

## World Water Day Prayer Service

*(Ambiance: a water bowl, a small fountain, pictures of water  
or whatever can capture your attention to water)*

### **Introduction:**

**Leader:** As a congregation we have made a commitment to become a Laudato Si' congregation. World Water Day on March 22nd is an opportunity to take some time to reflect on the precious gift of Water. Do I value the sacredness of Water? Our use and care for water cross the boundary of the Cry of the Earth and the Cry of the Poor. *"Our world has a grave social debt toward the poor who lack access to drinking water, because they are denied the right to a life consistent with their inalienable dignity."* Laudato Si #30

**Hymn:** Come to the Water by John Foley

**Call to Prayer** Loving God, you have lavished your world with all that we need to grow and live in peace. We come to you today to praise and thank you for the precious gift of water. It sustains our lives. It is a reflection of your grace poured out upon us. It refreshes our souls. May this time of reflection confirm us in our desire to work to protect this resource.

### **Reflection:**

**Leader:** You are invited to take a few minutes to reflect on various aspects of water in your life.

- Do I recognize water as a sacred gift?
- How conscious am I of my consumption of water, not only directly but also the amount of water used in the production of things I purchase?

### **Asking Water for Forgiveness:**

**Leader:** All of creation is sacred including water. Since water is a source of life for us as living creatures, let us reflect on ways we have been thoughtless in our use of water and ask for forgiveness through Jesus Christ. We now ask WATER for forgiveness that we may see our own blindness.

**Response:** "Forgive us and heal our blindness"

- For our carelessness in the use of water, especially when not being conscious of doing so
- For our use of pollutants, chemicals and plastics that may eventually end up in bodies of water
- For our failure to address water issues pertaining to the common good
- For our negligence of letting water run until it is hot, instead of recycling the cold water for plants
- For our overuse of water, when washing one's body and various things, adding to the scarcity water
- For our failure to consider the needs of the underdeveloped world in our political decisions around water
- For selling water as a commodity for profit rather than seeing it as a right for all humans and creatures

### **Contemplative Ritual:**

*Jesus said to the Samaritan woman, "...whoever drinks the water I give will never be thirsty; no, the water I give shall become a fountain within, leaping up to provide eternal life." John 4:14*

#### **Leader:**

Put your hands over your heart. Let your breath take you into the waters of your own being as you sink deeply into the Mystery, which is Love, our Source of Life. May you feel the fluidity of that Love within, with every breath you take.

Now sense your connection with all those gathered today to heal the waters of our earth. Feel the power of our collective thanks to water, our collective desire to send healing to this wonderful element. Feel the power of love flowing to all waters in need of healing. (pause)

#### **Final Blessing:**

**Leader:** Let us pray together:

May the ancient wisdom of water well up within us!

May the holiness of water heal our land!

May its cleansing power wash away our guilt!

May its cosmic power capture the imaginations of decision makers"!

May its majesty inspire us to live in a way that enables the full flourishing of all beings! Amen.

*(With gratitude to the Sisters of Mercy from whom parts of this prayer has been taken.)*

