

March 22nd

Water and Climate Change



As the global population grows, so does the demand for water, which depletes natural resources and damages the environment in many places. Water is our most precious resource – we must use it more responsibly. We must balance all of society's water needs while ensuring the poorest people don't get left behind. Yes, climate change can feel scary and daunting. But there is one simple step you can take immediately that will make a big difference: don't waste water.

SETTING: Put on a ritual table a cloth, a pitcher and a bowl.

READING: Gen 1: 9 - 10, 27, 31

And God said, "Let the water under the sky be gathered to one place, and let dry ground appear." And it was so. God called the dry ground "land," and the gathered waters he called "seas." And God saw that it was good. ... So God created humanity in his own image, in the image of God he created them; man and woman he created them. ... God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning – sixth day.

REFLECTION

God made human beings in the divine image and likeness and saw that all that God made was good. Sky, streams, soil and seasons all reflect the majesty of the Creator. Help us, God, to respect and protect all of your creation, remembering that you created it and gave it to us for our "common home". Creation is very good! May we remember that fact today and pay our homage to the earth and water by our actions.

LEADER: As we explore water and climate change, we often stand in fear of possible outcomes given continued exploitation and reckless use of water and other natural resources. Could we not also stand in awe of the possibilities for renewing all of God's creation?

Take a moment to consider present fears that we face. Consider also a hope that you bring to this gathering.

QUIET

LEADER: I invite you to share briefly a fear and a hope. As you share, pour water into the bowl. Water represents the gift of life that permeates all of creation, which we yearn to protect.

GROUP DISCUSSION

1. Consider more specifically issues in your immediate area. What are the challenges? What is being done? How can you contribute to these efforts as an individual?... on a communal basis?
2. Are you aware of challenges that SNJMs face in regions other than your own? How can you be of support?
3. Read the end section on "things to do", bring your own suggestions. What will you do?

A PRAYER OF HEALING (all)

We join with the earth and with each other to bring new life to the land ...

To restore the waters
To refresh the air
To renew the forests
To care for the plants
To protect the creatures
To celebrate the seas
To rejoice in the sunlight

To sing a song of the stars
To recall our destiny
To renew our spirits
To reinvigorate our bodies
To create human community
To remember our children
To promote justice and peace.

We pray in your name, O God and in the names of Jesus and Mary. Amen

BLESSING:

use the water in the bowl
to bless each other



THINGS TO DO

- **Don't waste water!** Make a conscious effort to use less water .Some ways to reduce water consumption include showers instead of baths, washing full loads of clothing only and turning off the tap while washing dishes and brushing teeth.
- **Be a Sponsor for Water with Blessings:** \$60 provides a mom with all her equipment and training for a lifetime of clean water Larraine@waterwithblessings.org.
- **Donate to a charity or organization that supports water issues** in developing nations. [WaterAid](#) is an organization that works in poor countries to set up and maintain water sources; [UNICEF](#) and [UNCHR](#) also provide support and relief efforts to improve water sanitation and hygiene globally.
- Better land management can contribute to tackling climate change. **Help in the reforestation effort** – plant a tree in a needy area close to your home.
- **Volunteer to help clean up trash and other debris along a beach or shore or riverbank.** This garbage and debris pollutes the water that we need in our daily lives.
- **Go read Sustainable Development Goal #6 on Clean Water & Sanitation** <https://bit.ly/2VAXapt>
- **Take part in a local World Water Day celebration**, such as a film screening or a water conservation event.

World Water Day References and Related Sites:

<https://www.worldwaterday.org/>
<http://www.un.org/en/events/waterday/>
https://water.org/?_ga=1.1267505.1495635929.1458352975#

Sources: Grassroots Coalition for Environmental
and Economic Justice, Clarksville, Md. -
IPJC – Climate Change Booklet -
World Water Day – UN website