



Creation Season

Third Sunday of Easter, Year A, April 6, 2008

Water: Flowing water, rivers/streams

Redeeming love flows from God like a stream

A Bulletin Insert for the congregations of the Episcopal Diocese of Minnesota

Lessons (Revised Common Lectionary)

Acts 2:14a,36-41 Psalm 116:1-3, 10-17
1 Peter 1:17-23 Luke 24:13-35

Collects

Loving God who journeys with us in all the seasons of our lives, purify us – heart, body, and mind – that we may be washed through and through with your healing power, and hereafter live as witnesses who incarnate justice like an ever-rolling stream; through Jesus Christ our redeemer, who with you and the Holy Spirit, live and reign for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Living God who draws all creation to your being, as we journey through life, heighten our awareness of the simplicity and delicacy within which your world is woven. May our journey be one of discovery and awe at the vastness of your complexity. Bring us at last to the beach where we continually celebrate you in the breaking of the bread; through Christ our savior, who with you and the Holy Spirit, reign, now and forever. *Amen.*



Apart from the air we breathe, water is the most basic, most urgent, need that we all have. We can survive for a while without food, but not without water. We can survive forever without oil - but not without water. Water has no substitute. The good news, though, is that it is a constantly renewed resource. The natural water cycle of evaporation and rainfall constantly cleans and recycles it. We will never “run out” of water in the way we might run out of oil. So the trick, as we find local and sometimes regional reserves running out, is to realize that fact, and to manage our use of water in a way that meshes with the natural cycle.

From that perspective, managing water is a model (and, because of its urgency and universality, the defining model) of how we deal with nature. Not as a force to be confronted, but as a force to be nurtured and to be worked with.

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That notion holds in every sphere from using “soft engineering” in order to manage floods, to harvesting the rains and to preserving wetlands.

The short answer to the question, therefore, is that meeting water needs (and managing our water demand to fit water availability) is both a major challenge in itself for the 21st century and will define more widely our ability to coexist with nature and make good use of the planet’s fast diminishing “natural capital.” And my belief is that if we can get water right we will be able to get most things right.

Excerpted from an interview by Paul Comstock / California Literary Review 4/3/07 with Fred Pearce, author of “When the Rivers Run Dry: Water—The Defining Crisis of the Twenty-First Century” C 2006 ISBN 0-8070-8572-3

Relationships

The whole of our Christian practice is founded on relatedness. We have come to a time in our history when the very fiber that has gotten us here, to relate to; each other, where we live, our food, water, the natural world - have become secondary to ourselves or at best our immediate relations, our family.

Nature

Until very recently the concept of nature/natural has been common, one may say natural is what comes from earth, from the creation. If we ate bread, it is wheat, water, and salt, and the process of leavening with yeast is natural, no longer so. Bread, the staff of life, has now become a scientifically controlled process using many ingredients which are in no way natural. Our bodies have evolved in Gods Creation within this concept of natural and we can clearly see and feel this relationship - harmony, when we spend time in nature and when we eat natural food.

Sacred

What is sacred? When is it sacred? We use water for Baptism and in this instance it is sacred. What changes its form, how can we accept this reality ‘in church’ and not see this same relationship when we water the yard, wash our cloths or flush the toilet.

The Minnesota Episcopal Environmental Stewardship Commission (MEESC) has prepared Creation Season materials for the Season of Easter, 2008, with a focus on water. If you find the information on these inserts to be of interest, you may wish to visit the MEESC website for more information (www.env-steward.com). Members of MEESC are available to visit your congregation to assist you in your environmental stewardship walk.