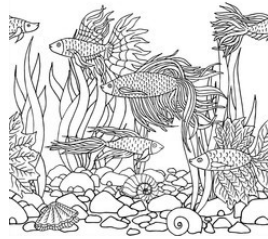


Overall freshwater species numbers have show an 83% decline since 1970 - that means eight out of every ten freshwater species have been wiped out in the last 50 years - **JUST LET THAT SINK IN**



Lack of access to clean water is one of the biggest problems facing humanity today

60% of the world's population (4.5 billion people) live in areas of water stress - this figure is expected to rise to 6.3 billion by 2050 - population growth, rising consumption, urbanization, energy needs

Linked to so much else - health, hygiene, women's empowerment

The situation in Cape Town (page 44) is worth reading about - 4 million people - 2018 would run out of water in months - had to reduce

use to 50 litres a day (most of us use 3x that) - use of grey water - church practical help, help to keep the peace, had to learn again that water is sacred - inequalities also mean that some Capetonians (many Africans) live in a permanent state of crisis



Saving Water

Pray every time you turn the tap on

Give, Water aid, toilet twinning, etc

Practical action - what can we do to clean and protect our water, and fight for others who need our support - what about our water use, what about our use of virtual water (it takes 1,000 litres to produce a beef burger) - and the other steps we mentioned last time

NORTHUMBRIAN
WATER *living water*

LENT COURSE, SESSION 2

Saying Yes to Life, Ruth Valerio (published SPCK 2020). Resources and youtube videos at <https://spckpublishing.co.uk/saying-yes-resources>

Genesis 1.6-8 - "we are celebrating water (focussing particularly on fresh water) ... We will consider water in the Bible, see the role it plays for the people of God both physically and metaphorically, and then look further at the refrain, 'And God said ...' considering what we can learn about why God made the heavens and the earth. We will then think about water today, be inspired to notice it and not take it for granted, and become more aware of the problems it faces and the part we can play in looking after it" (Valerio, page 26).

Separating the waters - "a vault between the waters to separate the water from water" - firmament, expanse, God is bringing control and order to the swirling, chaotic mass of deep water - Hebrew root means 'beat', as in beating out a sheet of metal - there is now space to inhabit.

Streams of living water - the Bible was written by people who were intensely aware of how precious water was, they were appreciative - 'The Biblical experiences with water in the desert can be understood as a spiritual training to cultivate appreciation for God's goodness" (Rabbi Yonatan Neril, page 27).

You visit the earth and water it,
you greatly enrich it;
the river of God is full of water;
you provide the people with grain,
for so you have prepared it.
You water its furrows abundantly,
settling its ridges,
softening it with showers,
and blessing its growth.
You crown the year with your bounty
your wagon tracks overflow with richness.
The pastures of the wilderness overflow,
the hills gird themselves with joy,
the meadows clothe themselves with flocks,
the valleys deck themselves with grain,
they shout and sing together for joy.

Psalm 65.9-13 (NRSV)



*CW your paths overflow
BCP thy clouds drop
fatness*

- Praise,
- Awe
- Joy
- Rain is central



The joy of rain - water is part of God's provision for his people



Genesis 21.8-20 - Hagar and Ishmael
God shows her a well of water

1 Kings 17,18 - Elijah and Ahab, the drought, the widow's son, the prophets of Baal, the ending of the drought

Water can also bring death

Flood in Genesis

Sweeping back of the Red Sea

Psalm 69.1-2

I sink in deep mire,
where there is no foothold;
I have come into deep waters,
and the flood sweeps over me.
I am weary with my crying;
my throat is parched.
My eyes grow dim
with waiting for my God.

Come to the Living Water

Jesus calming the storm,
but the first Water story for
Jesus is his **Baptism**

- Anointing
- Ritual washing
- River Jordan, river crossed to freedom of Promised Land
- Naaman, wash seven times in the Jordan (2 Kings 5)
- Idea of drowning

Have a look at the **Prayer over the water** in the Baptism service (every image of water you can think of is here!)

“Come to the waters ... and you will delight in the richest of fare”
Isaiah 55.1-2 - how thirsty are we for God this Lent?



And God said

In Mesopotamian creation poem *Enuma Elish* (and other sources) it is a struggle for the gods to separate the waters, but not so for Yahweh - “God speaks and it is so” - “God has willed this world and the whole universe with all its billions of galaxies into being, directly and purposefully” (p34)

Genesis gives us no reason why God created. God is complete in and of Godself, in the fullness of the Trinity. He does not have to bring the world into being. He simply does.

- Theological Thomas Finger talks about the redemptive activity that lies within the Trinity - God is love, and love finds its expression in creative generosity.
- Richard Rohr “Through the act of creation, God manifested the eternally outflowing Divine Presence into the physical and material world” (page 34)
- Finger suggests that God's act in creation of outpouring love must also have involved an act of self limitation, He is now involved in something else. Creation exists within a space that God has allowed to open up.
- Closeness of creator and created, we come from the very Word of God, are sustained and held, and held in his ceaseless life.
- Creation as God's fingerprints
- When we destroy God's creation, we are destroying the face of the God whom we claim to love (page 35).
- The Trinity - dynamism, movement, power, Lord of the dance

Naming the River

Eric Newby gives 108 names for The Ganges (page 37) - what about the names for the rivers that are important to us?

Freshwater covers less than 1% of the earth's surface, yet we are utterly dependent on it for our survival - “We are part of a huge hydrological cycle that uses the energy of the sun to create a constant exchange of water between the oceans, the land and the atmosphere, as water moves from the earth to the atmosphere and back to the ground and the oceans” (page 39) - water is **The Hub of Life**

The Ganges has been terrible degraded - In Madagascar 43% of its freshwater species are threatened with extinction - In UK over-extraction of water