



# Sunday, June 27, 2021 VBS Celebration Sunday

## **Introduction**

Each summer, our congregation is blessed with the opportunity to share the faith with kids in our community through a week of Vacation Bible School. And, each summer, we strive to provide an even better experience than the year before (even when we are presented with challenges such as a pandemic). This year we stepped out in faith once again to provide "River of Life" and God sent us some wonderful volunteers and wonderful kids (both in-person and virtually) to make 2021 a year to remember! Thank you to everyone who said "yes!"

**Prelude.....Praise Band**

## **Greeting & Ministry Moments**

**Welcome.....Heidi Ruff**

## **Gathering Hymn....."The River is Here"**

Down the mountain the river flows  
And it brings refreshing wherever it goes  
Through the valleys and over the fields  
The river is rushing and the river is here

### **Chorus**

The river of God sets our feet a-dancing  
The river of God fills our hearts with cheer  
The river of God fills our mouths with laughter  
And we rejoice for the river is here

The river of God is teeming with life  
And all who touch it can be revived  
And those who linger on this river's shore  
Will come back thirsting for more of the Lord

### **Chorus**

Up to the mountain we love to go  
To find the presence of the Lord  
Along the banks of the river we run  
We dance with laughter giving praise to the Son

### **Chorus**

Down the mountain the river flows  
And it brings refreshing wherever it goes  
Through the valleys and over the fields  
The river is rushing and the river is here

### **Chorus**

Yes we rejoice for the river is here  
And we rejoice for the river is here

## **Confession and Forgiveness**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
the God of manna,  
the God of miracles,  
the God of mercy.

**Amen.**

Drawn to Christ and seeking God's abundance,  
let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God, our provider,  
help us.

**It is hard to believe there is enough to share.  
We question your ways when they differ from the ways  
of the world in which we live.  
We turn to our own understanding  
rather than trusting in you.  
We take offense at your teachings and your ways.  
Turn us again to you.  
Where else can we turn?  
Share with us the words of eternal life  
and feed us for life in the world.**

**Amen.**

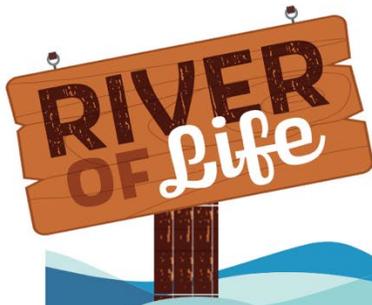
Beloved people of God:  
in Jesus, the manna from heaven,  
you are fed and nourished.  
By Jesus, the worker of miracles,  
there is always more than enough.  
Through Jesus, † the bread of life,  
you are shown God's mercy:  
you are forgiven and loved into abundant life.

**Amen.**

## **Prayer of the Day**

Almighty and merciful God, we implore you to hear the prayers of your people. Be our strong defense against all harm and danger, that we may live and grow in faith and hope, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**



Everything will live where the river goes!

VBS DAY 1



THEME

God Creates!



FOCUS VERSE

“God saw everything that God had made, and indeed, it was very good.” Genesis 1:31a

**Bible Story—Creation:**

In the Day 1 Bible story from Genesis 1:2-2:1, we learned that everything God created is good! The story of creation in the book of Genesis tells us about the wonderful ways God’s creation is connected. Each part of creation - the land, plants, animals, humans - depends on the rest of creation to live. In the story, we also see God’s love and the many ways God provides for the life and well-being of all creation.

## VBS DAY 2



### THEME

**God Provides!**



### FOCUS VERSE

**“I will be standing there in front of you.” Exodus 17:6a**

### **Bible Story—Exodus**

In the Day 2 Bible story we learned that God gives us everything we need so we can share and work together. In the story of the Exodus, God frees the people from slavery in Egypt and leads them on a long journey to the Promised Land. But God doesn't leave them to fend for themselves. Along the way, God provides food and water so that the people will not hunger or thirst during their journey. The story from Exodus 17:1-6 reminds us of the many ways we depend on God and each other.

# Song....."Come to the River of Life"

## Chorus:

Come to the river of life, you will find healing here  
Come to the river of live, come and drink freely here  
Come if your heart is searching, come if your soul is thirsty  
Draw near and drink of the mercy of Jesus Christ at the river of life

## Verse:

There is a river whose streams make glad  
The city of God, the city of God  
So, come if you're wounded or sad  
There is a river, there is a river

## Chorus

It flows, from the land of eternal light  
Where there's no more sorrow and no more night  
Into the hearts that are lifted to Him  
Filling his children again and again

## Chorus

And drink of the mercy of Jesus Christ at the River of Life

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## VBS DAY 3



### THEME

God Claims!



### FOCUS VERSE

"This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."  
Matthew 3:17b

## Bible Story—Baptism of Jesus

In the Day 3 Bible story we learned that God claims us and calls us beloved. In Matthew 3:13-17, Jesus is baptized by John in the Jordan River. After he is baptized, God claims Jesus as God’s son, saying, “This is my Son, the beloved, with who I am well-pleased.” In this story we learn about what it means to be a child of God and how water can be an important symbol of God’s love for us and our love for one another. Even before we were born, God formed us and claimed us as God’s own. And God sends us into the world to learn from each other and to show our love for one another and all creation.

## VBS Skit—Captain Wayne and Pilot Sage



### VBS DAY 4



#### THEME

God Protects!



#### FOCUS VERSE

“Peace! Be still!” Mark 4:39b

## Bible Story—Jesus Calms the Storm

In our Bible story on Day 4, we learned that even when we are scared, God is always with us. In Mark 4:35-41, we read about a time when the disciples were on a boat in a terribly fierce storm. They were scared, but Jesus was with them and calmed the storm and their fear. God is always with us. We may be afraid, but we won’t be alone, and God gives us one another to help protect us and help us stay safe.

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## **The Apostles' Creed**

I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.  
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting.

**Amen**

## Prayers of Intercession

Let us come before the triune God in prayer.

*A brief silence.*

God of hope, the ministry of your church extends across borders, from nearby neighbors to far and distant countries. Accompany all those who labor eagerly in service of the gospel, that through your good news all might experience transformation. Lord, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

Almighty God, we give you thanks for the air we breathe, the water we drink, the land that provides our food. Guard all species of plants and animals from harsh changes in climate and empower us to protect all you have made. Lord, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

Righteous God, we pray for nations and their leaders. Give them a spirit of compassion and steer them towards a fair distribution of resources; that none among us would have too much or too little. Lord, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

God of healing, your touch has the power to make us whole. We pray for those suffering from physical or mental illness. Embrace those who are sick (*especially Lisle, Judi, Don, Vincent, Barbara, Victoria, Christi, Larry, David, Kristina, Vicki, Margo, Joy, Lourdes, Michelle, LauraLee, Allen, Gloria, Sharon, Janis, Janet, Michael, JJ, Ellen, Iura, Maria, Cheryl, Ron, John & Christine, Linda, Darell, Rebecca, Richard, Henry, Ruth, Davis, James, Nancy, David and Lew; and Family & Friends of Glennys*). Surround them with your unwavering presence. Lord, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

We pray for this assembly and all those gathered together in worship. Revive our spirits, renew our relationships, and rekindle our faith, that we might experience resurrection in this community. Lord, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

We give thanks for the faithful ancestors in every age whose lives have pointed us towards you. Envelop them in your love, that we may be reunited with one another in the last days. Lord, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your abiding grace.

**Amen.**

## **Sharing of the Peace**

The peace of the Lord be with you all.

**And also with you.**

## **Offering**

### **Offering Prayer**

Jesus, Bread of life, you have set this table with your very self, and called us to the feast of plenty. Gather what has been sown among us, and strengthen us in this meal. Make us to be what we receive here, your body for the life of the world.

**Amen.**

### **Thanksgiving at the Table**

In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

### **The Lord's Prayer**

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread;

and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever.

Amen.

### **Invitation to the Table**

Christ has set the table with more than enough for all. Come!

### **Distribution**

*At this time take the elements you have with you saying these words:*

**The Body of Christ given for you. The Blood of Christ shed for you.**

## Post Communion Prayer

Jesus, Bread of life, we have received from your table more than we could ever ask. As you have nourished us in this meal, now strengthen us to love the world with your own life. In your name we pray.

**Amen.**

## Blessing

The blessing of God, who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us, ☩ be upon you now and forever.

**Amen.**

## Video—Our Week at Vacation Bible School

### VBS DAY 5



#### THEME

God Loves, We Love!



#### FOCUS VERSE

“By this everyone will know that you are my disciples if you have love for one another.” John 13:35

## Bible Story—Jesus Washes the Disciples Feet

In the final Bible story, we learned that God loves us so we can love each other. In John 13:3-15 and 33:25, we read about Jesus washing his disciple’s feet. In this act of service, Jesus shows us how to care for each other with love and concern. God calls each of us to love one another as God loves us. Loving each other like God loves us means serving each other wanting what is best for each other.

Working together to make sure that everyone has access to safe water, enough food and the other things they need is part of what it means to love our neighbors and be the church in the world.

# **Sending Song....."Let the River Flow"**

## **Verse:**

Let the poor man say I am rich in Him  
Let the lost man say I am found in Him  
Let the river flow  
Let the blind man say I can see again  
Let the dead man say I am born again  
Let the river flow  
Let the river flow

## **Chorus:**

Let the river flow, let the river flow  
Holy Spirit come, move in power  
Let the river flow

## **Verse**

## **Chorus**

## **Bridge:**

Let the river flow (Echo)

## **Chorus**

## **Bridge**

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## **Dismissal**

Go in peace, serve the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**THANK YOU to EVERYONE at LWLC for supporting our VBS 2021 program. We couldn't have done it without your support and prayers!**

**May the River of Life bless you always!**

