

Key Concept/Message

In this second act of worship within the 'Day 2' resources, the focus shifts to considering our use of water and the impact this has in terms of energy consumption. The sheer amount of water we use in our daily lives – either directly or 'virtually' (that is, the water required to make our food, clothes, energy etc.) – results in wastewater treatment plants using a considerable amount of energy to clean water for re-use. Indeed, in many regions, wastewater treatment plants are the greatest consumer of energy.

To help us think deeply here, we have teamed up with Ellie and Marcia from Anglian Water. In their video, they suggest why and how we can 'Love Every Drop' through our wise use of water.

The main question for reflection in this act of collective worship is: How can we show a heart for the Earth through wise use of water?[1]

Resources

A one litre filled bottle of water.

Optional: an avocado, a large chocolate bar (think 24 squares), an almond, a cotton shirt, a pair of jeans

Gather

Follow the school's normal gathering routines, using words of liturgy which are familiar to students and adults

or

Light a candle and offer the following prayer: 'The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you'. Response: *and also with you*. (To support pupil understanding of the

[1] For another act of collective worship on the topic of water, please see:

<https://www.assemblies.org.uk/pri/187/water-of-life>

Christian belief in God as Trinity here, why not light a single candle which has three wicks, lighting them in turn as each 'person' is acknowledged?)

Last time/recently, we thought about 'the wonder of water'. We considered how we rely on it for healthy, clean living. Today, we will think about how we can show a heart for the Earth through our wise use of water.

Engage

Show the litre bottle of water. How many litres of water do you think the average British person uses per day?[2] 20 litres, 150 litres or 4,653 litres? The answer – well it's a bit of a trick question. On average, we each use around 150 litres as 'direct water'. This is the water we use out of our taps for washing, cleaning, drinking and flushing the toilet. That's over 1000 litres a week, enough to fill five and a half bath tubs!

However, 4,653 litres is how much 'virtual water' the average British person uses each day. 'Virtual water' is the water that is used to make our clothes, food and energy. Let's look at a few examples (either use the slides or show actual examples to the school community). How many litres do you think it takes to make the following?

A single almond (Answer: 12 litres)

An avocado (Answer: 272 litres)

A large chocolate bar (Answer: 1700 litres)

A cotton shirt (Answer: 3000 litres)

A pair of jeans (Answer: 9500 litres)

(You can explore the water footprint of more food items as a school community here: <https://www.watercalculator.org/water-footprint-of-food-guide/>).

[2] This question is taken from Paul Kerensa and Ruth Valerio's, *Planet Protectors: 52 Ways to Look after God's World* (SPCK Publishing)

Our water is not unlimited. Around 99% of the world's water is locked in ice-caps, glaciers or is too salty to drink. There is only 1% of the Earth's water that is usable for all of humanity's needs – agricultural, manufacturing, residential and living needs. We need to think about how we can be wise users – not abusers – of water.

The water that we use needs to be cleaned so that it can be used once again. Cleaning water uses energy. As we use so much water, the greatest energy user in our region (East of England) is Anglian Water. Let's listen to Ellie and Marcia as they explain what happens at one of their wastewater treatment plants.

For the rest of the 'Engage' section of this worship plan, the video embedded within the PowerPoint provides opportunities to pause, reflect and discuss as a school community (the link can also be found here: <https://youtu.be/JXv7nnZCdbb>). The questions are as follows:

- *'How can we be water wise?' (2:15)*
- *'In our day-to-day lives, what could we do to reduce the amount of water we use?' (3:20)*
- *'How might showing a heart for the Earth through wise use of water link to this Christian view of living as a community of creation? In what ways does saving water help the Earth and all on it to flourish?' (4:24)*

Respond

Ask pupils to silently reflect for a moment: I wonder how we could all show a heart for the Earth through our wise use of water?

Invite the school community, if they would like to, to say the following prayer with you. This prayer was written by Cathal Duddy in Ireland.

*We praise and thank You, Lord,
for the gift of living water.
Guide us
to use it wisely,
learn from its humility,
consume it sparingly,
and protect its purity,
so we may truly enjoy water.
Amen.*

(Alternatively, why not invite a pupil to offer a spontaneous prayer, from the heart?).

Send



Set the school community a challenge: I wonder how we all could show a heart for the Earth through wise use of water this week and 'Love Every Drop'? If we all played our part, think how many litres of water (and energy) we could save!