

# ***WATER – Gift of God, Source of Life***

## **Closing Song      - Sent by the Lord (Nicaragua)**

1.      Sent by the Lord am I;  
         my hands are ready now  
         to make the earth the place  
         in which the kingdom comes.  
         Sent by the Lord am I;  
         my hands are ready now  
         to make the earth the place  
         in which the kingdom comes.
2.      The angels cannot change  
         a world of hurt and pain  
         into a world of love,  
         of justice and of peace.  
         The task is mine to do,  
         to set it really free.  
         Oh, help me to obey;  
         help me to do your will.

## **Blessing**

Leader: May the God, who created the waters of the world,  
         the Son of living waters,  
         the spirit of cleansing waters  
         be with us now and always.

All:      *Amen.*

*Devon Churches Green Action  
The Old Deanery, The Cloisters, Exeter, EX1 1HS*

## **Devon Churches Green Action Ecumenical Service – JPIC Chapel, Exeter Cathedral 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2007 – 12 noon**

Water is a symbol of life. The Bible affirms water as the cradle of life, an expression of God's grace in perpetuity for the whole of creation (Gen 2:5ff). It is a basic condition for all life on Earth (Gen 1:2ff.) and is to be preserved and shared for the benefit of all creatures and the wider creation. What is the source of health and wellbeing and requires responsible action from us human beings, as partners and priests of Creation (Rom 8:19ff., Rev 22). As churches, we are called to participate in the mission of God to bring about a new creation where life in abundance is assured to all (John 10:10; Amos 5:24). It is therefore right to speak out and to act when the life-giving water is pervasively and systematically under threat.

## **Reflective Music**

### **Call to Worship**

Leader: All who thirst, come to the water.  
         Come, all who are weary;  
         come, all who yearn for forgiveness.  
         The Holy Spirit through Jesus Christ  
         has washed over us,  
         and our Gracious and Holy God beckons  
         and blesses us.  
         Drink deeply of these living waters.

All:      *Glory to you, O God, glory to you.*

Leader: You are the fountain of life: refresh us.  
         You are the cleansing spring: heal us.  
         You are the well from which we drink and  
         never thirst again: fill us.

## Welcome

### Prayer

Leader: I take a sip of simple water.  
The atoms of the water are five thousand million  
years old.  
I drink the birth time of the earth.

All: *We mourn with all living things that today carry  
the polluted water of creation.  
The salted tears in our eyes remind us of our  
origin and unity with all struggling life.  
Lord, have mercy.*

**Reading:** Genesis 2

### Symbolism

**Reading:** Revelation 22

**Song: Weaver God, Creator** (Iona Community)

### The Meaning of Water – reflections

#### Litany for Life

Leader: Lord and life-giving Spirit,  
who brooded over the waters  
when first the world began:

All: *Make us dead to sin but alive to God.*

Leader: Who led your people out of slavery  
through the waters of the Red Sea  
and into freedom through the waters  
of the Jordan:

All: *Make us dead to sin but alive to God.*

Leader: Who overshadowed the waters of Mary of  
Nazareth and caused her to be the mother of  
God's only Son:

All: *Make us dead to sin but alive to God.*

Leader: Whose tears were shed  
at moments of struggling for peace through justice:

All: *Make us dead to sin but alive to God.*

### Symbolic Act with Water

#### Thanksgiving

Leader: I take a sip of simple water and with  
that the story of life.  
Its molecules have been in the rain forest,  
have lived in quantum compounds,  
have waved in sea anemones,  
have been the water of baptisms,  
have lived in our mothers  
and are now on their ways to ever new  
formations.

All: *With all living things we praise you, Lord Creator  
You are the well of salvation.*

Leader: We pray for all Creation  
– people and planets together.

All: *We thank you for the gift of water  
that sustains us and other creatures,  
who thirst for life.  
Grant us courage and hope in you,  
that justice will flow like water  
and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.  
Refresh us by your Holy Spirit  
so that we may become a sign of reconciliation  
and peace throughout the earth.*