

Living Water

LCA/NZ Simultaneous
Art Exhibition 2021



FEATURED ARTWORK: "LIVING WATER", BY HELEN SHERRIFF. MOSAIC.

These resources are brought to you by the Commission on Worship Visual Arts Working Group. Our mission is to encourage and support the use of Visual Arts in worship and in the life of the church.

If you would like to be a part of our team, please contact us via our website:

<http://visualarts.lca.org.au/>



Water

Water is vital for life on Earth. Clean, pure water is needed for humans, plants and animals to function, to flourish. Without it, we suffer.

Living Water

Jesus, our Saviour, is the source of living water. Without God, we remain thirsty, dry, searching for hope and meaning in our lives. The Holy Spirit refreshes us, fills us with joy and peace as we drink from the cup of salvation that never runs dry.

Join us in 2021, as we explore the theme “Living Water” in the inaugural church wide simultaneous art exhibition. Artists of all ages, stages and media are invited to participate in exhibitions in their local communities during the month of August, 2021.

We encourage you to connect with other artists in your church community, school or aged care facility to explore the theme and unleash your creativity.

Exhibitions can be held anywhere – in your school hall, your church, the local coffee shop – anywhere where you can share your work and the living water of Christ’s gospel.

To support your preparations and stimulate your creativity, we have prepared some study materials you may like to use, individually or as a group.

To register your interest in this project and share details of your exhibition so we can help you publicise your event, please contact libby.krahling@lca.org.au

What is Living Water?

In the Bible, water is used as a metaphor for several different themes: the chaotic waters of the deep symbolise the storms of life and the forces trying to drown or overcome the believer. Water is a key part of baptism, representing our spiritual cleansing and rebirth as a child of God. Water is used to heal and restore, and to offer hope and new life in the desert times.

In John 4, Jesus meets a Samaritan woman at a well and asks her to get him a drink, breaking all kinds of rules about associating with an outcast group. He tells her “whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life.”

Later, Jesus went to the Festival of Tabernacles in Jerusalem, and in John 7:37-39, we hear that, “On the last and greatest day of the festival, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, “Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them.” By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified.”

The Living Water is the Holy Spirit, which lives in us when we believe, and which flows from us, watering and nurturing everyone around us.

Finally, in Revelation 7: 16-17, John shares his vision of heaven:
'Never again will they hunger;
never again will they thirst.
The sun will not beat down on them,
nor any scorching heat.
For the Lamb at the centre of the throne
will be their shepherd;
'he will lead them to springs of living water.'
'And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.'

No matter how tough times get, how dry we are spiritually, emotionally and physically, we can go to the spring of living water for strength, hope and new life.





Bible Passages

As you explore this theme, you might like to read the following passages:

- [John 4:1-42](#)
- [John 7:37-39](#)
- [Revelation 7:9-17](#)
- [Isaiah 35](#)
- [Isaiah 55](#)
- [Isaiah 58:6-12](#)
- [Jeremiah 17:7-8](#)

There are many other passages in the Bible that refer to water: you might also like to read about Jesus' baptism in the Jordan River, or Naaman's healing in the same waters. Jesus turned water into wine at the wedding in Cana, and Noah built an ark to save animals and people from the flood waters.

Discussion Questions

1. How important is water in our lives?
2. What happens when we don't have enough water?
3. Think of a time when you were really thirsty. How did you feel when you finally had a drink of water?
4. Read the story of Jesus and the Samaritan woman at the well ([John 4:1-43](#)). What stands out to you? Did anything surprise you? How might you have responded if you were that woman?
5. What does living water mean to you?

Activity Suggestions

Here are a few ideas to get your creative “waters” flowing:

- In a group or on your own, brainstorm as many uses for water as you can. You might like to create a mind-map like the one at the end of this package.
- Choose a Bible passage from the list (or another one related to water), and spend time reading it through, noticing images, interesting thoughts and thinking about connections to your own experience. Start drawing or journaling your thoughts.
- Spend time near water where you can relax and open up all your senses. This could be a river, the beach or your bathtub, or simply sitting in your favourite place with a glass of cool water. Let your imagination wander...

If you are working with children or in an intergenerational setting (where there are people of all ages worshipping and being creative together), you might like to use the stimulus cards on the following pages.

Print them out double-sided and cut out each card. You could laminate them if you are likely to pass them around or use them for more than one group. There are two sets of questions for each set of pictures so you can choose whichever ones suits your group the best. Or you can just print the pictures.

You can use these in lots of ways:

- As discussion starters – put them in a pile and have people draw one out at random to discuss with a partner or small group. Share your thoughts with the whole group. As journaling tools – have people choose an image which speaks to them, and give them time to draw, collage or journal about the stimulus on the back of the card. This is a great way of drawing out deep, personal connections to the topic.
- As a teaching resource – some of the cards would work well as classroom or group study activities. You could use a couple of cards to get the group started, and then let them choose whichever card or image they want to respond to.
- As a starting point for brainstorming words and images related to water – especially living water.

Finally, play! Mess around with water in all its forms: try watercolour paints, watch what happens when ice melts on a puddle of acrylic or water-based paint, float droplets of oil paint on a water bath and make marbled prints, squirt water onto texta drawings and see what happens... the possibilities are endless...





Imagine plunging into a pool of cool, clean water on a hot day. What are your senses telling you?

Farmers often have to wait for the rain to come so their crops can grow. What have you had to wait for?

How do you feel about storms? Does it make a difference where you are when a storm strikes?

What is one of your favourite childhood memories involving water?

You're on a hike when you come across this scene. How do you feel?

What's going on in this picture?

Can everyone have a glass of clean water?

Have you ever been to a desert?



Why do you think people were baptised in the Jordan River in the Bible?

Think about a dry time in your life. Did you feel overwhelmed? How did you come out of that tough time?

Think of a storm in your life (an actual storm or a really hard time). How did you feel at the time? Looking back, do you feel differently now?

Joy is running through a sprinkler on a hot day... what brings you joy?

Rainbows remind us of God's promises.

Have you ever felt like you were drowning? What do you turn to when you're in over your head?

Who can satisfy your thirst?

Have you ever been through a desert place in your life, when you've felt completely dry and drained of life? How did you survive?



Would you like to be this little kid?

Why do we cry? Are tears always a bad thing?

This a well similar to the ones in Jesus' time. Imagine what it would be like to have to get all your drinking, cooking and washing water from a well like this.

Imagine discovering a secret waterhole...

Imagine being lost at sea. How did you get there? Who would come to your rescue?

This woman is watering her vegetable crop. Can you invent a way to get water to her fields more easily?

What is happening in this picture?

Can you float? What's your favourite thing to do at the pool or the beach?



How many ways can you think of to have fun with water?

What makes you cry? What comforts you when you feel sad?

Have you ever had to use a well or a pump to get water? Or manage tight water restrictions? How did you cope?

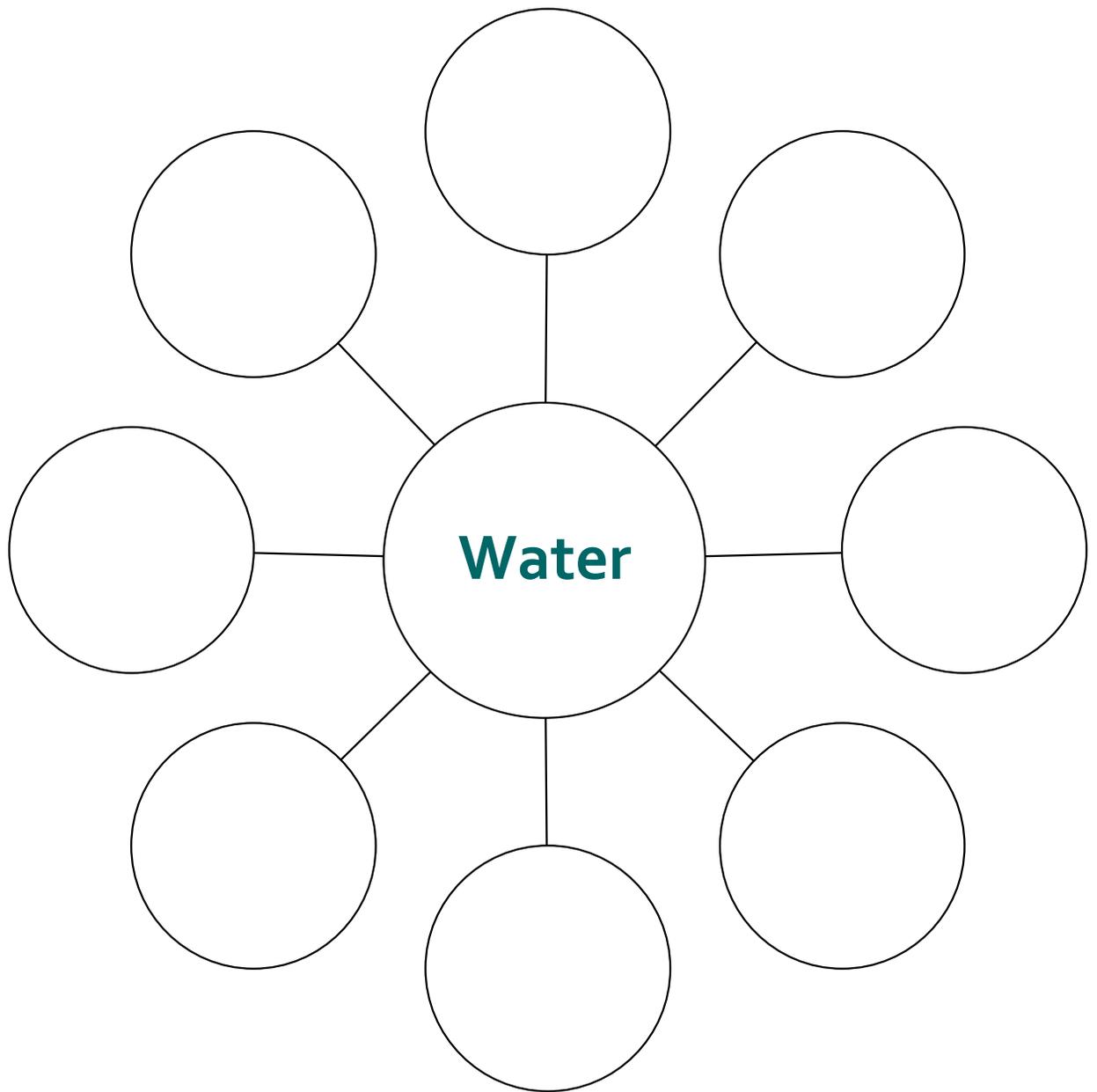
Imagine you are swimming at this beautiful waterhole with friends. If you could have anyone there you wanted to, who would you choose?

What do you think about when you look at this picture?

What is the secret to a good garden?

What does baptism mean to you?

How do you feel when you float? Are you a lay back and relax kind of person? Or do you feel a bit worried in the water?



This is a mind-map. You can use it to brainstorm as many ideas as you can related to water. In the circles around the central word "Water", write down your ideas. You could think of ways to use water, ideas about using water in your artwork, or words to describe water and how it makes you feel. Add in more circles, write notes around the outside – have fun!