



### **Water Ritual:**

Water refreshes our spirit and captures our imagination. We are thankful for the refreshing power of water. It flows from the mountains, springs, and out of the earth's depths to give us birth and life.

Water offers us hope and rebirth. The sound of flowing water reminds us to remain open and to yield to the healing presence of divine energy.

We know that all water is the Lord's—as is all of creation (Ps. 21). In the *Book of Job* we are told that God controls the waters (12:15): if God withholds the waters, they dry up; if God sends them out, they overwhelm the land.

In the face of our current crisis of water and all its environs in the Gulf of Mexico, a crisis humans have initiated, and one that is but a symptom of the deeper crisis surrounding our relationship with God's good earth, we invite those who wish to approach the bowl of water in the sanctuary.

You may simply touch this cool clear water, or scoop it with your hand. While so doing, we ask you to pray

- . . . for a restoration of the waters of the Gulf,
- . . . for the entire community that depends on the vitality of these waters,
- . . . for an ecological conversion and an end to our destructive pursuits,
- . . . for renewal in our efforts to live in harmony with a world infused with beauty and spirit,
- . . . and for a faithful and generous response to our call to stewardship.

*Please come forward in groups of two or three.*