



# Let Justice and Peace Flow

## A Mighty River

Amos 5:24

### Season of Creation - Week 3

#### Scriptures

Sirach 27:30-28:9 • Psalm 103: 1-4, 9-12 • Romans: 14:7-9 • Matthew 18:21-35

The readings today recall that while the seriousness of the ecological crisis demands urgent and passion prophetic action, it must remain non-judgmental and forgiving. They invite reflection on how much we have been forgiven so that we may be patient and forgiving of others.

#### At Saint Anne...

We continue to invite parishioners to pick up a river rock in the Gathering Space and write on it a phrase that reflects their commitment to actions that care for creation. Individuals can lay their rocks along the “river” and be a part of the cascading impact that we create for justice and peace.



**“pour out upon us the power of your love,  
that we may protect life and beauty.”**

Pope Francis, *Laudato Si'*

## The Call to Forgiveness

Today, we celebrate the Third Sunday of the Season of Creation. Matthew's gospel answers two questions: How often must we forgive someone who seeks forgiveness? What will happen if we don't?

Jesus could not be clearer: We must forgive not 7 times, but 77 times—a metaphor in his time and culture for a number without limit. Every time they ask forgiveness sincerely, we must give it from our hearts. If we do not forgive each other when we have been forgiven so much by God, we will lose God's forgiveness.

To recognize how precious God's forgiveness for the misuse of the gifts of creation is, we need to be conscious of how precious and sacred those gifts are.

## Faith Reflection Questions

As we have grown in consciousness of God's gifts in creation and of our destructive use and abuse of them, we have experienced God's patience, mercy, and call to conversion in our lives—a conversion to Gospel nonviolence and what Pope Francis has called and integral ecological conversion.

- How have we been forgiven in our individual journeys thus far? In our community life? For what are we still in need of forgiveness now?
- How can we expand our consciousness of the ways we continue to live unaware of or unconcerned about the violence to creation from waste, pollution, a "throw away culture," overuse of resources, inequality, and poverty?

Acknowledging our sins, failures, slowness to change, and asking forgiveness, we need to contemplate and give profound thanks to God for this patience, gentleness in forgiving us, teaching us, drawing us to work for the new creation.

- How can we express and live out our gratitude for God's patient forgiveness to us personally? As a community?
- How can we work at deepening and nurturing that gratitude of spirit?
- What type of liturgies, prayers, actions together can nurture this spiritual growth?
- How can that gratitude call forth in us patience and forgiveness for those "behind us" in this journey? For those resisting or denying the cry of the poor and the cry of the Earth?

