



**ST NINIAN'S UNITING CHURCH
PRAYERS AND REFLECTION
May 27th 2026**

Based on John 7:37-39

Rivers of Living Water

³⁷ On the last day of the festival, the great day, while Jesus was standing there, he cried out, "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me, ³⁸ and let the one who believes in me drink. As the scripture has said, 'Out of the believer's heart shall flow rivers of living water.' " ³⁹ Now he said this about the Spirit, which believers in him were to receive, for as yet there was no Spirit because Jesus was not yet glorified.

OPENING PRAYER

Be it the dawning a new day, when the river tide is low or the evening when the river tide is at its highest, in my rhythm through life of low ebbs and high moments of triumph, I am here to worship with you Lord. I am drawn to your side to drink deeply from the well of your living water. As you stood in the temple and proclaimed, '*Let anyone who is thirsty come to me,*' I recognise my thirst is for truth, peace and fulfillment.

In this moment when the only sound I hear is..... I acknowledge the area of my life that feels parched where I long for your refreshing presence. May your Spirit flow within me, like a river of living water, quenching my deepest thirst and transforming my heart.

Help me Holy One, to embrace your promise, without fear or doubt, but trusting that as I come to you, I am not filled with but empowered to overflow with love and grace to those around me. Teach me to be a vessel of your living water, bringing hope and healing to a world in need.

As I meditate on your words, deepen my understanding of your gift. May I continually seek your face, finding satisfaction in you and you alone. I pray for the courage to share this living water with others, drawing them to the eternal wellspring of everlasting life and hope.

In your sacred name I pray. Amen

PRAYER POINTS OF THANKS

- Thank you, Lord, for the open invitation from Jesus to come to him when I am spiritually parched, knowing that it's he who offers me eternal satisfaction.

- Thank you, God, for the gift of the Holy Spirit who flows within me like a river of living water.
- Thank you for Christ's faithfulness and reminding me that he is our source of eternal life.

PRAYER POINTS OF PRAISE

- praise and honour for you Jesus for your patience in waiting for me to take the cup of living water offered to me so many times.
- praise the Lord for your generosity in the pouring of the Holy Spirit over those who believe, creating us as vessels of your love and grace to the world.
- praise God's ability to transform my life through God's living water, renewal of my mind and spirit, and a restored relationship with Christ.

PRAYER POINTS FOR CONFESSION

- I confess Lord, I have sought fulfillment in things other than Jesus
- I confess the moments when I rejected the cup of new life, and taken a sip from the cup of temptation
- I admit the times when I have been neglectful to follow your guidance and leadership.

WORDS OF GRACE

Lord, I have placed the worst of my thoughts and actions into your hands of love, mercy and grace. You have promised to cleanse me when I confess my sins. I do now so confess and rest peacefully in the cleansing palm of your hand. Thanks be to God amen.

REFLECTION

In a country as dry as Australia the image of life-giving water isn't a difficult one to come to terms with. John presents us with a wonderfully powerful invitation from Jesus, that has echoed through time and generations as it reaches down to the very depths of our spiritual thirst. During the Feast of Tabernacles, (see Appendix 1) a significant Jewish celebration, Jesus stands up in the midst of the crowd and boldly calls out, '*Let anyone who is thirsty come to me, and let the one who believes in me drink.*' What a challenge to the leadership at the time! This is a moment that captures what Jesus' ministry is all about. Jesus offering himself as our solution into the depths of our heart's desires and longings.

The imagery of 'living water' goes beyond any physical hydration needs. It symbolises our spiritual nourishment and eternal life that only Christ can give

to us. In a world filled with distractions and superficial pursuits, this passage challenges us to reflect on where we're looking for fulfillment. Too often, we turn to temporary pleasures, achievements, or relationships, only to find ourselves in the same place as where we started – very thirsty. Jesus' invitation reminds us that true satisfaction comes from a relationship with him.

As we come to the last verse we hear the promise of the Holy Spirit, which allows us to experience this living water in an extraordinary way. When we accept Christ and have faith in him, we receive the Holy Spirit – God's ongoing presence within us. This Spirit becomes our source of strength, comfort, and guidance, flowing from our innermost being and empowering us to live out our faith. It's through the Spirit that we can engage with the world, share God's love, and fulfill God's purpose for our lives.

As you reflect on these few verses from John, can you go to Christ with your thirst, acknowledge your need for his living water? Jesus calls each of us to come just as we are, bringing our struggles, challenges, doubts, fears, desires and hopes. His response is in his promise to satisfy our thirst and fill us with his Spirit.

This reflection calls us to continually return to the source of our life- Jesus Christ. May you endeavour to cultivate a deeper relationship with Christ and allow his living water to flow in and through you always transforming your life and those around you. In doing so, you become a vessel of the love of Christ, drawing others to the wellspring of life that's found in him alone.

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

Spirit of Christ, my heart is open ready to receive the living water you promise. I intercede for those who thirst for hope, healing and peace. May they find satisfaction in you and you alone. Pour out your Holy Spirit upon all of us, filling us to overflowing, so we may share your love and grace with the world. Let rivers of living water flow through us, bringing refreshment to all we encounter.

Amen



Appendix 1

The Feast of Tabernacles, or [Sukkot](#), is a seven-day Jewish holiday (beginning the 15th of Tishrei, Sept/Oct) celebrating the fall harvest and commemorating the 40 years of wilderness wandering. Observers build temporary, thatched-roof huts (sukkah) to dwell in, reflecting on God's protection. It is one of three major pilgrimage festivals.

Key Aspects of the Feast of Tabernacles:

- Significance: It is a time of intense rejoicing, thanksgiving for God's provision, and remembering the Exodus from Egypt.
- The Sukkah: Families build and eat meals (and sometimes sleep) in a temporary booth, symbolizing reliance on God and the fragility of life.
- Four Species: During the festival, special blessings are recited over four plants: the citron (etrog), palm branch (lulav), willow branch, and myrtle branch.
- Biblical Foundation: Commanded in [Leviticus 23:33-44](#), it is a time when the Israelites were instructed to dwell in booths.
- Prophetic/Messianic Meaning: Many see it as a prophecy of the future Messianic age, where all nations will gather in Jerusalem to worship (Zechariah 14:16).
- Duration: Lasts 7 days, often followed by the, though technically separate, holiday of [Shemini Atzeret](#) on the 8th day.

In 2026, the Feast of Tabernacles is expected to begin on the evening of September 25 and continue through the evening of October 2.

https://www.google.com/search?q=feast+of+tabernacles&rlz=1C1GCEA_enAU1097AU1097&oq=feast+of+taber&gs_lcrp=EgZjaHJvbWUqBwgAEAAyGAQyBwgAEAAyGAQyBggBEEUYOTIHCAIQABiABDIHCAMQABiABDIHCAQQABiABDIHCAUQABiABDIHCAYQABiABDIHCACQABiABDIHCAgQABiABDIHCAkQABiPAtIBCjExMzQ4ajBqMTWoAgiwAgHxBWrpZi59yeZL&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8