

Order of Worship
Ecumenical Prayer Service on the **Ash Wednesday, 10th February 2016, 17.00Hrs**
Launching of Lenten Campaign of Ecumenical Water Network of the
World Council of Churches:
Seven Weeks for Water

Theme: Thirst for Justice: A pilgrimage of justice and peace in Palestine

Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, Jerusalem

Introduction: *(By Dinesh Suna the Coordinator, Ecumenical Water Network)*

According to the Christian tradition, Lent is a time to prepare for the celebration of the death and resurrection of Christ. During this period many people engage in fasting and practise moderation or self-denial in order to focus on repentance and consecrating oneself to God. While water has a strong spiritual significance in the Christian tradition as a gift of God, this scarce resource is threatened and denied to millions around the world. The Ecumenical Water Network since 2008 has been attempting to put together Lenten practice with concern for water. It has been providing weekly theological reflections and liturgical resources for the season of Lent and especially for World Water Day on 22 March.

Thirst for Justice

In 2016 The WCC's [Pilgrimage of Justice and Peace](#) focuses on the Middle East. So this year the Seven Weeks for Water makes a **pilgrimage concerning the just use of water in the Middle East, particularly concerning Palestine**. The water crisis in the Middle East provides a context for reflections on the Bible and theological resources for these seven weeks. Water is a key topic for any discussion of justice and peace in the Middle East. It is also a key Biblical theme.

To ground reflection in reality, various activities around the Seven Weeks for Water will take place in the Middle East, particularly in Palestine. This will be **launched today in Jerusalem on 10 February** (Ash Wednesday according to the Western traditions of Christianity)

Gathering : *The Bishops and clergies will enter the church in a procession. The congregation is requested to stand. The organ is played in the background.*

Words of Greetings: *Bishop Munib Younan, Evangelical Lutheran Church of Jordan and the Holy Land.*

Call to worship:

Come, all who are thirsty
says Jesus, our Lord,
come, all who are weak,
taste the living water
that I shall give.
Dip your hands in the stream,
refresh body and soul,
drink from it,
depend on it,
for this water
will never run dry.
Come, all who are thirsty
says Jesus, our Lord.

Opening Prayer:

Leader:

We come to a thirsty land.
We come as thirsty people.
We come seeing a promise unfulfilled
that there will be enough for everyone.

So we pray:

Quicksilver and questioning God,
Who are you?
You invite us to discover you through the springs of scripture,
the sure witness of your faithful people,
our thirst for justice and peace,
and the conversation of friends.
As we gaze in awe on the beauty of your creation,
and give thanks for your care and cherishing of human life,
may we join the company of your pilgrim people,
sturdy as rock in our commitment and determination
to ensure that life-giving water may be freely available for all

All: Amen

(Source: Seven Weeks for Water, 2016 by Clare Amos, World Council of Churches)

Song: A água

Simeí Monteiro, Brazil

A água

Albete Correia: Brazil

C *Leader, then All* F C C⁷ F C

A - qui che-gan - do, Se- nhor, que po - de - re - mos te dar?
 Ar - riv - ing here oh, dear God! What can we of - fer to you?
 Nous ar - ri - vons, ô Sei- gneur, que pour - rons- nous te don-ner?
 Gott, wir sind hier, hier vor dir. Gott, wir ru - fen zu dir.

F C⁷ C F C

Um sim - ples co - ra - ção eu - ma von - ta - de de can - tar.
 A sim - ple heart and deep - est wish to sing a joy - ful song.
 Un hum - ble cœur et dans la joie l'en - vie de te chan - ter.
 In uns' - rer Sehn - sucht nach dir, sin - gen, sin - gen wir ein Lied:

Dm Em C Dm G⁷/B C

Re - ce - be nos - so lou - vor e tu - a paz vem nos dar.
 Re - ceive our best gifts of praise and may your peace be with us.
 Sei - gneur, re - çois nos lou-anges et viens nous don - ner ta paix.
 Lass dei - nen Frie - den mit uns, lass dei - nen Frie - den mit uns sein.

C Dm Em C Dm/F G⁹ C

A tu - a gra - ça, Se- nhor, me - lhor que a vi - da, se - rá.
 Your faith - ful mer - cy and grace will be much bet - ter than life,
 Sei - gneur, ta fi - dé - li - té, no - tre vie trans - for - me - ra.
 Bring dei - ne Gna - de, du Gott in un - ser Le - ben hin - ein.

Music: Albete Correia. Portuguese & English: Simeí Monteiro. French: David Fines © 2013 WCC, P.O. Box 2100, CH-1211 Geneva 2.

German: Fritz Baltruweit © 2013 tvd-Verlag, Düsseldorf, Germany. Korean © 2013 Joseph Lee, Seoul, Korea. **For non-profit use only.**

F G F C/G

E o teu a - mor em nós se - rá ma - nan - ci - al
 And in the de - sert of our lives a ri - ver flows
 Dans les dé - serts de no - tre vie: u - ne ri - vière,
 Und al - le Wüs - ten uns - res Le - bens blü - hen auf,

C Dm C

de á - gua bo - a_a_jor - rar
 a pure wa - ter for growth;
 vi - ve ton eau cou - le - ra
 wenn dein Se - gen uns trifft

F⁶ Dm⁷/G C

pra nos - sa se - de_es - tan - car.
 re - fresh - ing, heal - ing our land.
 pour re - ver - dir no - tre terre.
 und uns er - neu - ert und heilt.

Thirsting for Justice: Realities of Palestine

Voice-1

“In the West Bank, many Palestinians have neither sufficient safe water for drinking and other domestic uses, nor enough water for agricultural uses. The most vulnerable communities have available as little as 20 litres of water per day, just one-fifth of the minimum required to meet their daily needs. And they pay an outrageous amount, up to two-thirds of their income, for the small amount of water they are able to buy.”

(excerpt from the EWN-WCC Statement on water crisis in Palestine)

Voice-2

The first reason for the current water crisis stems from the fact that, although Israelis and Palestinians share the same mountain aquifer resource, 80% of the water is pumped to Israelis while Palestinians have access to just 20 percent.

(excerpt from EWN's Seven Weeks for Water 2016 reflection by Bishop Munib Younan)

Voice-3

“In Gaza, the situation is even direr: 95% of groundwater is rendered unusable by the intrusion of sea water due to diversion of recharge waters and excessive pumping. in six years, the aquifer will be beyond repair. In many respects, the Palestinian people are denied their internationally recognized human right to sufficient safe, accessible, and affordable water and adequate appropriate sanitation.”

(excerpt from the EWN-WCC Statement on water crisis in Palestine)

Leader:

Holy God, author of creation, we give you thanks for the gift of water. Increase our thirst for your presence during this Lenten season. Open our eyes to see where the flowing waters of justice have been blocked by human sin. Open our mouths to speak up for those who thirst for an equal measure of the gifts of creation. Open our hearts to share the water of life with all. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

All: Amen.

(Source: Seven Weeks for Water, 2016 by Bishop Dr Munib Younan, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land)

Scripture Reading: I Isaiah 58:1-12

Shout out, do not hold back! Lift up your voice like a trumpet! Announce to my people their rebellion, to the house of Jacob their sins. Yet day after day they seek me and delight to know my ways, as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness and did

not forsake the ordinance of their God; they ask of me righteous judgments, they delight to draw near to God. "Why do we fast, but you do not see? Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?" Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day, and oppress all your workers. Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight and to strike with a wicked fist. Such fasting as you do today will not make your voice heard on high. Is such the fast that I choose, a day to humble oneself? Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush, and to lie in sackcloth and ashes? Will you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the LORD? Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin? Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator* shall go before you, the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard. Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am. If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil, if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday. The LORD will guide you continually, and satisfy your needs in parched places, and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters never fail. Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in.

Song: Psalm 107 (selected)

Scripture Reading: II Revelation 22:1-2

Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.

Sermon: *By Rev. Dr Olav Fykse Tveit, General Secretary, World Council of Churches (WCC)*

Song Allaa hu qu wat un lana/ **There is a river**

Allaa hu qu wa tun lana

Psalms 46 paraphrase
As taught by Michael Ghattas, Egypt

Al - laa hu qu wa tun la na, wa hi maa na, l wa
O God, you are our ev - er - pres - ent strength and our
There is a riv - er mak - ing glad the streets of God's

tii du fi, D Dii qi aiu nun qaa di run wa na sii run sha
re - fuge. O God, you are our ev - er pres - ent strength and our
ci - ty. There is a riv - er mak - ing glad the streets of God's

dii du fa li dh las na naj zai - wal qal bu, la
re - fuge. We will not be a - fraid, though the earth change, or
ci - ty. God is there in the midst of the cit - y, and

yaf zai, wa li maa dha nuz ei zai war rab bu mu ain.
mount - ains in the sea shake, and fall; for the Lord is our strength.
so shall it ne - ver be moved; for the Lord is our strength.

English: Andrew Donaldson

Call to Confession

Leader : Dear sisters and brothers, one day we all have to leave this planet, leaving behind all our ignorant and consumptive lifestyle. As the scripture says, we are created from the dust, and to dust we will return. In this Lenten season, let us return to the Lord with fasting, not only for our spiritual gain, but also fasting for justice for all people and God's creation.

Voice1: The global temperature is rising and the sea levels are rising too to engulf islands, coastal belts with its flora and fauna. Millions are likely to be climate refugees. Let us change our lifestyle to make it more ecofriendly.

All: Declare a fast.

Leader: *(while imposing ashes on the forehead of the reader)* Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.

Voice 2: A litre of water is wasted for each litre of water that is bottled and it takes three times as much water to create a plastic water bottle than it does to fill it. Let us change our lifestyle to conserve water.

All: Declare a fast.

Leader: *(while imposing ashes on the forehead of the reader)* Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.

Voice 3: Over 63 billion plastic bottles are dumped in landfills, oceans, and landscapes each year. It takes 450 years for a single plastic water bottle to decompose. Let us change our lifestyle to nurture the life and wellbeing of God's creation.

All Declare a fast.

Leader: *(while imposing ashes on the forehead of the reader)* Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.

Orthodox



Kyrie eleison. Lord, have mercy on us.

Leader:

Let us now confess our sin and seek the infinite mercy of God. Eternal God, in whom we live and move and have our being, whose face is hidden from us by our sins, and whose mercy we forget in the blindness of our hearts: cleanse us from all our offenses, and deliver us from proud thoughts and vain desires, that with reverent and humble hearts we may draw near to you, confessing our faults, confiding in your grace, and finding in you our refuge and strength; through Jesus Christ your Son.

All: Amen

*(Book of Common Worship,
Louisville: Westminster/John Know Press, 1993)*

Imposition of Ashes

Pastor: Almighty God, you created us out of the dust of the ground. May these ashes remind us that we are dust and shall return to dust. May they also remind us of the cross of Christ by which we are given everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

All: Amen.

(Those who wish to receive ashes may come forward one at a time.) [The minister imposes ashes on the forehead with the sign of the cross — a reminder of the cross placed on the forehead at the time of Baptism — with the words, “Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.” The congregation remains silent.]

Prayer (*after the imposition of the ashes*)

Leader

Gracious God, out of your love and mercy
you breathed into dust the breath of life,
creating us to serve you and our neighbours.

**All In this season of repentance,
restore to us the joy of our salvation
and strengthen us to face our mortality,
that we may reach with confidence for your mercy,
in Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Inspired by your Spirit,
empower us to strive for justice and peace,
birthing life in fullness for all.
Amen.**

Song Let justice flow down

Leader

Lent is a journey of deepening reflection and renewal,
an opportunity to make new commitments in faith.
Let us now affirm our commitment to act justly,
improving the lives of many people,
who do not have clean water.

Voice 1. More than 760 million people do not have improved access to safe drinking water.

All: Act Now!

Voice 2: More than 2.5 billion people do not have adequate sanitation facilities.

All: Act Now!

Voice 3: More than 4000 children die every day due to as preventable a disease as diarrhea, which is primarily due to unsafe drinking water.

All: Act Now ! And to this end we seek your blessings almighty God.

Launching of Lenten Campaign of Ecumenical Water Network of WCC

By the following dignitaries :

1. Prof. Antje Jackelén, Archbishop of Sweden
2. Rev. Dr Olav Fykse Tveit, General Secretary, WCC
3. Mrs Hind Khoury, Secretary General, Kairos Palestine
4. Prof. Rev. Fernando Enns, Moderator, Pilgrimage of Justice and Peace
5. Bishop Dr Munib Younan, President of MECC and Lutheran World Federation

Introduction:

Action:

L1: May the Seven Weeks for Water be an instrument to raise awareness on issues related water so that there is universal access to water with dignity.

Pour water into the bowl from the jug

L2: Through the Seven Weeks for Water, may this Lenten campaign be an opportunity for us to highlight the plight of Palestinians who are “thirsting for justice” as they are deprived of their human right to water.

Pour water into the bowl from the jug

L3: May the Seven Weeks for Water contribute to a “Pilgrimage of Water Justice” in all the affected regions around the world, particularly in Palestine.

work of the Ecumenical Water Network of the World Council of Churches continue to bring the prophetic voice of the churches into the discourse of human right to water.

Pour water into the bowl from the jug

L4: May the 1.8 billion people around the world who have to drink contaminated water, get access to safe drinking water. May this Lenten campaign generate churches response to make that goal a reality.

Pour water into the bowl from the jug

L5: *(while speaking making the sign of a cross over the bowl of water)* In the name of God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit, On behalf of the World Council of Churches, I declare the Lenten Campaign, Seven Weeks for Water, Open!

All: Amen

Song For everyone born

Intercessory Prayers:

Lord's Prayer *(in our many languages)*

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on

earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Passing the Peace:

Leader: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

All: And also with you

Leader: Let us share that peace with one another

Song: Salaam Aleikum

Benediction:

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Announcements:

(This order of worship is prepared by the Ecumenical Water Network of World Council of Churches.)

- Sources : 1. http://www.faithandworship.com/prayers_Lent.htm#ixzz3ydymJKFO
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2. Terry McArthur, Evangelical Lutheran Church of Geneva