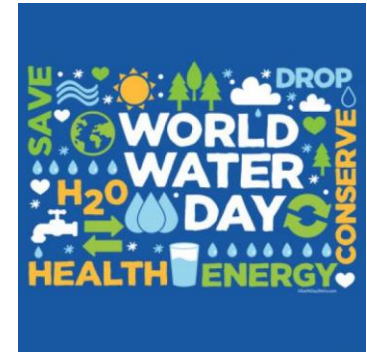



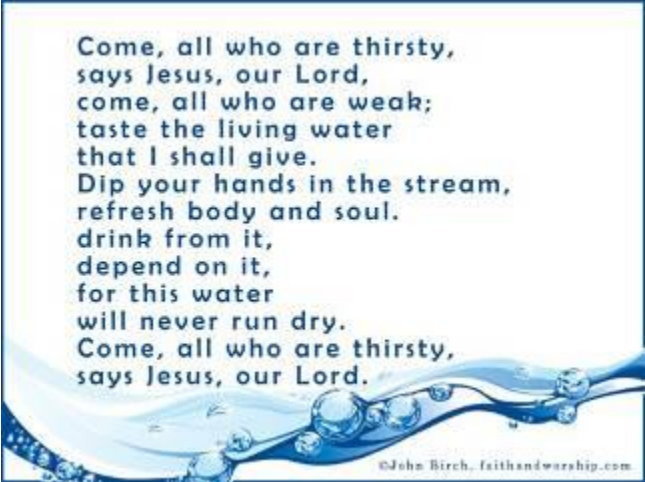


JAEI



March 2017 Environmental Prayer Diary





March is Water Month
World Water Day - 22 March


<p>Wednesday</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>Ash Wednesday Repentance: We confess that we have been irresponsible in our use of water, wasting it to satisfy our want not our need.</p>
<p>Thursday</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>Without water, we would die. Water is essential for life on earth, not just human life but all life. Water is needed for drinking, cleaning, washing, and making crops grow. There is no substitute for this precious resource, and yet we waste it, we pollute it, and we even commodify it! Let's start anew, and begin by thanking the Lord for the gift of water!</p> 
<p>Friday</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>World Wildlife Day We are blessed with an abundance of wildlife which we however cannot take for granted. “The future of wild animals is in our hands” – is the theme that we are taking forward to 2017 as it is our human activities which is endangering them the most. There are many wildlife organisations working to protect our wild animals – see what your local organisation is doing and ask them how you can contribute. Pray for all involved in this important aspect of conservation</p>
<p>Saturday</p>	<p>4</p>	

Sunday	5	<p>The Lord's Prayer (Re-read for water)</p> <p>Our God, father and mother, from, through and to whom all lives flow, Your name is holy for you water every creature with life. May the 'waters rolling in justice' come down among us and dwell as in your presence. Give us water sufficient for our living, and help us to share water and other resources with those who are dying of thirst. Forgive us our insincerity, insensitivity and irresponsibility in saving and preserving water, and for our abuse of creation. And teach us to forgive one another. Lead us not into the temptation of accumulation, greed and power over water, and deliver us from avaricious life styles. For your word is like water cleansing us from evil, your reign is righteousness flowing like an ever-flowing stream dismantling the powers and principalities from generation to generation, from history to history, for ever and ever. Amen.</p>
Monday	6	<p>Water Justice:</p> <p>Research and pray for one community without access to clean water. Choose a practical action to support them</p>
Tuesday	7	<p>"Blessed God, in your wisdom you uphold creation and restore it again and again. Help us to see all water as holy water, and all our concerns as bathed in the living water you give us. We ask this in the name of Jesus the Christ. Amen</p>
Wednesday	8	<p>"Our relationship with nature is more one of being than having. We are nature: we do not have nature. Steven Harper</p>
Thursday	9	<p>SDG Target #6</p> <p>Ponder and pray about this this:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2.4 billion people lack access to basic sanitation services, such as toilets or latrines
Friday	10	<p>"Do not despise the fish because they are absolutely unable to speak or to reason, but fear lest you may be even more unreasonable than they by resisting the command of the Creator. Listen to the fish, who through their actions all but utter this word: 'We set out on this long journey for the perpetuation of our species' Saint Basil of Caesarea (4th century)</p>

<p>Saturday</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>Almighty God, Lord God, Most High.</p> <p>You have invited us to drink of the living waters of Your Spirit so that we may live eternally; we also need to drink water in order to live our earthly existence.</p> <p>Thanks to water we have food that comes from the earth that has been irrigated in order to be fertile. Water brings life to creation.</p> <p>But, I look around and I see that too much water caused by storms and heavy rains is becoming a great problem. The floods are causing destruction to crops, property, animals and human life. Many poor people are becoming homeless and unemployed because of the calamities caused by water.</p> <p>By contrast lack of water is causing a lot of human suffering and many areas of the earth are having draughts which are causing many losses. We are losing our crops, animals are dying, the earth is becoming useless and many human beings are losing their lives too.</p> <p>Lord God, help me to be part of the solution and not the problem.</p>
<p>Sunday</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>“A river flowed out of Eden to water the garden, and from there it became four rivers.”</p> <p>Gen 2:10</p> 
<p>Monday</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>National Water Week – 13-19 March</p> <p>JustWater2017.org has been organized to coincide with World Water Day (22nd March) so that the programme can support the excellent work being done and add to the places, voices and actions on water around the world. The <i>JustWater</i> programme begins at the start of Lent 2017 (1st March) and runs through World Water Day and beyond.</p> <p>The Archbishop of Cape Town, Thabo Makgoba, has said the problem of water supply and sanitation illustrates why South Africa “is one of the most unequal countries in the world.”</p> <p>The Archbishop also described the problem of drought as one of the biggest risks facing South Africa’s businesses – causing food shortages, price increases and the loss of jobs for casual workers.</p> <p>JustWater is an international church initiative launched to raise awareness and activism about water. The initiative has been organised by St George's Cathedral (Cape Town); St Paul's Cathedral (London); St Paul's Cathedral (Melbourne); and Trinity Church Wall Street (New York) to draw attention to the issues around water supply - whether these challenges are flooding, drought, rising tides or access to fresh water and sanitation.</p> <p>Join with them – add your prayer and your action today!</p> <p>(Visit www.justwater2017.org for loads of information and resources)</p> 

Tuesday	14	<p>International Day of Action for Rivers</p> <p>Rivers carry water and nutrients to areas all around the earth. They play a very important part in the water cycle, acting as drainage channels for surface water. Rivers drain nearly 75% of the earth's land surface. Rivers provide excellent habitat and food for many of the earth's organisms.</p> <p><i>Prayerfully</i> consider what effect your lifestyle has on our rivers?</p>
Wednesday	15	
Thursday	16	<p>“What we most need to do is to hear within us the sound of the Earth crying.</p> <p><i>Thich Nhat Hanh</i></p>
Friday	17	<p>SDG Target #6</p> <p>By 2020, protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes</p> <p><i>Pray</i> that there will be the will and resources so that this goal may be attained</p>
Saturday	18	<p>Pray for:</p> <p>The time-impoveryished: Many women in Sub-Saharan Africa spend 40 billion hours each year just hauling water.</p>
Sunday	19	<p>““Faith does not need to push the river because faith is able to trust that there is a river. The river is flowing. We are in it.”</p> <p><i>Richard Rohr</i></p>
Monday	20	<p>“The idea of absolute freedom is fiction. It's based on the idea of an independent self. But in fact, there's no such thing. There's no self without other people. There's no self without sunlight. There's no self without dew. And water. And bees to pollinate the food that we eat...So the idea of behaving in a way that doesn't acknowledge those reciprocal relationships is not really freedom, it's indulgence”</p> <p><i>Peter Coyote</i>, August 1998</p>

<p>Tuesday</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>International Day of Forests and Trees</p> <p>The United Nations General Assembly proclaimed 21 March the International Day of Forests (IDF) in 2012. The Day celebrates and raises awareness of the importance of all types of forests. On each International Day of Forests, countries are encouraged to undertake local, national and international efforts to organize activities involving forests and trees, such as tree planting campaigns. The theme for 2017 is Forests and Energy.</p> <p><i>Prayerfully</i> consider your lifestyle’s impact on forests and trees</p>
<p>Wednesday</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>World Water Day</p> <p><i>World Water Day</i> is an annual event organised by the United Nations that will be celebrated on Wednesday 22nd March 2017. The day is observed internationally as an “opportunity to learn more about water related issues, be inspired to tell others and take action to make a difference.”</p> <p>In the Southern hemisphere, we are all too aware of how precious water is and every day of the year should be dedicated towards looking after this special resource. However, this day is a good opportunity to have another look around your home and place of worship to make sure there are no leaks or unnecessary water wastage. Churches are also uniting around this issue and this website has many useful resources you can draw on to mark this day: http://www.justwater2017.org/</p> <p>Pray for the Water Justice Conference (22 – 25 March): This conference has been organised to provide guidance for churches and individuals wishing to take unified, faith-based action on water justice. Whilst the main conference will be held in New York and be live-streamed, there will be companion events, including in Cape Town, hosted by the St George’s Cathedral.</p>
<p>Thursday</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>World Meteorological Day</p> <p>Take a moment tonight to look up at the night sky – it is an inspiring sight and can remind us of the bigger picture and our task as Earth Keepers to ensure that future generations can gaze up at the splendour of the Heavens.</p> 
<p>Friday</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>SDG Target #6</p> <p>Ponder and pray about this:</p> <p>Each day, nearly 1,000 children die due to preventable water and sanitation-related diarrhoeal diseases</p>

<p>Saturday</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>Earth Hour</p> <p>This <i>Earth Hour</i>, switch on your social power to shine a light on climate action. Celebrate <i>Earth Hour</i> on 25 March 2017, 20:30-21:30.</p> <p>Growing up, we've all had dreams about our future and the children of today are no different. But their dreams for tomorrow depend on our actions today.</p> <p><i>Be sure to observe YOUR Earth Hour!</i></p> 
<p>Sunday</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>Meditate on Mark 9:41:</p> <p>"I tell you the truth, anyone who gives you a cup of water in my name because you belong to Christ will certainly not lose his reward."</p>
<p>Monday</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>Reflection:</p> <p>Pope Francis - <i>Laudato Si</i></p> <p>Fresh drinking water is an issue of primary importance, since it is indispensable for human life and for supporting terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems. Sources of fresh water are necessary for health care, agriculture and industry. Water supplies used to be relatively constant, but now in many places demand exceeds the sustainable supply, with dramatic consequences in the short and long term. Large cities dependent on significant supplies of water have experienced periods of shortage, and at critical moments these have not always been administered with sufficient oversight and impartiality. Water poverty especially affects Africa where large sectors of the population have no access to safe drinking water or experience droughts which impede agricultural production. Some countries have areas rich in water while others endure drastic scarcity.</p> <p><i>Prayerfully</i> reflect on this</p>
<p>Tuesday</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>"Rivers of living water are to be poured out over the whole world, to ensure that people, like fishes caught in a net, can be restored to wholeness.</p> <p><i>Hildegard of Bingen</i></p>
<p>Wednesday</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>We pray for the leaders of nations, corporations, and communities around the world who steward the gift of water, so that all people may have clean water to drink and be free from water-borne diseases.</p>
<p>Thursday</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>We pray for the wisdom to shape creative solutions to conflict over water in the dry places of our planet, and for peace in desert lands.</p>
<p>Friday</p>	<p>31</p>	<p>"There comes a point where we need to stop just pulling people out of the river. We need to go upstream and find out why they're falling in."</p> <p><i>Desmond Tutu</i></p> 