

Sabbath Prayers for Water

*When the poor and needy seek water,
I will open rivers on the bare heights,
and fountains in the midst of the valleys;
I will make the wilderness a pool of water,
and the dry land springs of water.*

Isaiah 41:17-18

**MOBILIZING
FAITH,
FIGHTING
POVERTY**

Remembering Those Who Thirst ...

The poor of the world are thirsty
for justice and for peace;
their journey is unending
til hate and oppression cease.

The Lord of Heaven is thirsty
for justice and for peace;
His battle is unending
til hate and oppression cease.

Moving Toward Refreshment ...

God of life,
God of all those who walk
miles for water,
God of those whose only
supply is contaminated,
bringing death, not life.
May water, clean and life-
giving, be available to
every living creature.
May that vision move
forward.

May your will be done.

Water in Bible Lands ...

Water is a central symbol of life in the Biblical tradition especially in a region of the world where there was little water. In Ancient Palestine the contrast between the Dead Sea, with its sulphurous air, oppressive heat and high (7%) salt content, and the living water of the river Jordan was very real. There were few streams in ancient Palestine, many of the springs and wells were unreliable and the people relied on the run-off from winter rains. Towns grew up around permanent springs and in cities like Jerusalem they built tunnels and conduits to ensure continuous access. The frequent references to water as a symbol of life are earthed in the experience of the people.

A Call to Worship

God of Life

The earth belongs to you

And we are your people.

We come in worship,

**acknowledging how much we need your grace
in a world where there is so much violence
and greed.**

**We long for the living water that refreshes and
gives life**

Seeking justice and praying for peace

You are our hope and our strength

We open our hearts to your word.

Amen

Prayer of Approach

Rejoice in the Lord,
For he has refreshed the parched earth
We praise you, O God

Rejoice for the rain that falls by night,
And soaks gently into the dry ground,
Causing half dried up roots to swell,
And the deep cracks in the earth to close.
We praise you, O God

Rejoice for the great drops that fall at midday;
Rejoice in the small streams,
Singing on their way
From the hills down into the valleys,
To make the rivers swell
And fill the reservoirs
And supply the cities
And irrigation channels with water.

We praise you, O God

An Intercessory Prayer

God of the running water,
We pray for our world where waterways are
polluted with rubbish, where streams that once
were clean now carry poisonous bacteria and
chemicals and our rivers are being clogged with
didymo. So many people have depended on
clean water for life but now they have been
abandoned by those who could help.
Hear the cries of those without clean water
And quench their thirst

We pray for those who have power to bring water where the people need it, especially for governments who set policy and decide where to build pipes or to go to war. May they listen to the people and acknowledge their continued roles in maintaining their water systems while seeking better ways of sharing the water with all who depend on it.

Hear the cries of those without clean water

And quench their thirst

We pray for those that we know who are in need of your life-giving water at this time... (add names and circumstances known to you). May their thirst be quenched.

Hear the cries of those without clean water

And quench their thirst

Life-giving God we ask these things and much more in your name.

Amen

A Closing Prayer

As Jesus walked to Jerusalem
So we make our way in this world
Committed to the Cross
Committed to the Word
Committed to our lives together.

We go knowing that we can draw on your wells
And in the hope of new life.

Amen

Source: Church World Service

<http://www.churchworldservice.org/PDFs/Resources/WorshipWater.pdf>

<http://www.cws.org.nz/files/World%20Water%20Day%202007.pdf>