

# *The Gift of Water*

Week 4 of the Season of Creation



Photo: Zac Boca/Unsplash

The story of the people of Israel traveling through the desert of Sinai reminds us of the absolute dependency of human beings on water. Many of the current conflict zones have as one of their roots the lack of water. For instance, the war in Syria was preceded by 7 years of drought which pushed farmers off the land into the cities, creating tensions in those communities. Cape Town managed to avert the day zero crisis of taps being turned off, but there were threats of the army being called in if day zero had been reached.

A more affluent life-style consumes vast quantities of treated water. Drinking-quality water gushes into long showers, irrigated gardens and swimming pools, in contrast to the single taps of polluted water that people in poor communities use. We live in a water scarce country and the impact of climate change as well as population growth will lead to increasing water shortages in the years to come.