



Living Water

Season of Creation 2026

Immersion in Living Water

EZEKIEL 47:9, 12

ST. BRENDAN THE NAVIGATOR

Deer Isle Maine

Pastor Elaine Hewes, Pastor in Charge and Celebrant

Connie Mayo, Choir Director

Scott Cleveland, Guest Musician

Third Sunday of the Season of Creation

Pentecost Proper 20

September 20, 2026

9:30 a.m.: Gathering in the Memorial/Meditation Garden

10:00 a.m.: Gathering in the Sanctuary

Celebrant: We acknowledge that the land we now occupy is the ancestral home of the Wabanaki People. We grieve the history of greed and violence that led to their loss of life, land, language and culture.

Congregation: **We pray for the courage to find ways to support our indigenous neighbors who still face injustice and prejudice. May we always remember, as do the Wabanaki peoples, that the Earth does not belong to us; rather, we belong to the Earth.**

Silence is begun and ended with a ring of the bell.

Prelude: *Courante in E minor*

George Frederic Handel

Opening Hymn: 671 *Amazing Grace (in back of bulletin)*

Opening Sentences

Celebrant: In the beginning, the Spirit of God hovered over the waters. And God called them good.

Congregation: **Come, Holy Spirit, and cleanse the waters.**

Celebrant: By the waters of Babylon our ancestors wept in their exile.

Congregation: **Come, Holy Spirit, and give us strength to restore the earth that mourns and weeps.**

Celebrant: Jesus cried out, "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me... Out of the believer's heart shall flow rivers of living water."

Congregation: **Come, Holy Spirit, and heal your people.**

Almighty and ever-living God, we thank you for your love in all creation, and especially for your gift of water to sustain and cleanse all life. We offer our thanks for the waters that bring beauty to all that we enjoy, the wild places, the bush, the mountains, the coast, and the sea. And so we immerse ourselves in these waters from these many places.

We fill the font with living water

Song of Praise: For the Beauty of the Earth (*sing*)

**For the beauty of the earth, for the beauty of the skies,
for the love which from our birth over and around us lies:
Christ, our God, to thee we raise, this our hymn of grateful praise.**

The Collects of the Day

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

Congregation: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Almighty and eternal God, you show perpetual lovingkindness to us your servants. Because we cannot rely on our own abilities, grant us your merciful judgment, and train us to embody the generosity of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Congregation: **Amen.**

O merciful Creator, your hand is open wide to satisfy the needs of every living creature: Make us always thankful for your loving providence; and remembering the account that we must give one day, grant that we may be faithful stewards of your good gifts; through Jesus Christ our Savior, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever.

Congregation: **Amen.**

The Proclamation of the Word

First Lesson: Exodus 16: 2-15

The whole congregation of the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. The Israelites said to them, "If only we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the fleshpots and ate our fill of bread; for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger."

Then the LORD said to Moses, "I am going to rain bread from heaven for you, and each day the people shall go out and gather enough for that day. In that way I will test them, whether they will follow my instruction or not. On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather on other days." So Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites, "In the evening you shall know that it was the LORD who brought you out of the land of Egypt, and in the morning you shall see the glory of the LORD, because he has heard your complaining against the LORD. For what are we, that you complain against us?" And Moses said, "When the LORD gives you meat to eat in the evening and your fill of bread in the morning, because the LORD has heard the complaining that you utter against him—what are we? Your complaining is not against us but against the LORD."

Then Moses said to Aaron, "Say to the whole congregation of the Israelites, 'Draw near to the LORD, for he has heard your complaining.'" And as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the Israelites, they looked toward the wilderness, and the glory of the LORD appeared in the cloud. The LORD spoke to Moses and said, "I have heard the complaining of the Israelites; say to them, 'At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall have your fill of bread; then you shall know that I am the LORD your God.'"

In the evening quails came up and covered the camp; and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. When the layer of dew lifted, there on the surface of the wilderness was a fine flaky substance, as fine as frost on the ground. When the Israelites saw it, they said to one another, "What is it?" For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, "It is the bread that the LORD has given you to eat."

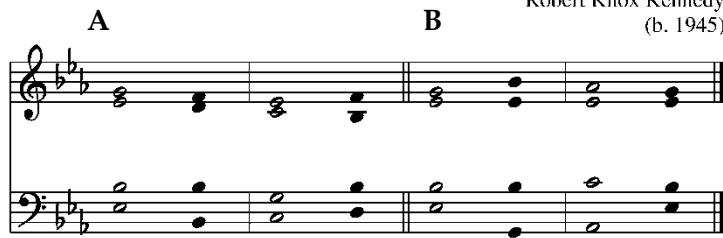
Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying.

Congregation: **Thanks be to God.**

Portions of Psalm 105

S-411

Robert Knox Kennedy
(b. 1945)



Give thanks to the LORD and call upon his Name; *
make known his deeds among the peoples. ||

Sing to him, sing praises to him; *
and speak of all his marvelous works.

Glory in his holy Name; *
let the hearts of those who seek the LORD re-joice. ||

Search for the LORD and his strength; *
continually seek his face.

Remember the marvels he has done; *
his wonders and the judgments of his mouth. ||

O offspring of Abraham his servant; *
O children of Jacob his chosen.

He led out his people with silver and gold; *
in all their tribes there was not one that stumbled. ||

Egypt was glad of their going; *
because they were a-fraid of them.

A He spread out a cloud for a covering; *
and a fire to give light in the night season. (*return to A*)

A They asked, and quails ap-peared; *
and he satisfied them with bread from heaven. ||

B He opened the rock, and water flowed; *
so the river ran in the dry places.

For God remembered his holy word; *
and Abraham his servant. ||
So he led forth his people with gladness; *
his chosen with shouts of joy.

A He gave his people the lands of the nations; *
and they took the fruit of others' toil. (*return to A*)

**A That they might keep his statutes *
and observe his laws. ||**

**B Hallelu-jah!, *
Hallelu-jah!**

Second Lesson: Letter to the Philippians 1:21-30

To me, living is Christ and dying is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.

Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well-- since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying.

Congregation: **Thanks be to God.**

Sequence Hymn: 383 *Fairest Lord Jesus (in back of bulletin)*

Gospel: Matthew 20:1-16

Celebrant: The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

Congregation: **Glory be to you, O Christ.**

Jesus said, "The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?' They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.' When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord.

Congregation: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

Pastor Elaine Hewes

Silence

Profession of Faith

We put our trust in God, who creates all things,
who embraces all things, who celebrates all things,
who is present in every part of the fabric of creation.

We trust in God as the source of all life,
who baptizes this planet with living water.

We trust in Jesus Christ,
the suffering one, the poor one,
who loves and cares for this world
and who suffers with it.

We trust in Jesus Christ, the seed of life,
who came to reconcile and renew this world
and everything in it.

We trust in the Holy Spirit, the breath of God,
who moves with God and moves among us today.

We trust in everlasting life in God,
and we look forward to that time
when all of creation will be gathered
in the embrace of God's expansive love.

Prayers of the People

Leader: Creator God, hear the prayers of our hearts as we strive to care for the earth, its waters, and each other.
We pray for the holy Church of God to be a light for all creation, a place of healing and reconciliation
embodying the love of Christ to a hurting world.

Congregation: **Lord hear our prayer.**

Leader: We pray for all bishops, ministers, and spiritual leaders, especially our Presiding Bishop, Sean, and our
Bishop, Thomas, and all priests and deacons who serve our churches.

Congregation: **Lord hear our prayer.**

Leader: We pray for those in authority here and in the world that they might work together to seek justice and
equity for all people. Strengthen them to lead with compassion and wisdom.

Congregation: **Lord hear our prayer.**

Leader: In this Season of Creation, make us mindful of the gift of living waters in our rivers and streams, our
oceans and lakes, that we might offer our thanksgiving for its power to sustain all life.

Congregation: **Lord hear our prayer.**

Leader: We pray for seasonable weather and for an abundance of the fruits of the earth for which we give
thanks to our Creator God.

Congregation: **Lord hear our prayer.**

Leader: Show us how to respect and appreciate all earth's creatures, the birds, the bears, the bees and the
butterflies.

Congregation: **Lord hear our prayer.**

Leader: Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, and spirit, and for those struggling with
addiction, joblessness or loneliness, that they may know the power of your transforming love.

Congregation: **Lord hear our prayer.**

Leader: We remember those on our Prayer List:

Fran Liberatore, Abby Peters, Barbara Wright, Debra and Baby Carter, Harry Vickerson, Julie M., Cathy Johnson, Meg Graham, Charlie Putnam, Mike S., Meredydd Cooper, Henna Torrey Roy, Jerry, Agnes and Billy, Gwyn Murray, Sally, Beth Kyzer, Preston Henderson, Tammie Cox, Tyler Goss, Judith Jerome, Mimi Maslan, Judy Miller, Megan, Bishop Thomas Brown, Naomi, Anne Burton, Hewit, Mary Ann and Terry, Nishah, Corbin, Rebecca, Pam B., Jaxson, Heather Corey, Stephen Gill, Bill Scaife, Brent Was, Gary and Wellesley, Mary Lawrence Hicks and family, Nancy Greene, Peter Brown, Seth, Linda Shepard and family, Marcia Scott, Carol Stoneburner

We remember all children in foster care and their caregivers.

Leader: For all those who have died and for those who mourn them, for those who are dying and those who care for them, be with them, Creator God; may they be comforted by your promise of eternal life in love.

Congregation: **Lord hear our prayer.**

Leader: I invite you to add your own prayers and thanksgivings.

Members of the congregation are invited to add prayers and thanksgivings at this time.

Leader: Do any of you on Zoom wish to add prayers and thanksgivings?

Leader: We offer these prayers for all creation in faith and hope that we might be doers of the Word and agents of your love to all we encounter. In the name of Jesus Christ, our redeemer and advocate, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit forever.

Congregation: **Amen.**

Leader: We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins.

Silence

Confession of Sin

Holy and merciful God,

**we confess that we have failed to honor you
by failing to respect our kinship with all your creatures.**

**We have walked heavily on your earth,
overused and wasted its resources, and
taken for granted its beauty and abundance.**

Have mercy on us and forgive us our sin.

**Renew in us the resolve to keep and conserve your earth as you desire and intend,
with grateful and compassionate hearts,
through your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Celebrant: Creator God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.

Congregation: **Amen.**

Celebrant: Peace within yourself.

Peace with Creation.

Peace with you who are with us remotely today.

Peace with one another.

The peace of Christ be always with you.

Congregation: **And also with you.**

The people are invited to greet one another in the name of the Lord.

The Holy Eucharist

Offertory Hymn: ELW 740 *God of the Sparrow (in back of bulletin)*

Eucharistic Prayer

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

Congregation: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

Congregation: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

Congregation: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Celebrant: Praise and thanks are yours, our Creating God, whose Spirit moves over the deep. We thank you for the gift of water — the waters on the Earth, and under the Earth, the waters above us, and within us. You have filled the earth and seas and skies with a myriad of wonders.

Through the Spirit you continue to call us into covenant with you — for the restoration of Creation and the reconciliation of all people.

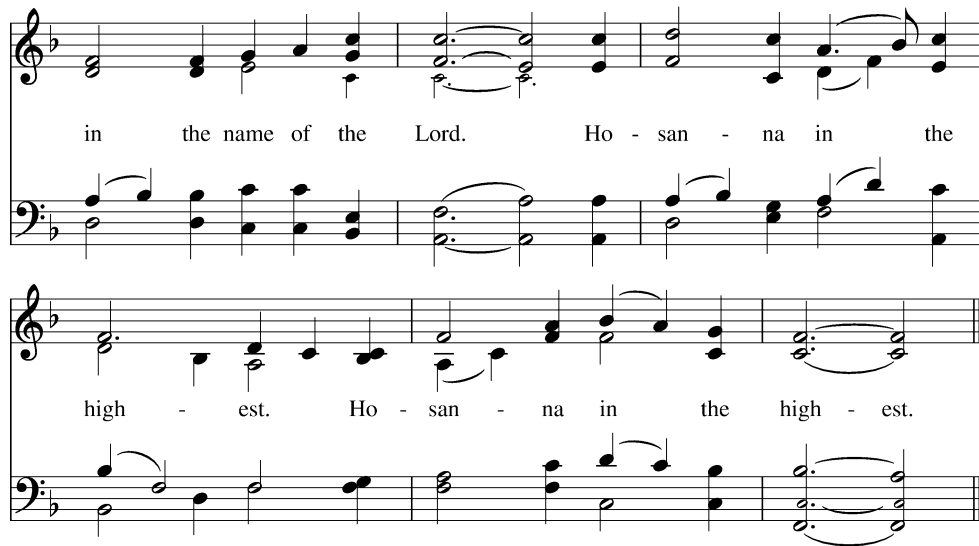
And so we give you thanks, rejoicing with all of Creation, as we join the saints and angels in their unending hymn:

Sanctus *Holy, holy, holy Lord WLP 858*

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and

might, heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -

san - na in the high - est. * Bless - ed is he who comes



In the night that Jesus was betrayed, he took bread, and gave thanks to God. He broke the bread, gave it to his friends and said: "Take and eat, for this is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

He took the wine, and gave thanks to God. He gave it to his friends saying: "This is my blood of the new covenant, shed for you and for all creation for the forgiveness of sins. Every time you drink of the wine, do this in remembrance of me."

So we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Congregation: **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

Merciful God, we come to this table seeking reconciliation: with you, with one another, and with all creation. Through these mysteries, reconcile us to our world and empower us to restore your Creation and fulfill your will. Send your life-giving Spirit upon us, and upon this bread and wine. Stir in us the creative and redeem the destructive.

Celebrant: Heal your stricken world, that the soil, the skies, and the seas may be filled with your life anew. Fill every heart with the sure and certain hope that we shall enter into the fullness of your joy, when your whole Creation is justified by faith and sanctified by love, and you are all in all. Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Spirit, all honor and glory is yours, everlasting God, now and forever.

Congregation: **Amen.**

Celebrant: Gathered into one body by the Holy Spirit, let us all pray the prayer Jesus taught us to pray:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name,

Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power,

And the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.

Fraction Anthem

Celebrant: We break this bread to share in the Body of Christ.

Congregation: **We who are many are one body, for we all share in the one bread. United by the power of the Holy Spirit in our midst, we acknowledge the Holy Sacrament of communion and the fullness of**

Christ's presence in the gifts of the bread and the wine and in countless other ways in our lives. As a community of faith, nothing can separate us from the love of God nor are we separated from one another.

Celebrant: The gifts of God for the people of God ...

Those gathered at St. Brendan receive the bread and wine.

Celebrant: And now may the Presence of Jesus, in whatever form it has come to you this morning, nourish you in grace, comfort you in love, and inspire you to be Christ's presence in the world.

Post Communion Prayer

**Create in us a new heart and a new vision, O God,
that the gifts of your Spirit may work
in us and renew the face of the earth.**

**May we be one with you
so that our work is yours
and your work is ours.**

**Lead us to transform our lives
to reflect your glory in Creation;
through Jesus Christ our Savior
who is alive with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God now and for ever. Amen.**

The Blessing

Sending Hymn: 379 *God is Love (in back of bulletin)*

Postlude: *Bagatelle #8*

Ludwig van Beethoven

Announcements

Dismissal

Go in peace, as people of God made Christ's own through the waters of baptism and in the power of the Holy Spirit. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Congregation: **Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

All hymns and Service Music except ELW 740 from RiteSong ©2023 Church Publishing Inc. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission.

Hymns and Service Music reprinted and streamed with permission under One License #A-715565. All rights reserved.

"A Liturgy for Creation" adapted from *Season of Creation: An Ecumenical Celebration*, assembled by Rev. John Elliott Lein and Rev. Dr. Margaret Bullitt-Jonas for Creation Season 2023. Used with permission and authorized by the Episcopal Diocese of Maine.

Opening sentences adapted from *Season of Creation Celebration Guide*, 2026.

Prayers of the People written by The Rev. Emily Blair Stribling

CALENDAR

**All services and meetings will be held both in-person and via Zoom
unless otherwise designated.**

Monday, September 21	4:30 p.m. Meditation/Silent Prayer (Zoom)
Wednesday, September 23	10:00 a.m. Meditation/Silent Prayer (in person) 10:30 a.m. Part 2 of a two-part series on <i>Lectio Divina</i> (Holy Reading) offered by Joan Maxwell. 4:00 p.m. Choir rehearsal
Sunday, September 27	10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist with Pastor Elaine Hewes presiding presiding.

Looking Ahead

Thursday, October 8	7:00 p.m. "Courage is Contagious" - An evening with Bishop Mariann Budde, Merrill Auditorium in Portland
Tuesday, October 13	5:30 p.m. Legacy Evening and Potluck (See Navigator for details)
Friday, October 30-- Thursday, November 5	8:30 a.m.–5:30 p.m. WindowDressers Community Build

GPS (Giving Our Priorities Shape)

Caring for Creation

This week's GPS invitation, as we explore the Living Waters theme for the 2026 Season of Creation, is to learn about and advocate for the Clean Water Act, which the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is currently revising and weakening in deeply disturbing ways.

The Clean Water Act is more than 50 years old. Congress passed it in 1972 to establish federal protections for our waterways and wetlands and to prevent pollution of our water nationwide. You can learn about the proposed change at the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC). This nonprofit group has been in existence for more than 50 years and uses science, litigation, and environmental experts and activists to confront the climate crisis and ensure the rights of people to clean air, water, and healthy communities. Go to the Navigator to find the button to go to their website, where you can sign a petition about these proposed changes to the Clean Water Act.

While you are at this website, there are 27 more petitions you might consider signing as part of your commitment to **Care for Creation!**

Amazing grace! how sweet the sound *The Hymnal 1982, #671*

1 A - maz - ing grace! how sweet the sound, that
 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
 3 The Lord has prom - ised good to me, his
 4 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares, I
 *5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright

1 saved a wretch like me! I once was lost but
 2 grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that
 3 word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and
 4 have al - rea - dy come; 'tis grace that brought me
 5 shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to

1 now am found, was blind but now I see.
 2 grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!
 3 por - tion be as long as life en - dures.
 4 safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
 5 sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

The melody may be sung in canon at distances of either two or three beats.

Words: John Newton (1725-1807), alt.; st. 5, from *A Collection of Sacred Ballads*, 1790; compiled by Richard Broaddus and Andrew Broaddus. Music: *New Britain*, from *Virginia Harmony* 1831; adapt. att. Edwin Othello Excell (1851-1921); harm. Austin Cole Lovelace (b. 1919). Harmonization Copyright © 1974 by Abingdon Press.

Fairest Lord Jesus *The Hymnal 1982, #383*

1 Fair - est Lord Je - sus, Ru-ler of all na - ture, O thou of
 2 Fair are the mea - dows, fair-er still the wood - lands, robed in the
 3 Fair is the sun - shine, fair-er still the moon - light, and all the

God and man the Son; thee will I cher - ish,
 bloom - ing garb of spring: Je - sus is fair - er,
 twink - ling, star - ry host: Je - sus shines bright - er,

thee will I hon - or, thou, my soul's glo - ry, joy, and crown.
 Je - sus is pur - er, who makes the woe-ful heart to sing.
 Je - sus shines pur - er, than all the an-gels heaven can boast.

Words: German composite; tr. pub. New York, 1850, alt. Music: *St. Elizabeth*, melody from *Schlesische Volkslieder*, 1842; harm. Thomas Tertius Noble (1867-1953).

God of the Sparrow

740



1 God of the spar - row God of the whale God of the swirl - ing
 2 God of the earth - quake God of the storm God of the trum - pet
 3 God of the rain - bow God of the cross God of the emp - ty
 4 God of the hun - gry God of the sick God of the prod - i -



stars
 blast
 grave
 gal
 How does the crea - ture say Awe
 How does the crea - ture cry Woe
 How does the crea - ture say Grace
 How does the crea - ture say Care



How does the crea - ture say Praise
 How does the crea - ture cry Save
 How does the crea - ture say Thanks
 How does the crea - ture say Life

5 God of the neighbor God of the foe
 God of the pruning hook
 How does the creature say Love
 How does the creature say Peace
 6 God of the ages God near at hand
 God of the loving heart
 How do your children say Joy
 How do your children say Home

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, b. 1919
 Music: Carl F. Schalk, b. 1929
 Text © 1983 Concordia Publishing House
 Music © 1983 GIA Publications, Inc.

ROEDER
 96 77

God is Love, let heaven adore him *The Hymnal 1982, #379*

1 God is Love, let heaven a - dore him; God is Love, let
 2 God is Love; and Love en - folds us, all the world in
 3 God is Love; and though with blind-ness sin af - flicts all

earth re - joice; let cre - a - tion sing be - fore him
 one em - brace: with un - fail - ing grasp God holds us,
 hu - man life, God's e - ter - nal lov - ing - kind-ness

and ex - alt him with one voice. God who laid the earth's foun -
 ev - ery child of ev - ery race. And when hu - man hearts are
 guides us through our earth - ly strife. Sin and death and hell shall

da - tion, God who spread the heaven a - bove, God who breathes through
 break - ing un - der sor - row's i - ron rod, then we find that
 nev - er o'er us fi - nal tri - umph gain; God is Love, so

all cre - a - tion: God is Love, e - ter - nal Love.
 self - same ach - ing deep with - in the heart of God.
 Love for ev - er o'er the u - ni - verse must reign.

Words: Timothy Rees (1874-1939), alt. Held by A.R. Mowbray & Co. Ltd. Music: *Abbot's Leigh*, Cyril Vincent Taylor (1907-1991). Copyright © 1942 Renewal 1970, by Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All Rights Reserved. Used by permission.

These are our **values** at St. Brendan the Navigator Episcopal Church.

We will:

Welcome others with **respect** and **compassion**;

Listen to others with **trust** and **appreciation**;

Seek God's goodness in each person;

Strive for **consensus** and work **collaboratively**;

Join in acts of **loving kindness**;

Share our faith joyfully across the generations;

Engage as many of our **parishioners** as possible, **year-round**,

in our common life and ministries;

Learn from our past and look to the future with **hope**.

The Prayer of St. Brendan

Lord, we will trust You,

help us to journey beyond the familiar and into the unknown.

Give us the faith to leave old ways and

break fresh ground with You.

Christ of the mysteries,

we trust You to be stronger than each storm within us.

We will trust in the darkness and

know that our times are in Your hand.

Tune our spirit to the music of heaven,

and somehow, make our obedience count for You.