# *PRAYER OVER WATER*

GATHERING: Sit quietly as the music plays and come slowly to a quiet place within yourself.

SPRINKLING WITH WATER:

'WATER"

Lakes and rivers.
Oceans and streams
Springs, pool and gullies.
Arroyos, creeks, watersheds.
Pacific. Atlantic. Mediterranean.
Indian. Caribbean. China Sea.
(Lying. Dreaming on shallow shores.)
Arctic Antarctic. Baltic.
Mississippi. Amazon. Columbia. Nile.
Thames. Sacramento. Snake. (Undulant woman river.)
Seine. Rio Grande. Willamette. McKenzie. Ohio.
Hudson. Po. Rhine. Rhone. Delaware. Susquehanna.
Rain. After a time of drought.
That finally cleanses the air.
The soot from our eyes.
The dingy windows of our western home.
The rooftops and branches. The wings of birds.
The new light on a slant. Pouring. Making everything new.

Paula Gunn Allen

CALL TO PRAYER: Creator God, whose Spirit moved over the face of the waters, who gathers the seas into their places, and directs the course of the rivers, who sends rain upon the earth that it should bring forth life: we praise you for the gift of water. Create in us such a sense of wonder and delight in this and all your gifts, that we might receive them with gratitude, care for them with love, and generously share them with all your creatures, to the honor and glory of Your holy name.

World Council of Churches Prayer Services

All: Amen

SONG

LISTEN:

THE STORY OF ALYAH Hello. My name is Alyah. I'm six years old... I live on the edge of a desert in Africa. I have something very important to do for my family. Every day, early in the morning, I take a cup… just one. I never need more than one. A little way off from home there is a sand mountain. There is a cave in the side of the sand mountain. It's cooler in there. If I carefully scratch a little hole in the side of the cave – just big enough for my cup – and wait a while, a drop of water may come. And I catch it in my cup. I scratch a little more sand away and wait some more, and maybe another drop …or even two. And so on. Mother gave me a piece of bread to eat. I continue on until the sun isn't coming in the cave anymore, and then I start my walk home. Today was a good day. My cup is almost full and I carry it very carefully. My mother will use it to make us something to eat, and everyone will be happy.

(A true happening )

READING: Isaiah 41:17 – 20

(Pause for Reflection)

How do the Listening and Reading relate to each other?

Who must do what Yahweh promised in Isaiah…really?

LITANY:

HEALING THE WATERS

Leader: Some waters need healing. Let us call to mind the places on this earth where the waters are polluted, troubled or in drought. As we name them, let us say:
Response: May all the waters be healed.

Leader: In the Two-Thirds World, hauling and purifying water is one of women's daily works.
Response: May all the waters be healed

Many people in large cities worldwide do not drink water flowing from the faucets because the water is polluted.
Response: May all the waters be healed.

Leader: In Bangladesh there is a new disaster: wells pump poison and people die from arsenic.
Response: May all the waters be healed.

Leader: The Bagmati River in Kathmandu is characteristically dirty brown and full of particles that carry waterborne diseases.
Response: May all the waters be healed.

Leader: Many U.S. urban cities are working to clean up their rivers: Atlanta's Chattahoochee, Cincinnati's Mill Creek, Denver's South Platte, Washington, DC's Anacostia, (New York's Hudson).
Response: May all the waters be healed.

Leader: Crossing the Andes, bus drivers routinely throw Styrofoam trash into the rivers.
Response: May all the waters be healed.

Leader: I invite you to name other water problem areas and we will respond.
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Response: May all the waters be healed.

Leader: Let us pray: Spirit of Renewal, breathe into all waters. Waters, be made clean that you may fully praise our Creator and share your life giving powers with all creation.

Diane L. Neu

BLESSING OVER THE WATER ( as all bless the water ): God, source of all life, you whose Spirit moved over the waters of creation, breathe a blessing, we pray, upon this water, symbol of your desire to refresh and renew us and all creation. Mystery of living water, pour your Spirit into us, that, with you and with your help, we may renew the face of the waters.

BLESSED BY THE WATER: (Each person come as you are ready and bless yourself in some way with the water.)

CLOSING PRAYER:

Leader: Lord Jesus, you called yourself "living water" and you said, "Let anyone Who thirsts come to me and drink." Show us how to preserve and renew the waters of This planet so that all of your people may drink to health of body as well as spirit, and so That plants and animals, fish and birds may likewise flourish. And may " rivers of living water" flow from us to all of your creation.

RESPONSE: Amen! Alleluia!

CLOSING SONG