

Leader's Guide for World Oceans Day Prayer - June 8, 2023

For the most part the script for the prayer is self-explanatory. The **Leader** reads the Introduction.

Person's Needed:

The prayer for World Ocean Day requires one person to be the Leader and 4 readers if possible. Otherwise have 2 readers who will alternate the readings.

An additional person will be needed as the ritual assistant.

In Preparation Set Up the Ritual Space:

On a ritual table, set up to focus the people gathered, place a large bowl on the table, if possible, made of glass as this is more visible. Beside this bowl place a glass pitcher of water and a smaller bowl with salt in it. It can be ordinary table salt or pickling salt which is coarser.

Ritual:

To begin the Leader will explain the items on the ritual table with the following words. (As the Leader refers to the water and the salt the ritual assistant will first lift up the pitcher with water and then the bowl with the salt).

Leader: On our ritual table we have **water** (*the ritual assistant lifts up the pitcher of water*)– **the life-giving element for all** of creation (*the ritual assistant puts the pitcher down*)

Leader: and we have salt (*the ritual assistant lifts up the bowl of salt*).

Leader: In the scriptures salt is used to express a covenant that is perpetual, not to be broken. On this World Oceans Day let us enter into a covenant with God and with all the peoples of the earth to protect the oceans and seas and all the life they sustain. (*the ritual assistant puts the bowl of salt down*)

Reader 2: Greetings from China – *the reader pauses while:*

The Ritual Assistant comes forward and pours water from the pitcher into the bowl. She then picks up some salt and from a height she ritually sprinkles it over the water. She then steps aside.

Reader 2 continues – “A textile advocacy group called ILab is compelling people...”

At the end of Reader 2's piece **All** the participants will say the response together.

Reader 3: Greetings from Japan - *the reader pauses while:*

the Ritual Assistant comes forward and pours water from the pitcher into the bowl. She then picks up some salt and from a height she ritually sprinkles it over the water. She then steps aside.

Reader 3 continues – “Japan is an island nation with 30,000 kms of coastline...”

At the end of Reader 3’s piece **All** the participants will say the response together.

Reader 4: Greetings from Canada - *the reader pauses while:*

the Ritual Assistant comes forward and pours water from the pitcher into the bowl. She then picks up some salt and from a height she ritually sprinkles it over the water. She then steps aside.

Reader 4 continues – “Oceana Canada was established in 2015 ...”

At the end of Reader 4’s piece **All** the participants will say the response together.

This ends the Ritual.

Next follows: Time for REFLECTION: The Leader will give the reflection question found in the prayer. After a short time for personal pondering the Leader will facilitate the best format for sharing in the group.

Continue with:

- the **Litany of Gratitude**, the **Leader** designates Side 1 and Side 2
- the **Closing Prayer**
- the **Closing Song**.