






Groundwater: Making the Invisible Visible

<https://www.worldwaterday.org/>

Leader: Welcome. Every year on the 22nd of March, World Water Day is observed internationally. It is a UN observance day which started in 1993. World Water Day celebrates water and raises awareness of the 2.2 billion people living without access to safe water. It is all about taking action to tackle the global water crisis. A core focus of World Water Day is to support the achievement of the UN's Sustainable Development Goal Number 6: water and sanitation for all by 2030. This is to ensure that all have access to safe water throughout the world by 2030! **The theme of World Water Day 2022 is Groundwater: Making the Invisible Visible.** This year's theme aims to highlight how important groundwater is to our environment.

<https://www.twinkl.ca/event/world-water-day-2022>

-  Groundwater is a vital resource that provides almost half of all drinking water worldwide.
-  Groundwater provides about 40% of water for irrigated agriculture and about 1/3 of water required for industry.
-  Groundwater is an important part of climate change adaptation process and is often a solution for people without access to safe water.

Despite these impressive facts and figures, invisible groundwater is out of sight and out of mind for most people.

A World Water Day on groundwater puts a spotlight on this invisible resource and thereby increases the awareness of the importance of taking care of our groundwater. <https://www.un-igrac.org/news/groundwater-making-invisible-visible-theme-world-water-day-2022>



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Welcoming Water Ritual and Opening Prayer

[adapted from a ritual prepared by Priscilla Solomon, incorporating aspects of the four directions found in its entirety at <https://www.kairoscanada.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/04/DR-IR-OWOL-WelcomingWaterRitual.pdf>

The Welcoming Water Ritual requires four participants with jugs of water, and a single bowl set up in the centre to receive the waters from the four directions.

*One person stands at each of the directions (E.S.W.N) - at 2 strides from the centre) and in turn holds up a jug of water while the leader announces the arrival of water from that direction. The person then proceeds to the bowl in the centre. Holding the jug up, **first asks for the care and protection of the water and then pours the water into the bowl slowly, from a height.***

Leader: I am the water that stands in the east, the water of newness, the water of life.

Pourer of the east: I seek your care and protection.

Leader: *I am the water that stands in the south: the waters of healing.*

Pourer of the south: I seek your care and protection.

Leader: I am the water that stands in the west: the water of transformation.

Pourer of the west: *I seek your care and protection.*

Leader: I am the water that stands in the north: the water of wholeness.

Pourer of the north: *I seek your care and protection.*

Response by ALL:

We remember: Water is a sacred gift that connects all life. It is a sacred legacy, a public trust, and a collective responsibility. We do care. We will respond.

Hymn: Music for the Sprinkling Rite- : Refrain of #237 CBWIII

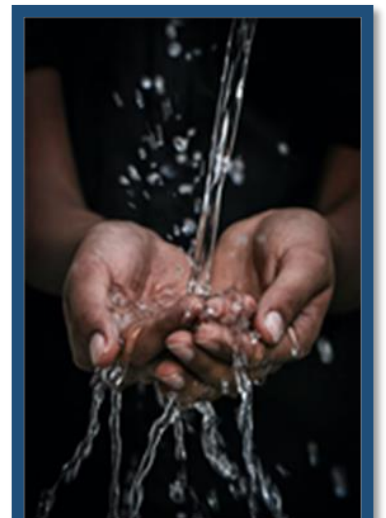
[suggest cantor first sings the refrain and then the congregation repeats it.]

Opening Prayer:

Creator God, we give you thanks for the precious gift of water. We remember the instructions you gave to water. We long to ensure your sacred gift will forever bring life, healing, and wholeness to all creation. Amen

First Reading - Isaiah 41:17-20

17-20 “The poor and homeless are desperate for water,
their tongues parched and no water to be found.
But *I’m* there to be found, *I’m* there for them,
and I, God of Israel, will not leave them thirsty.



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I'll open up rivers for them on the barren hills,
spout fountains in the valleys.
I'll turn the baked-clay badlands into a cool pond,
the waterless waste into splashing creeks.
Everyone will see this. No one can miss it—
unavoidable, indisputable evidence
That I, GOD, personally did this.

It's created and signed by The Holy One of Israel. The Word of God.
R. Thanks be to God.




Second Reading:

In his encyclical, *Laudato si'*, Pope Francis writes, "access to safe drinkable water is a basic and universal human right, since it is essential to human survival and, as such, is a condition for the exercise of other human rights. Our world has a grave social debt towards the poor who lack access to drinking water, because they are denied the right to a life consistent with their inalienable dignity."

Reflection: (2-3 minutes)

Leader: As stewards of creation, we are called to protect our neighbors and environment by helping to assure sources of healthy water for all our brothers and sisters.

Let's take a few minutes to reflect on the following questions:

-  How do I make use of water in my daily activities?
-  How aware am I of the blessing of my access to clean water?
-  How conscious am I of those persons who do not have access to clean water?

Adapted from- [https://www.chausa.org/prayers/cha-prayer-library/prayer/world-water-day-march-22-\(2013\)](https://www.chausa.org/prayers/cha-prayer-library/prayer/world-water-day-march-22-(2013))

Closing Remarks and Prayer

Leader:

Groundwater is invisible, but its impact is visible everywhere.

Groundwater is a hidden treasure underground that enriches our lives.

Almost all of the liquid freshwater in the world is groundwater.

As climate change gets worse, groundwater will become more and more critical.

We need to work together to sustainably manage this precious resource.

Groundwater may be out of sight, but it must not be out of mind.

<https://www.worldwaterday.org>

Leader: Let us pray:

Response by ALL: Good and gracious God, we pray for humility to see all the ways we take water for granted. Send Your Spirit to change the hearts of those who use water to create strife and conflict. Have mercy on those who are sick or in need because they cannot access safe water. We are thankful for Your gift of water seen in the beauty of waterfalls, placid lakes, rivers that move people and commerce, oceans full of amazing creatures. Give us guidance on how to be better stewards of a finite resource. We ask all of this in Your name. Amen.

[https://www.chausa.org/prayers/cha-prayer-library/prayer/world-water-day-march-22-\(2016\)](https://www.chausa.org/prayers/cha-prayer-library/prayer/world-water-day-march-22-(2016))

Hymn:

Song of the Waters to tune of #565 CBWIII- Praise My Soul, the King of Heaven

Watch once more the windswept storm clouds.
Suddenly the sky has wings!
God has come to rain among us,
Giving hope to all dry things.
Sing a song of splashing waters,
Pulsing through the veins of Earth.

Feel the breath of God move softly,
Gentle mists that brush the skin.
Earth is breathing God's own spirit,
Life renewed from deep within.
Sing a song of living waters,
Pulsing through the veins of Earth.



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