

St Hilda's by the Sea Millennium Development
Goals Committee

Presents

Blue Gold
(World Water Wars)



narrated by Malcolm Macdowell

An evening of ritual, film, discussion and a plan for
action centered on Water access for the extreme
poor.

Friday, May 29, 6:30 P.M. Sanctuary and Hall

Water: Sacred Gift, Sacred Trust
A Welcoming Water Ritual

Introduction

Lead reader: The oceans of this precious planetary jewel we call our home are one. They greet each other in countless places, sharing their waters and releasing them. Waters once called Atlantic are sooner or later Pacific, or Arctic. Waters once swilling around our northern lands will, or have, graced the shores of India and Antarctica. The sacred gift that we call water journeys through stream and river, sky and earth to find communion with itself in other waters. In its search for union and oneness, it calls to the human community to also seek communion.

Always, water is sacred gift with the sacred trust given to it by God, the Creator, to bring life, healing, and transformation. These are water's instructions from the Creator. Beautiful and powerful, ever ancient yet ever new, it relies upon us to care for and protect it, enabling it to carry out the Creator's instructions.

Opening Prayer

All: Creator God, we give you thanks for the precious gift of water. We remember the instructions you gave to water, and we long to ensure that your sacred gift will forever bring life, healing and wholeness to all creation. Amen

Welcoming the Waters

Holder of water in the east: I am the water that stands in the east, the water of newness, the water of life.

All: Just as the morning light dispels the darkness, so also I dispel death and destruction. Where drought, flood, quake, tsunami or frost destroy, I bring new life. Green appears, hope arises, community forms.

I seek your care and protection

Holder of water in the south: I am the water that stands in the south, the waters of healing.

All: Where sickness prevails, I heal. Yes, I carry disease, but it is not mine by nature. By my nature and my call, I bring healing. My instructions are to carry nutrients and goodness for healing, but I am forced to carry contaminants, pollutants and disease.

I seek your care and protection.

Holder of water in the west: I am the water that stands in the west, the water of transformation.

All: From the beginning I have used my power to transform, shaping land and shore, rock and mountain. My power brings life and death. Whether I come as vapour, mist, liquid, ice or snow I transform. But others have sought to control and use my power for their profit.

I seek your care and protection.

Holder of water in the north: I am the water that stands in the north, the water of wholeness.

All: Like the blanket of snow in the north that brings all together as one, or the ocean that becomes one with the horizon, I call all to know the oneness of life, the kinship of all creation. In the wintry cold, I am the promise of new life. I am given for the wholeness of creation, for the life of all creation. Yet, there are some who take possession of me as though I belong to them alone.

I seek your care and protection.

Closing: The Sacred Water Pot

Lead reader: *Sacred waters, carry us beyond the marketplace into a world charged with myths and stories, beliefs and devotion, culture and celebration... We are all... thirsting for waters that liberate and give us life --- organically and spiritually. The struggle between those who nurture and those who exploit is ongoing. Each of us has a role in shaping the creation story of the future. Each of us is responsible for the kumbh, the sacred pot.*

All: Amen

“This is what the Lord says: “Stand at the crossroads and look; ask for the ancient paths, ask where the good way is, and walk in it, and you will find rest for your souls” (Jeremiah 6:16)

“From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked.” (Luke 12.48)

The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it.” (Psalm 24.1)

“Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, For the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy.” (Proverbs 31. 8 & 9)

The Kingdom of God

***The kingdom of God is justice and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.
Come, Lord, and open in us the gates of your kingdom.***

Resources:

Book:

The Life You Can Save by Peter Singer Philosopher Peter Singer uses ethical arguments, provocative thought experiments, illuminating examples, and case studies of charitable giving to show that our current response to world poverty is not only insufficient but ethically indefensible. He contends that we need to change our views of what is involved in an ethical life.

Web Sites:

Peter Singer <http://www.thelifeyoucansave.com/index.html>

Ryan's Well <http://www.ryanswell.ca/>

Ryan's Well supports water, sanitation and hygiene education projects in partnership with local non-governmental and community based organizations in developing countries. Ryan's Well has supported a total of 502 wells and water access in 16 countries bringing safe water and proper sanitation to over **621,712 people**. A Canadian organization.

Primate's World Relief and Development Fund <http://www.pwrdf.org/>