

God's gonna trouble the water

Hymn: *Wade in the Water*

*Chorus (all): Wade in the water, wade in the water children.
Wade in the water. God's gonna trouble the water.*

*(Soloist) Who are those children all dressed in Red?
God's gonna trouble the water.
Must be the ones that Moses led.
God's gonna trouble the water.*

Chorus (all)

*(Soloist) Who are those children all dressed in White?
God's gonna trouble the water.
Must be the ones of the Israelites.
God's gonna trouble the water.*

Chorus (all)

*(Soloist) Who are those children all dressed in Blue?
God's gonna trouble the water.
Must be the ones that made it through.
God's gonna trouble the water.*

Chorus (all)

Liturgist(s)

*From the mist rising from the ground watering the face of the earth,
to God using waters to cleanse the earth and begin again,
to the Israelites crossing through the waters to safety,
to our Lord using water to heal, to teach, to wash the feet of his friends,
to the woman who wished for water from that well that never goes dry,*

*water courses through the veins of the creation and the pages of Scripture,
bringing life,
signifying change,
symbolizing the springs of faith and hope welling up inside us all.
In the same way today we understand water both as symbol and as substance:
a symbol of our rebirth to new life*

and the substance of our service to our neighbors, who so often go without the waters that literally give life.

As the people of old sought to wade in the pool when the waters were troubled, hoping to find healing,

so millions of our neighbors seek this same healing, often longing but for a sip of cool, clean water.

Readers

One: I'm really thirsty.

Two: I'm really thirsty!

One: My small flask of water ran out before I was half way back from the market.

Two: Coach ran us SO hard—without even so much as a water break!

One: It's tempting to stop and drink from that small stream—but my mother says it is not clean.

Two: I could stop at the fountain in the hall—but why settle for water when I can get a soda on the way home—I'll make mom stop!

One: I remember how sick my little brother got last year—it was from the water.

Two: When is she going to get here—I will DIE if she doesn't get here soon. I'm sooo thirsty!

One: I'm so thirsty. My poor mother carries water all morning from the stream far below in the valley. Three or four trips every morning with the large jar on her head—and a baby on her back.

Two: I guess I could break down and get a drink at the fountain. Half the time it isn't even really cold.

One: The water at the house is always warm—it was boiled over the fire to kill the germs.

Two: And it tastes like...chlorox or something. Yuk! Probably has fluoride in it too.

One: I can taste the ashes when I drink, but this reminds me that it is safe.

Two: I knew I should have brought one of those very cool glass containers of water they ship from Norway—now THAT is water! I can't believe I'm going to have to drink from the fountain like a common person.

One: At last—a drink from the water jar!

Two: (leaning over to drink) Here goes...

One: (taking a sip from a ladle) Thank you, Lord, for clean water.

Two: Good lord, you call THAT water!? It'll be a miracle if I don't get sick from it.

One: (sipping again) What a miracle.

Congregation

Chorus: Wade in the water, wade in the water children.

Wade in the water. God's gonna trouble the water.

Liturgist(s)

Millions more of our neighbors live in water-stressed areas,

places where populations rise as water tables decline;

places where competition may soon turn to conflict over water drawn in too many directions;

places where misuse and overuse and thoughtless use have squandered this natural heritage;
places where some have sought control over what God has given to all;
places where people who have lived by and from the waters for millennia find that ancient way of life being poisoned....

Reader

“News release: studies have found that levels of toxins in samples of breast milk of Inuit women of the Arctic are many times higher than levels found in the milk of women in the countries where the chemicals were produced. The toxic substances have migrated toward the polar regions with ocean currents, and have become concentrated in the tissues of the marine animals that form the core of the native diet. The poisons are even found in the ice pack. One result is that Inuit babies have increased risk of abnormal and below-average development and susceptibility to disease. The discovery has caused a profound quandary for the people of the far north: “Without our food—the food that has sustained us and defined us for centuries—who are we as a people?” lamented one Inuit leader. “Yet we fear for the safety of our children. We feel as if we are being poisoned from afar.”

Congregation

Chorus: Wade in the water, wade in the water children.
Wade in the water. God's gonna trouble the water.

Liturgist(s)

God's good creation depends on water as lubricant, cleanser, nutrient-bringer, regulator of climate and life cycle,
yet more and more are the places where water is insufficient or impure for the work God has given it;
places where it is overindulged with the nutrient-rich run-off from our farms and lawns,
overwhelmed with the pollution-rich run-off of factories and city streets;
clouded with the silt from poorly-tended fields, deforested slopes or careless building projects;
diverted and hoarded by the dams and canals of water-hungry communities;
disappeared from mountain-top glaciers, no longer feeding rivers in the valleys below.

Without clean, available and free-flowing water,
creatures of stream and bay are left gasping for air,
fish swim against the current—and the turbines—seeking safe habitat,
marshes and wetlands find their capillaries dried beyond repair, the fluid cornerstone of life on the Water Planet begins to crumble and fall.

Reader(s)

Irrigated lawns: 10,000 gallons per season.
Irrigated golf courses: 4 billion gallons per day in the US alone.
A kilowatt of electricity: 2 gallons.

A pound of paper: 10 pounds of water.

A pound of grain-fed beef: 2,000 gallons.

A gallon of gasoline: 18 gallons.

A car to put it in: 100,000 gallons.

Water, water everywhere may soon mean not enough water anywhere.

Congregation

Chorus: Wade in the water, wade in the water children.

Wade in the water. God's gonna trouble the water.

Liturgist

Consider, Christians, your calling.

To tend the creation,

to seek the well-being of your neighbors,

to assure that the gifts of God, meant for the children of God, are shared widely with all.

Drink, not from the cisterns of consumption or the ponds of indifference,

but from the springs of love and justice and from that well that never runs dry—none other than Christ Jesus our Lord.

Thus may we, our neighbors, and all creation wade into the water, the water God has troubled unto our healing.

And in that day, won't we all have the water we need to survive and thrive?

Chorus (all): Wade in the water, wade in the water children.

Wade in the water. God's gonna trouble the water.

(Soloist) Who are those children all dressed in Green?

God's gonna trouble the water.

Must be the ones that got redeemed.

God's gonna trouble the water.

Chorus (all): Wade in the water, wade in the water children.

Wade in the water. God's gonna trouble the water. (2x)

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by David Radcliff

New Community Project

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