



Water—Source and Sustenance of Life

Bowl Chime

Presider: What better time to celebrate water than when winter transitions into spring with the melting and rushing of waters down our mountains into our streams, brooks, rivers, and lakes! This Merrimack (*name a local river*) River flows with the very same water that has cycled our planet for 3.9 billion years. The very same water that the dinosaurs drank sustains us now in 2013. Let us open to the sacredness of water as we listen to John Surette's words of wisdom.

Reading: (Homily Excerpt, John Surette)

Water is sacramental. It carries the life-giving and loving presence of the Divine. When we thirst and quench our thirst with water, we are receiving the gift of life, and the Divine love is contained within that gift. Water...is a sacred reality. The water we drink moves into our blood streams, into our brains...into ourselves. It becomes us. It becomes you. It becomes me. It becomes the sparkle in our eyes and the tears flowing down our cheeks. It becomes our songs, our dance, our poetry, and our love. It becomes our sorrow and struggle, our prayer and our worship here today at this very moment.

All: We open to the experience of water's silent and invisible path of evaporation into cloud formations from whence it...

rains

 snows

 sleets

 hails

 dews

 mists

 and fogs...

 back to earth, invisibly nourishing the planet in an ebb and flow of life.

Litany of Water:

Earth's water is 97.5% salty. Of the 2.5% of Earth's fresh water, two-thirds is frozen. Less than 1% of all fresh water is available to grow our crops and to supply drinking and bathing water for Earth's 7 billion people. **May we use it with care.**

Water is our most precious resource.

May we use it with care.

Water is vital to life.

May we use it with care.

Humans, plants, and animals are made up of mostly water.

May we use it with care.

All living things would die if it weren't for water.

May we use it with care.

We need water for drinking, washing, cleaning, cooking, and growing our food.

May we use it with care.

Between 1 and 1.2 billion people have no access to clean drinking water... that is 1 in every 6 persons.

May we use it with care.

Within the next 20 years half the world's population—including southern U.S. states—will likely face water shortages.

May we use it with care.

Reverent Consecration of Water (repeat each phrase)

- ✚ Sacred
- ✚ Sacredness of water.
- ✚ Sacredness of each drop.
- ✚ With reverence we honor...
- ✚ This gift of Earth.
- ✚ May we use it with care.

Communion of the Sacred Waters of Life (share local drinking water)

On this **World Water Day** we send energy to all who are gathered to highlight efforts for **Water Cooperation** which

- is key to poverty reduction social equity and gender equality,
- creates economic benefits,
- helps preserve water resources and protect the environment,
- builds peace.



Suggested Closing Song: The River She Is Flowing (Flight of the Hawk)

The river she is flowing, flowing, and flowing.

The river she is flowing, down to the sea.

Mother, carry me. Your child I will always be.

Mother, carry me down to the sea.

Prayer prepared by Dorothy Landry for Berakah Session: Mystical Perspectives, March 2013.