#### St Luke's Creation Care

# Water is Life **()**

#### September 2018

#### Water

But let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream! (Amos 5:24)

You gave no water to the weary and you withheld food from the hungry (Job 22:7)

He said to me: "It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To the thirsty I will give water without cost from the spring of the water of life. (Revelation 21:6)

#### Wealth

We don't think of water as wealth, but we are so fortunate to have a seemingly limitless supply of fresh water - drinkable, clean, safe water - coming out of our taps.



Photo: Pixabay/Creative Commons



Photo: Kate Dreyer/Creative Commons

### Poverty

Even here, though, there are people who don't have clean water. People who live on a semi-permanent boilwater advisory, or who just don't have access to a tap.



Boil water advisory sign on Neskantaga First Nation https://www.ecowatch.com/suzuki-first-nation-wateradvisory-2262953532.html Homeless man Photo: Garry Knight/Creative Commons



## Climate Change

Climate change is real, and it's affecting us already. Wildfires in BC, in California, in Greece, in Sweden. Droughts around the world.



I 5 July: Due to the dry weather, about 80 wildfires have been burning in Sweden



24 July: Burned cars are seen following a wildfire at the village of Mati near Athens

photos: Getty Images, from https://www.bbc.com/news/world-44943143

### Industry

We use water freely, but industry uses immense amounts of fresh water. We need the industry, and we need the agriculture, but we also need to keep these large users accountable.



Mildred Lake Settling Basin (tailings pond for Syncrude mine in the oil sands), image by TastyCakes and Jamitzky, via Wikimedia Commons Farm irrigation Image by LYoung02 via Wikimedia Commons

### What about me?

We each, individually, don't use that much water compared to industrial uses. But we as stewards of Creation, we have a responsibility to use our resources wisely, and not to waste them.





A running faucet sends about two gallons of water down the drain every minute. R/DV/RS VIA FLICKR CREATIVE COMMONS via https://www.scpr.org/news/2015/04/09/50891/how-much-waterare-we-using-inside-our-homes/ 7 source: Dvaires (Flickr) via https:// blogs.ei.columbia.edu/2010/06/04/theproblem-of-lawns/

### How we affect things

We tend to think of water as an infinite resource. But our clean, high-quality, SAFE tap water takes a lot to achieve!



image from https://www.epcor.com/products-services/water/Documents/edmonton-water-treatment-process.pdf

## How we affect things

And it's not just producing tap water! After we run water down the sink/flush the toilet/drain the tub, all of that water needs to get treated

Simplified process flow diagram for a typical largescale treatment plant



Image by Leonard G. via Wikimedia Commons 9

### What can I do?

★Keep a pitcher of water in the fridge rather than running the tap

- ★Run water for dishes into something else (like watering can for plants) rather than running it down the drain
- ★Wash your hands, then turn off the taps with an elbow. Don't let the water run while you're drying your hands!
- ★Don't water your lawn, or if you must water it, make sure the sprinkler is watering the lawn, not the sidewalk!
- Also, watering in the heat of the day means most of your water evaporates away and does your lawn no good!