

THE RIVER

A Meditation Service

SOMETHING TO INSPIRE YOU

<https://youtu.be/BumCkswUUDA>

This Service is based around a meditation Katrina wrote, inspired by being by the river Thames. It explores how rivers are central to our understanding of God at work in the world and how rivers are a good place for meditation and prayer.

HYMN: BY THE RIVERS OF BABYLON

<https://youtu.be/vYK9iCRb7S4>

The Israelite leaders remember their exile in Babylon. Their captors wanted them to sing and they replied 'How can we sing the songs of the Lord while in a foreign land?'. These words are very poignant while we are in a situation where we cannot sing 'the Lord's Song' in our churches at the moment. We too long for a time when we can once again sing how great our God is. When you read the Psalm, try to read it as a psalm of hopefulness, that there will be a time when we will once again be able to join in singing to our God.

READING

Try reading this psalm as a meditation. Read it through three times. The first time straight through. The second time, pause at the end of each verse and let the words soak in and the third time read it out loud as if it is a psalm for you today.

PSALM 137 (NRSVA)

By the rivers of Babylon we sat and wept
when we remembered Zion.
There on the poplars
we hung our harps,
for there our captors asked us for songs,
our tormentors demanded songs of joy;
they said, "Sing us one of the songs of Zion!"

How can we sing the songs of the Lord
while in a foreign land?
If I forget you, Jerusalem,
may my right hand forget its skill.
May my tongue cling to the roof of my mouth
if I do not remember you,
if I do not consider Jerusalem
my highest joy.

HYMN: THE RIVER

<https://youtu.be/maT4phfTXR4>

Jesus went down to the river to be baptised himself:

THE BAPTISM OF JESUS MATTHEW 3:13-17 (NRSVA)

Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John. But John tried to deter him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?"

Jesus replied, "Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfil all righteousness." Then John consented.

16 As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. 17 And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."

SPIRITUAL: WADE IN THE WATER.

https://youtu.be/7_euSS86dvE

THE RIVER BY KATRINA

Today's service has been based around one of Katrina's meditations. Katrina says:

"I wrote this piece after a visit to Somerset House in 2010 - they had had a 'sound' installation of water. And yes, I see that over the years I have enjoyed numerous walks along the river!"

A video has been produced with Katrina reading her meditation along with photos taken along the Thames path by the Logans. A text version is available on the sheet but we recommend using the video version if you can!

<https://www.hounslowmethodist.org.uk/the-river>

Prayers for others with Karmen

The prayers this week have been led by Karmen and were written by Christine Longhurst in "Worship Resources for Lent and World Water Day, 2013".

A text version is available to read on the additional sheet.

<https://www.hounslowmethodist.org.uk/the-river>

HYMN: COME TO THE WATER ARR. PAUL BALOCHE

<https://youtu.be/i7fM292NzZI>

BLESSING

As the river runs from the source,
Lord we come to you
As the river flows to the sea
Lord we go out in your name
to tell all of your great love
Amen

COLLECTION

If you enjoy this service please consider giving a small amount to support the work of the church.
Thank you.

<https://www.hounslowmethodist.org.uk/donate>

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