



A Prayer on World Water Day (March 22 each year is World Water Day)

God who brought water from the rock at Rephidim to quench the thirst of people, we are a world thirsty for water.

Rivers run dry, never reaching the ocean. Lakes have evaporated, leaving wildlife with no place to drink. Aquifers disappear, leaving cities without water.

O God, we confess, we have applied technological fixes drilling wells deeper, making the problem worse. We confess, in our world of inequality, the financially comfortable water their lawns, and the poor struggle to have enough clean water to drink and cook with. We confess, we have squandered and polluted the water you give this earth. We confess, we put a price on a gift you freely gave all humanity.

God who called your people to share water even with their enemies (Prov. 25:21), we recognize that water is a contested commodity over which people fight with words, with lawsuits, and sometimes with violence. Show us a different way, make us generous with water so that all people might share in the blessing of water.

We pray for those who do not have access to clean water. We weep that a child in our world dies every 90 seconds due to a water related disease. We weep that a million people are killed each year by water, sanitation, and hygiene-related disease. O God, turn our tears into commitment and action that all people might have safe water.

As the Samaritan woman went to the well for water, we pray for women and girls who frequently bear the burden of finding and carrying water for their households, a role that can take up to 4 hours a day. We pray you would strengthen women as they lift and carry their heavy loads. Open the eyes of all that they would involve women in planning water and sanitation projects.

God who purified the water at Marah so people could drink, show us ways to rehabilitate polluted water sources and aquifers. Teach us, in particular as Canadians, to be willing to share the resource we have received. We pray for the discipline and creativity to conserve water. Make us wise stewards of the water you give us.

God, who has promised to give the water of life to all who are thirsty without cost, teach us to live by your pattern.

These things we pray in the name of Jesus Christ, who quenches our spiritual thirst. Amen.

—*The Rev. Peter Bush, moderator of the 2017 General Assembly*