



ADULT  
EDUCATION  
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# LENT

IN OUR BACKYARD

WEEK 3: MAR. 16–22  
Conserving Water

## READINGS

John 4:4–15

## POETRY

The water understands  
Civilization well;  
It wets my foot, but prettily,  
It chills my life, but wittily,  
It is not disconcerted,  
It is not broken-hearted:  
Well used, it decketh joy,  
Adorneth, doubleth joy:  
Ill used, it will destroy,  
In perfect time and measure  
With a face of golden pleasure  
Elegantly destroy.

—Ralph Waldo Emerson

## REFLECTION

Preserving and protecting the Great Lakes—that sustains life for all—is something that should unite us. How may we work together to be good stewards of these great marvels of God’s creation?

## LEARNING

Join our neighbor Winnetka Congregational Church which will host Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky in a discussion on environmental justice.

**Tuesday, March 22, 6:30**

Or

Learn how you can get involved or make a donation to the non-profit the **Alliance for the Great Lakes**.

## CHALLENGE

It takes 600 cups of water to produce a single cup of coffee and 125 cups of water to produce a cup of tea.<sup>[i]</sup>  
Choose to drink only water on March 22, the **UN’s World Water Day**.

Also: Consider a gift to the **Alliance for the Great Lakes**, a well-established non-profit organization dedicated to protecting our lakes.

## PRAYER

Creator of the rivers and oceans,  
who washes us clean and refreshes us daily,  
help us to be like a cup of cold water to others in Your name:  
refreshing, cleansing, and relieving.<sup>[ii]</sup>

For the reservoirs that drown people’s homes,  
forgive us Lord.

For wasting water without thought,  
forgive us Lord.

For the many who still have only dirty water,  
forgive us Lord.

For forgetting that water is a gift,  
forgive us Lord.

Bless those who have water in their homes—  
Today, and every day,  
may we treasure each drop.  
Amen.<sup>[iii]</sup>



## FACTS

The Great Lakes hold one third of the world’s surface freshwater, supporting critical drinking water resources, wildlife ecosystems, and the regional economy. The Great Lakes form the largest freshwater system on Earth, providing drinking water to 42 million people.<sup>[iv]</sup>

<sup>[i]</sup>Tread Lightly for Lent 2022, Presbyterian Church, USA.

<sup>[ii]</sup>Tread Lightly.

<sup>[iii]</sup>Iona devotional.

<sup>[iv]</sup><https://elpc.org/projects/protecting-the-great-lakes/>