**Prayer of Lament - Keepers of the Water Vigil**

*(This can be read antiphonally, alternating between two readers, with the congregation joining in the responses in bold print.)*

Creator and Life-giver, You water the furrows of the earth abundantly, softening it with showers, and blessing its growth,

And we clear-cut the forests and till the edges of the fields, until the soil spills into the streams and pesticides and manure make foul the rivers.

O Source of Living Water, hear our cry,
**Cleanse and renew us and all creation.**

In every part of the earth You have set humans to tend and steward the land as a goodly heritage,

And the First Peoples of this land are poisoned with mercury from pulp mills and cannot safely drink the water in their own homes.

O Source of Living Water, hear our cry,
**Cleanse and renew us and all creation.**

You make springs to gush forth in the valleys; they flow between the hills, giving drink to every creature,

And we span those streams with pipelines that rupture and leak, oozing oil and bitumen, poisoning the fish and the birds of the air.

O Source of Living Water, hear our cry,
**Cleanse and renew us and all creation.**

You visit the earth and water it, soaking the subsoil to feed the plants and to fill our wells,

And we sell off that water for a pittance, to be bottled in plastic and sold back to the thirsty at a profit, while the crops wither in the fields.

O Source of Living Water, hear our cry,
**Cleanse and renew us and all creation.**

You opened rocks in the desert to bring water to Your thirsty people,

And we fracture rocks for gases that set tap water aflame.

O Source of Living Water, hear our cry,
**Cleanse and renew us and all creation.**

You gather the deeps into storehouses, channeling the fresh waters of Turtle Island into the Great Lakes,

And we bury radioactive waste by their shores and pollute them with our industries.

O Source of Living Water, hear our cry,
**Cleanse and renew us and all creation.**

You lap the shores of the continents with the wide oceans, filled with living creatures great and small,
And we choke them with our refuse and suffocate them with our waste.

O Source of Living Water, hear our cry,
**Cleanse and renew us and all creation.**

Have mercy on us, forgive us, and make us new.

O Source of Living Water, hear our cry,
**Cleanse and renew us and all creation.**

*Written by Elin Goulden, Diocese of Toronto, 2017*