

Congregational Prayer – Give Us Water to Drink

Year A, Lent 3

Exodus 17:1–7; John 4:5–42

God of creation and God of living water,
you have poured out life upon your creation.
As you gave water to the Israelites in the desert
you have provided for us.

But to the water that gives life
we have made death.
We have polluted the streams that flow;
we have dammed rivers and flooded lands
and created barren land,
dry and parched.

Wells have become tainted
and towns have been poisoned.
We have made “boil water” an advisory
and stolen the life from communities.

We have taken free flowing water
and made it a commodity.
Water has become a means of profit
as the life is taken from it.

Our actions have caused
deadly monsoons and flooding;
they have brought disastrous rains
and scorching droughts.

You have promised the river of life-giving water;
one that can nurture the tree of life,
that can bring healing.
We ask for healing of our hearts.

Creator God,
forgive us
for all the harm to your creation;
for bringing pain and sorrow
to the land and the creatures.

Stir us to act
that we might see the life you have created
in the rivers and streams,
the lakes and oceans.

Creator of all that is good,
forgive us and change us.

We pray in the name of the one
who brings living water.

Amen.

Len Rempel (Canada) 2023 Mennonite Church Saskatchewan Climate Emergency Response Team (CERT)