



Living Water

Season of Creation 2026

IMMERSION IN LIVING WATER

Ezekiel 47:9, 12

The **Season of Creation** is almost here! During this annual ecumenical celebration, faith communities around the world pray and act together to honor and protect the earth, our common home. The celebration officially begins on September 1, the Day of Prayer for Creation, and ends on October 4, the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of ecology beloved by many Christian denominations. At St. Bart's, the season culminates with the Blessing of the Animals, which we'll celebrate on October 3–4.

The theme for Season of Creation 2026 is "Living Water," based on Ezekiel 47:9 and 47:12. These verses offer a powerful biblical vision of hope and ecological healing; set amid exile and loss, the image of living water flowing from God's sanctuary reveals divine healing that renews land, water, and biodiversity. This year, we as Christians are invited into a spiritual immersion, honoring the source of all bodies of water—from oceans, rivers, and lakes to fountains and baptismal fonts—and praying and working together for the revitalization of the whole of Creation. We are also invited to immerse ourselves in the tears of Creation, allowing our hearts to be touched by the suffering not only of our brothers and sisters who are most vulnerable to environmental degradation, but of all Creation.

St. Bart's and the Episcopal Diocese of San Diego are commemorating the Season of Creation with worship services featuring liturgies, prayer, and music focused on Creation Care, as well as special events/activities throughout September. These offerings are meant to encourage prayer, practical advocacy, and sustainable actions to protect and restore our fragile planet. A full schedule of events at St. Bart's, as well as a special diocesan event, is listed below (click the event title for more details). We encourage you to step into the water of God's love and become part of the River of Transformation that brings healing, renewal, and blessing to the Earth.

Questions? Contact sustainability@stbartschurch.org.



SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

September–October 2026

ALL MONTH	Season of Creation Table Saturdays & Sundays after all services Patio
ALL MONTH	Devotional Emails Inspired by San Diego's Flora & Fauna
ALL MONTH	Sock Recycling Drive
SUN 06	Adult Forum: Our National Parks 9 a.m. MPR
SUN 13	Adult Forum: The Kumeyaay—The Original San Diego Natives 9 a.m. MPR
SUN 20	Adult Forum: Traveling the World with a Disability 9 a.m. MPR
SUN 27	Adult Forum: Working with Wildlife 9 a.m. MPR
MON 28	Creation Care Community Roundtable (diocesan event) 6 p.m. Zoom
SAT 03	Blessing of the Animals (during service) 5 p.m. Chapel
SUN 04	Blessing of the Animals (during services) 8 a.m. & 10 a.m. Sanctuary
SUN 04	Critter Encounters 9 a.m. Patio

Season of Creation Table

Saturdays & Sundays throughout September | After worship services

Stop by the Season of Creation table after worship services to add your hopes and prayers for the earth to our Season of Creation tree, pick up your scavenger hunt card, de-stress with a nature-themed coloring activity, and learn about actions you can take on behalf of the environment.

Devotional Emails Inspired by San Diego's Flora & Fauna

Throughout the Season of Creation

Keep an eye on your email inbox for a series of devotionals inspired by San Diego County's native flora and fauna, written by members of our St. Bart's community. We invite you to join us in reflecting on and praying for God's Creation!

Sock Recycling Drive

Throughout September

We're hosting a sock recycling drive! Bring your CLEAN mismatched, holey socks and drop them in our sock recycling box at the Season of Creation table. All brands accepted! Collected socks will be separated by material type, then recycled into raw formats that can be used to make new products.

Adult Forum: Our National Parks

Sunday, September 6 | 9 a.m.–9:45 a.m. | MPR

Join us for a presentation on the National Park Service by John Tomlinson, a member of St. Bart's since 2004. John loves to travel and has visited all 50 states and 58 of 63 national parks. His latest trip was to Katmai National Park in Alaska, which will be featured in this forum. He will also offer recommendations for those interested in visiting any of the national parks.

Adult Forum: The Kumeyaay—The Original San Diego Natives

Sunday, September 13 | 9 a.m.–9:45 a.m. | MPR

Come and learn more about the Kumeyaay, the original native inhabitants of San Diego County, who have lived in this region for more than 12,000 years. The Kumeyaay were experts at horticulture, hunting, gathering food and fibers, fire management, dam building, animal and plant husbandry, creating watersheds, and storing groundwater. Their Creation story allowed them to live with a "worldview of interconnectedness" that treated

the earth and its resources as living, sacred entities. Our presenter, Robert Holton, has been a docent at the Kumeyaay-Ipai Interpretive Center in Poway since 2022 and also provides interpretive sessions at various county park campgrounds, county libraries, and the San Diego Botanic Garden throughout the year.

Adult Forum: Traveling the World with a Disability

Sunday, September 20 | 9 a.m.–9:45 a.m. | MPR

Dr. Cary Lowe, a retired urban and environmental planner and land use attorney, as well as the author of the immigrant memoir *Becoming American* and the disabled travel memoir *On Two Legs and Three Wheels*, will describe his worldwide travels with his wife, Trish, who has multiple sclerosis and relies on a three-wheeled mobility scooter while traveling. Cary's presentation will feature photos of him and Trish in the unexpected places they have visited.

In advance of the forum, parishioners are welcome to purchase a copy of Cary's latest book, *On Two Legs and Three Wheels*, which relates the couple's travel adventures, and bring it along for Cary to sign. While the book is available on Amazon, we encourage you to support local and purchase from [Bookshop.org](https://www.bookshop.org) or directly from a **local independent bookstore**.

Adult Forum: Working with Wildlife

Sunday, September 27 | 9 a.m.–9:45 a.m. | MPR

Elizabeth Jones, a wildlife care and bird rescue specialist at the San Diego Zoo Safari Park who is passionate about animals and their ecosystems, will share some stories of her work with animals—from the very wild to the everyday—and how they have taught her joy and given her hope to continue caring for Creation. She will also offer some ideas for ways that our community can help birds and other wildlife.

Creation Care Community Roundtable (diocesan event)

Friday, September 28 | 6:30–8 p.m. | Zoom

Join the Creation Care Community for a roundtable featuring two local youth presenters: Jolina Jian of Brushstrokes for Biodiversity, a student-led nonprofit that educates young people about environmental issues while raising awareness of endangered animals through outreach and fundraising, and Valerie Pablo of SanDiego350, an organization dedicated to preventing the worst impacts of climate change and climate injustice through education and outreach, public policy advocacy, and mobilizing people to take action.

Blessing of the Animals (during worship services)

Saturday, October 3 | 5 p.m. | Chapel

Sunday, October 4 | 8 a.m. & 10 a.m. | Sanctuary

The Blessing of the Animals is the culmination of the Season of Creation at St. Bart's. This popular event takes place during worship services on the first weekend in October, when we celebrate the Feast of St. Francis. Bring your dog, cat, horse, or other animal (for their safety, please keep pocket pets in carriers) for a blessing! If your pet can't come to church or doesn't do well in crowded settings, you are welcome to bring their photo to be blessed in their stead, or you can pick up a vial of holy water to bless your pet at home.

Critter Encounters

Sunday, October 4 | 9 a.m. | Patio

The Blessing of the Animals is not just for pets! Critter Encounters will be on-site on October 4 with several of its animal ambassadors. Don't miss this amazing opportunity to learn about and interact with the animals.