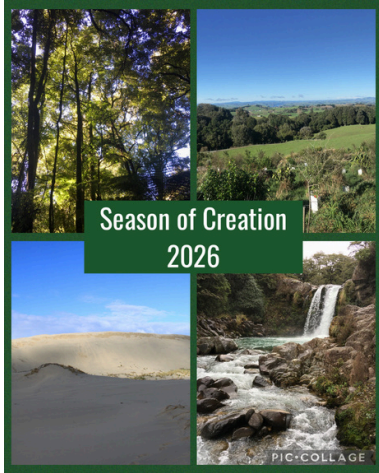


Season of Creation 2026



Forest Land Wilderness River

The material for this resource are inspired by Uniting Church of Australia Seasons of Creation material. There are readings and ideas for each week plus details about a co-creation piece. You can also explore the links on the left for more inspiration.

There is an additional download with PDF's with details of worship stations and prayer prompts.

Resources

[Strandz SoC Resources](#)

[NZPB - Thanksgiving of Creation & Redemption](#)

[Uniting Church of Australia Season of Creation](#)

[Intergen Australia](#)

Curating the Space

Set up a space at the front of the church that is easily visible. Each week add some objects related to the theme

Forest.- pictures of forest, green fabric, pot plants.

Land - pictures of land, brown coloured fabric, objects such as rocks

Wilderness - Pictures of wild places/desert, sand, empty branches.

River - pictures of rivers, blue fabric, water

Consider using sound such as birdsong, river sounds, desert sounds to provide atmosphere at the beginning of the service or during quiet times.



Co-creation

Working together to create something helps build community. Using either canvas or calico, with the background painted on, add detail every week as an act of worship/reflection. Read on further for more information.

Week 1 - Forest

Genesis 2:4b-22
Psalm 139:13-16
Acts 17:22-28
John 3:1-16

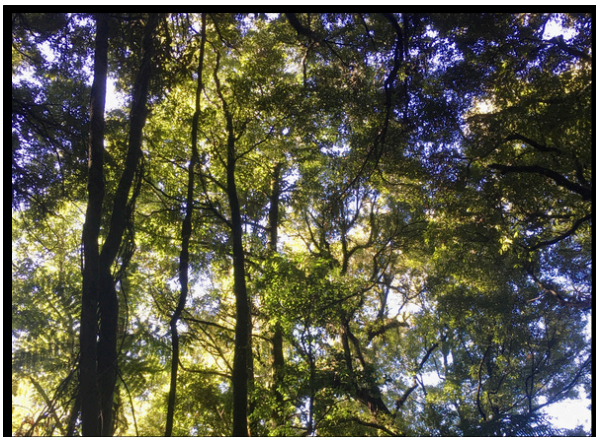
Welcome - Begin worship by playing native bird song before moving into speaking.

Confession - play birdsong and then interrupt with the sound of chainsaws. Move into a time of confession.

Sermon focus - relationship between us and creation

Co-creation - our wellbeing is intimately connect with the wellbeing of the plant and the forest. The human hands that destroy it can be the same ones that can bring it to restoration, use leaf prints on the tree as a sign of commitment to restoration

Intercessions - Use Prayer prompts in the Extra Resources PDF. Have people write prayers on leaf shapes or actual leaves and hang them or stick them on a tree/place them at the display.



Week 2 - Land

Genesis 3:14-19; 4:8-16
Psalm 139:7-12
Romans 5:12-17
Matthew 12:38-40

Confession - show pictures of lush, healthy land and then move to a picture of parched dry land and into the words of confession.

Sermon focus - the land suffers, land as a source of struggle and issue of justice.

Reflective/worship stations
Using the Extra Resources PDF available with this download, use the stations to help people engage with the different aspects of land. If you are unable to do stations, choose several of the reflective ideas to lead people through collectively.

Co-creation - fingerprints on the land, to show our commitment to upholding justice and caring for the land.



Week 3 - Wilderness

Joel 1:8-10, 17-20

Psalm 18:6-19

Romans 8:18-27

Matthew 3:13 – 4:2 or Mark 1:9-13

Welcome - Begin worship by playing wind sounds at the beginning of the service.

Confession - use pictures of wild places and use prayers that acknowledge the wild places that we do not value or care about.

Sermon focus - explore both the wild places we do not value and 'wilderness' experiences in our lives.

Co-creation - Use the reflection available in the Additional Resources PDF to lead people on a journey into the wilderness and finishing with a response of sprinkling sand onto the piece.

Intercessions - use the Prayer prompts in the Additional Resources PDF and invite people to pray in small groups.



Week 4 - River

Genesis 8:20-22; 9:12-17

Psalm 104:27-33

Revelation 22:1-5

Matthew 28:1-10

Welcome - begin worship by using rushing water sounds before moving into speaking.

Confession - using water in a clear bowl, get people to add rubbish (including something that will colour the water) before moving into confession about how we do not care for our waterways and how we commercialise water.

Sermon focus - link between rivers and bringing of justice, to the created world as well as marginalised people.

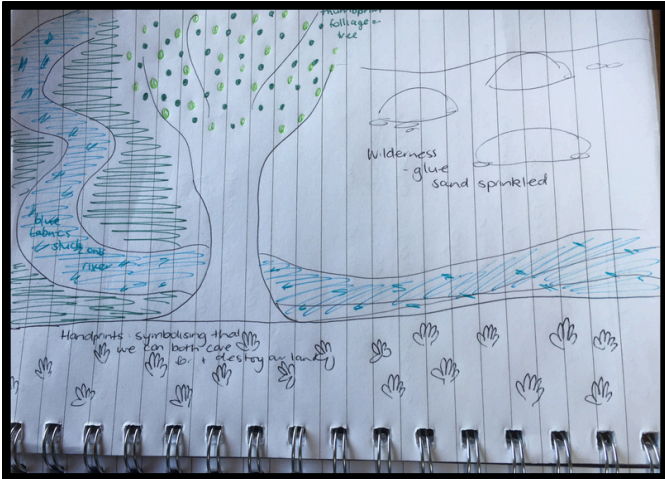
Reflective stations

Using the Additional Resources PDF available with this download, use the stations to help people engage with different aspects of rivers and justice.

Co-creation - using paint or small strips of blue material, add texture the water.



From Inspiration to Reality



Co-creation is way of bringing a group together around a common theme and creative output. At our church, there has been a long history of collaborative efforts on embroidered altar frontals. While I could not imagine how to incorporate sewing into worship, painting seemed a little more achievable.

The themes of forest, land, wilderness and river appeared to be deeply connected to one another.

As I imagined this, I did a basic sketch of what I hoped to achieve and then enlisted the help of an artist in our congregation, Nanette Randall. Although she doesn't usually work on fabric, she was able to work on a base design for us to use on calico. This would easily work on canvas .



Each week we invited the congregation to come to the piece during some time of the service and add something to the artwork.

Forest - leaf prints on the tree while reflecting on how to mitigate human impact on forests

Land - finger prints on the land while thinking about the stories of hardship and suffering the land has experienced and how we can walk more lightly and in justice.

Wilderness - sprinkling sand on the wilderness spaces (with glue painted on beforehand) following a guided reflection about wild spaces and wilderness times.

River - painting a strip of colour on the blue (we also considered gluing fabric) while reflecting on the importance of how we collectively respond to the care of nature and justice



When I observe people in my congregation participating in these activities I am always encouraged to see who really engages and how it can resonate. There is something beautiful about creating something together that will continue to inspire and bless us for years to come.