Contents

PRELUDE: WRITING WATER ix

CHAPTER 1:
THEOLOGY AND ETHICS FOR THE NEW MILLENNIUM 1

Love of God and Love of Neighbor—4
Universal and Particular: A Thorny Problem—8
Anthropological Constants—9
Embodied Experience and Ethical Discernment—11
Theology and Ethics from the (So-Called) Margins—12
Ecological Theology and Environmental Ethics—14
The Challenge: Bodies That Matter—16
Conclusion: Theology, Ethics, and Fresh Water—17

CHAPTER 2:
A PRIMER ON THE GLOBAL FRESH WATER CRISIS 19

Hydrology and Hype—19
Foundational Insights—20
A Primer on the Global Fresh Water Crisis—21
Facts, Frameworks, and Mental Fatigue—34
Conclusion: Just Water—34

CHAPTER 3:
WATER: HUMAN RIGHT OR ECONOMIC COMMODITY? 36

Message in a Bottle—37
What Kind of Thing Is Water?—43
Bolivian Water War?—46
Conclusion: Valuing Water—49
CHAPTER 4:
A RIGHT-TO-LIFE ISSUE FOR THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY 52

Catholic Social Teaching: The Church’s Best-Kept Secret—53
Fresh Water in Catholic Social Teaching—56
Conclusion: A Right-to-Life Issue for the Twenty-First Century—65

CHAPTER 5:
THE AGRICULTURE/WATER NEXUS 68

Making Water Visible from Seed to Supper—68
From Prehistory to the Produce Aisle:
A History of Agriculture—70
The Short-Term Vision of Industrial Agriculture—80
Rethinking Industrial Agriculture in the Face of Hydrological Reality—88
Theology, Ethics, and Agriculture in an Era of Fresh Water Scarcity—90
Conclusion: Radicalism and Incrementalism—94

CHAPTER 6:
THE JORDAN RIVER 96

The Shape of the Jordan River Today—96
Rhetoric and Reality—102
Religious Significations of the Jordan River—104
Conclusion: Symbolic Stature vs. Environmental Status—110

CHAPTER 7:
CLIMATE CHANGE AND WATER IN THE ANTHROPOCENE 115

Deep Geological Time—115
A Phase by Any Other Name—116
From British Geology to the Fossil Fuel Economy—119
A Matter of Belief? Scientific Uncertainty and the Ethics of Inaction—122
The Climate/Water Nexus—129
Conclusion: Facts, Values, and Fresh Water in an Era of Climate Change—141

### Chapter 8:
**Water from Rock: Hydraulic Fracturing** 142
- Fracking: Rhetoric, Reality, and Reasonable Suspicion—144
- Anthropology Is Absorption—151
- The Halliburton Loophole—153
- Double, Double, Toil, and Trouble—158
- How to Do Things with a Dearth of Data—162
- Six Substantial Concerns about Hydraulic Fracturing—164
- Conclusion: Stepping Wisely into Our Energy Future—168

### Chapter 9:
**Women, Wells, and Living Water** 171
- Twentieth-Century Biblical Hermeneutics—172
- Reconfiguring the Woman at the Well—173
- Deconstructing Water—175
- Historicizing Water—176
- “Her Daily Toil”: Women and Water Worldwide—179
- Conclusion: Thirst—181

### Coda: Lessons in Liquidity 184

### Acknowledgments 189

### Notes 193

### Further Resources 213

### Index 221