



# What's in Your Water Bottle?

But let justice roll down like waters,  
and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

*Amos 5:24*

Water is God's gift to the whole of the human community. What does justice require of us as we consider our use of water?

## The Facts about the Global Water Crisis \*

- Some 1.2 billion people (one in six) have no access to safe water.
- About 80 percent of disease in two-thirds of the world is related to poor drinking water and sanitation.
- One-third of the world's households must use water sources outside the home. Girls and women in East Africa now walk an average of twenty-one minutes from home just to get water.
- One-half the world's poorest countries will face serious water shortages by the year 2025.
- People in the United States are the greatest consumers of water.

### PRAYER

Creator God, in the beginning your face moved over the waters at the very formation of the world. We give thanks for your gift of water, given freely to the whole of creation. Make us wise stewards of this good gift, and guide us in making choices that will benefit not just ourselves but the whole world.

**Amen.**

\*Sources: Food and Water Watch; Pacific Institute; Church World Service

What can you do?

## The Facts about Bottled Water\*

- From 25 to 40 percent of bottled water is tap water.
- Bottled water is the second-most-consumed beverage in the United States, just after soft drinks.
- The vast majority of municipal tap water is safe to drink, and its purity is more regulated than that of bottled water.
- Last year alone, Americans spent nearly \$11 billion on bottled water.
- Tap water costs, on average, \$0.002 per gallon; bottled water costs from \$.89 to \$8.26 a gallon.
- The production of bottled water consumes 17 million barrels of oil a year, produces more than 2.5 million tons of carbon dioxide, and takes three liters of water to manufacture one liter of bottled water.
- Less than an estimated 20 percent of single-use plastic water bottles are recycled. The rest end up in landfills, where they will take a thousand years to biodegrade.