word live in us.

And bear much fruit for your glory.

Sermon: "Living Water: A River of Life"

We Respond

Hymn of Response: Megan McLaughlin
TIS 703 "As the deer pants for the water"

Living Water – Baptismal Water Ritual

Where there is dryness,
Let your Living Water flow.

Where there is brokenness,
Let your healing flow.

Where there is loneliness,
Let your love flow.

Where there is fear,
Let your peace flow.

Where we hold too tightly,
Teach us to let go.

Where your river flows,
May life flourish.

Notices [Andrew Wilkinson](#)

Prayers of the People [Andrew Wilkinson](#)

The Lord's Prayer

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Invitation to the Table

Jesus said,
 "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me."

We come to this table as we are—
 thirsty for grace, hungry for love,
 and longing for new life.

The bread is broken,
 and the cup is shared.

In this bread and cup,
 we remember Christ's love for us.
 Come, for all are welcome at Christ's table.

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Creator God,
 we give you thanks and praise.
 You created light and darkness,
 sky and earth, waters and dry land.
 You filled the earth with life and called it good.
 You give rain to the earth, water to the thirsty,
 food to the hungry, and breath to every living
 thing.
 We thank you for the gift of creation, and for
 the privilege and responsibility of being part of
 it.
 And when creation was wounded by human
 sin, you did not abandon us.
 In Jesus Christ, your Word became flesh and
 entered the world you had made.

In Christ, you shared our earthly life, our joys
 and our sorrows.

Therefore, with all creation, with all who
 worship you in every place, we praise your
 holy name:

TIS 761

**"Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and
 might. Heaven and earth full of your glory,
 Hosanna in the highest. Bless'd is he who
 comes in the name of the Lord, Hosanna in
 the highest. "**

Words of Institution

On the night before He died, Jesus shared a
 meal with His disciples.

He took bread, gave thanks, broke it,
 and gave it to His disciples, saying:
 "Take and eat, this is my body given for you.
 Do this in remembrance of me"

After supper, He took the cup, gave thanks
 and said, "This cup is the new covenant in my
 blood, poured out for you and for many for
 the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it,
 do this in remembrance of me."

Prayer of Consecration

Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon
 these gifts of bread and cup.

Make us one with Christ and one with one
 another.

Make us attentive to creation, generous in our
 care, and faithful in our love.

Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Breaking of the Bread

The bread we break is a sharing in the body of
 Christ.

The cup we take is a sharing in the blood of
 Christ.

The gifts of God for the people of God.

Communion

Come, not because you have enough,
but because Christ is enough.
Come and receive the bread of life and the cup of
salvation.

Prayer After Communion

God of Living Water,
thank you for feeding and renewing us.
Help us now to go out
and let your love flow through us.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

We are sent

Let us offer our selves and gifts.

Hymn of Sending: Megan McLaughlin
TIS 168 "For the Fruits of all Creation"

Prayer of Dedication

Gracious God,
receive these gifts
and use them for the flourishing of life.
May what we give become hope for others,
healing for those who are hurting,
welcome for those who are searching, and life
for our community.
Teach us not only to receive your gifts,
but to allow them to flow through us.
Amen.

Commissioning and Blessing

Go now in the grace of God.
Remember the water of creation.
Remember the water of baptism.
And remember the river of life:

"Everything will live where the river goes."

May God's Living Water flow through you—
bringing love,
bringing healing,
and bringing hope.

And the blessing of God Almighty
the Creator, Christ and Holy Spirit,

be upon you and remain with you always.

Amen.

Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord:
In the name of Christ. Amen.

Sung Blessing: Megan McLaughlin

"Turn your eyes upon Jesus"

(Refrain only)

Turn your eyes upon Jesus
Look full in His wonderful face
And the things of earth will grow strangely dim
In the light of His glory and grace

Postlude

Minister: Rev Yoo Mi Park
Worship leader: Andrew Wilkinson
Prayers: Andrew Wilkinson
Narthex/Count Leader: Alan Bailey
Door, Greeting, Offering: Jill Capstick
Organist: Colin Prohasky
Pianist: Anne Forrest
Song Leader: Megan McLaughlin
Readers: Megan McLaughlin, Richard Hedding
Computer/Sound: Kevin Hurley
Power Point: Kevin Hurley
Youtube Link: Richard Hedding
Flowers: Maree Silver & Lindley Webb
Communion Stewards: Maree Silver, Andrew
Wilkinson, Dawn Sullivan, Jenny Stone
Morning Tea/Clean Up: Pamela Degenhardt,
Kathryn Graham, Lynette Hurley
Online Communications: Christine Chappell/
Dawn Sullivan

*After the service we invite
everyone to come to morning
tea and ongoing conversation in
the LightHouse... follow the
people! All are welcome.*