

# River Prayer Trail



As you follow the course and condition of a river,  
we hope that you will see the parallel between a river and our lives.  
As you view the river, view your own life and the lives of those around you.  
Take a moment to pray for yourself and those whom you love.  
As you pray, know of God's great love for you  
and his desire for you to live a fulfilled life.

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# 1. The Birth of a River

“With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.” *Isaiah 12:3*



*As we think about the birth of a river,  
we pray for all those who will be born this day.*

**Heavenly Father,  
Bless all those babies born this day.  
Let your hand be upon them as they grow and develop.  
Keep them safe and let them flourish.  
Be close to all who care for our newborns  
and give strength and wisdom  
to all who feel overwhelmed by their new responsibility  
We ask all this in Jesus' name,  
AMEN**

# 2. A Youthful River

“And he took the children in his arms, placed his hands on them and blessed them.” *Mark 10:16*



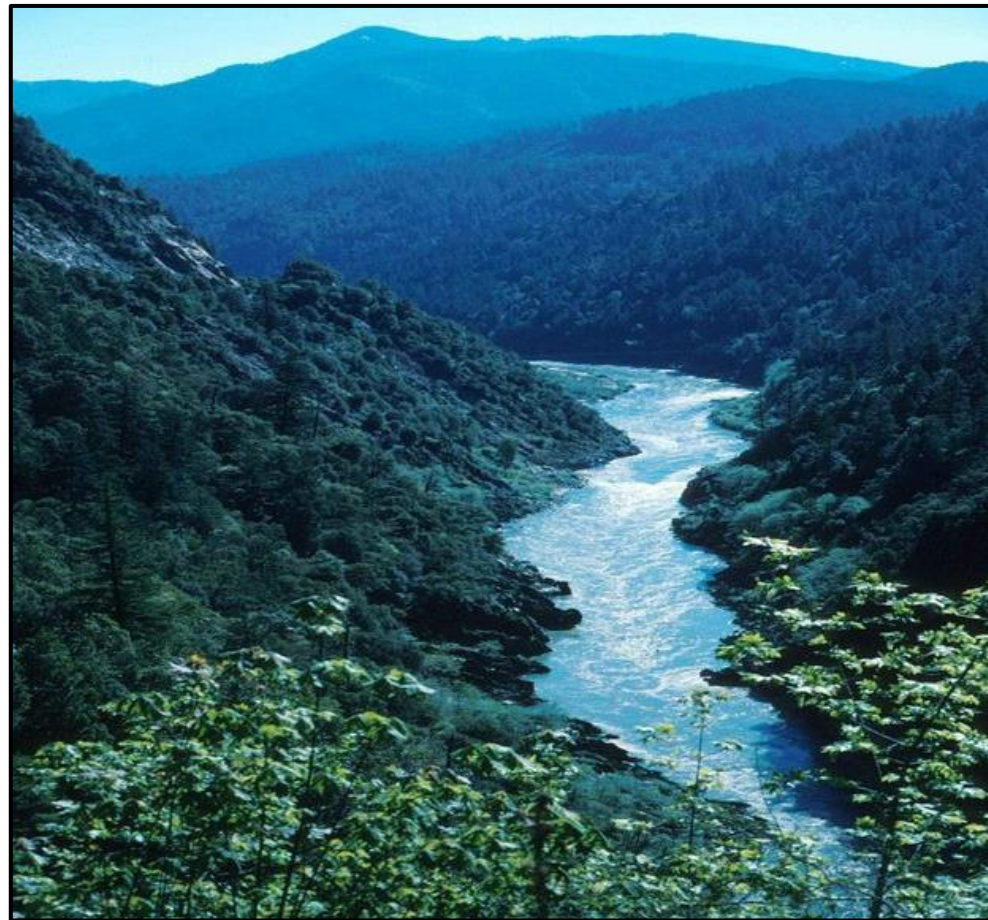
*As we think of a young river flowing along,  
we pray for young children...*

**Heavenly Father, thank you so much  
for all the precious children in this world.  
We pray that you would be in their lives and they would  
grow up knowing they are loved by you.  
As you bless them with opportunities,  
guide their footsteps along the way.  
We pray you would help us do all we can to protect and  
give them the start in life they deserve.**

**AMEN**

# 3. A Maturing River

Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity. *1 Timothy 4:12*



*As we think of a more mature river,  
we pray for our young people leaving home...*

**Lord, when they left home our hearts broke a little. We have done our best to prepare them for adulthood, they were as ready as they might be. The letting go has been too hard. We have tried to trust in systems and processes and in others. We pray that they will remember your teachings and that the choices they make will be based on truth and of real value. Lord, we are worried for our children at so many levels and leave them in your care.**

**Please keep our young people safe.**

**Guide them and guard them.**

**Amen.**

# 4. A Polluted River

Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world. *James 1:27*



*As we think about rivers that have been polluted, we pray for those whose lives have been polluted through poor influences...*

**Almighty God, forgive us for the times  
when we have gone wrong in thought, and word, and deed.  
When we are tempted to behave in ways that are damaging  
to ourselves, to others and to our environment,  
Guide us to make just and loving decisions.**

**Stay close to those who find themselves in deep trouble.  
Give them the humility to face their mistakes,  
the courage to accept responsibility for them  
and the will to change their lives for good.  
We pray in the name of Christ, our Saviour.**

**Amen**

# 5. A Dried Up River

“Whoever drinks of the water that I will give him shall never thirst; but the water that I will give him will become in him a well of water springing up to eternal life.” *John 4:14*



*As we think about rivers that have dried up, we pray for places  
of drought and famine...*

**God of all the earth, you saw the land and called it good,**

**Yet, for so many today, droughts are prolonged,  
rains are delayed and crops have failed.**

**Bring water again to those who are thirsty, quench the soil  
that it may be productive, and help those of us who take a  
clean water supply for granted to be thankful.**

**Enable us to work with you, and with all creation  
to stop the climate crisis which afflicts many today.**

**In Christ's name we pray.**

**Amen**

# 6. A Spoiled River

The heavens are yours; the earth also is yours; the world and all that is in it,  
you have founded them. *Psalms 89:11*



*As we call to mind rivers and other places that are full of  
rubbish we pray for our impact on the planet*

**Creator God**

**You have given us all things that we need  
and a beautiful world in which to live.**

**Help us to use the resources that we have with care.**

**Make us mindful of the impact of industry  
creating goods that we acquire,  
and then throw away, so easily and cheaply.**

**Help us to consider the cost to the environment  
of the waste that we produce.**

**Forgive us when we think only of our own immediate needs  
and make us thankful for what we have.**

**In Christ's name we pray.**

**Amen**

# 7. A Busy River

“Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens,  
and I will give you rest.” *Matthew 11:28*



***As we think of a river busy with traffic, we pray for all who  
are burdened with heavy loads...***

**Heavenly Father, no matter what burden I am carrying, I  
can trust that you will not only listen, but that you will also  
be faithful and righteous as you answer. Sometimes my  
burdens are heavy and difficult as I lay them at your feet  
with loud frustration. Other times, I may not even be able  
to speak. I believe you are able to make all things new,  
renew me. Please give me courage and strength during  
these times so that I am able to lay down the burden and  
walk away, knowing that you will handle it as you have  
promised.**

**Amen**

# 8. A River's End

God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. *Psalms 46:1*



***As we think of a river coming to the end of its journey, we  
pray for the lonely, vulnerable and frail...***

**We bring to you in our prayers all those who are frail,  
vulnerable or lonely and isolated because of illness or  
separated from family and friends because of lockdown.**

**Be to each a source of strength and, in your strength,  
may they find courage and peace.**

**Support them by your grace and encourage them with the  
assurance of your unfailing love.**

**We ask this in the name of Jesus our Saviour.**

**AMEN**

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