



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

Alan Flowers, Bruce Downs and Tom van Buren, Guest Musicians

First Sunday of the Season of Creation

Pentecost Proper 18

September 6, 2026

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: *Morning Has Broken*

Gaelic Melody

Opening Hymn ELW 456 *Baptized in Water (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: When the People of Israel were suffering from thirst in the wilderness, you brought forth water from the rock to save them.

Congregation: **Come, Holy Spirit, and be for us the Spring of Life.**

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.

Filling 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.

Direct us, O Lord God, in all our doings with your continual help, that in all our works, begun, continued, and ended in you, we may glorify your holy name; and finally, by your mercy, bring us to everlasting life, through 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: Numbers 20: 1-13

The Israelites, the whole congregation, came into the wilderness of Zin in the first month, and the people stayed in Kadesh. Miriam died there and was buried there.

Now there was no water for the congregation, so they gathered together against Moses and against Aaron. The people quarreled with Moses and said, "Would that we had died when our kindred died before the Lord! Why have you brought the assembly of the Lord into this wilderness for us and our livestock to die here? Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to bring us to this wretched place? It is no place for grain or figs or vines or pomegranates, and there is no water to drink." Then Moses and Aaron went away from the assembly to the entrance of the tent of meeting; they fell on their faces, and the glory of the Lord appeared to them. The Lord spoke to Moses, saying, "Take the staff, and assemble the congregation, you and your brother Aaron, and command the rock before their eyes to yield its water. Thus you shall bring water out of the rock for them; thus you shall provide drink for the congregation and their livestock."

So Moses took the staff from before the Lord, as he had commanded him. Moses and Aaron gathered the assembly together before the rock, and he said to them, "Listen, you rebels; shall we bring water for you out of this rock?" Then Moses lifted up his hand and struck the rock twice with his staff; water came out abundantly, and the congregation and their livestock drank. But the Lord said to Moses and Aaron, "Because you did not trust in me, to show my holiness before the eyes of the Israelites, therefore you shall not bring this assembly into the land that I have given them." These are the waters of Meribah, where the Israelites quarreled with the Lord and through which he showed himself to be holy.

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying.

Congregation: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 148

Robert Knox Kennedy
(b. 1945)



Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord from the heavens; *

praise him in the heights! ||

Praise him, all his angels; *

praise him, all his host!

Praise him, sun and moon; *

praise him, all you shining stars! ||

Praise him, you highest heavens *

and you waters above the heavens!

Let them praise the name of the Lord; *

for he commanded and they were cre-ated. ||

He established them forever and ever; *

he fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.

Praise the Lord from the earth, *

you sea monsters and all deeps, ||

fire and hail, snow and frost, *

stormy wind fulfilling his com-mand!

Mountains and all hills, *

fruit trees and all cedars! ||

Wild animals and all cattle, *

creeping things and flying birds!

Kings of the earth and all peoples, *

princes and all rulers of the earth! ||

Young men and women a-like, *

old and young to-gether!

Let them praise the name of the Lord,

for his name alone is ex-alted;

his glory is above earth and heaven. ||

He has raised up a horn for his people,

praise for all his faithful, *

for the people of Israel who are close to him.

Praise the Lord!

Second Lesson: Letter to the Romans 13:8-14

Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet"; and any other commandment, are

summed up in this word, "Love your neighbor as yourself." Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying.

Congregation: **Thanks be to God.**

Sequence Hymn ELW 684 *Creating God, your fingers trace (in back of bulletin)*

Gospel: Matthew 18:15-20

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

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

Jesus said, "If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

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: 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 Anthem: *Down in the River to Pray*

Traditional, arr. Mark Liversidge

(sung by the choir)

Eucharistic Prayer

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*

The musical score is written for two staves, treble and bass clef, in 4/4 time. The first system contains the lyrics: "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and". The second system contains the lyrics: "might, heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -". The music is a simple, hymn-like setting with block chords and moving lines.



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 ELW 423 *Shall We Gather at the River (in back of bulletin)*

Postlude: Voluntary on *Hanson Place*

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!

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

CALENDAR

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

Monday, September 7	4:30 p.m. Meditation/Silent Prayer (Zoom)
September 8-11	17 th Annual St. Brendan Women's Retreat at Bishopswood
Wednesday, September 9	10:00 a.m. Meditation/Silent Prayer (in person) 10:30 a.m. No Bible Study 4:00 p.m. Choir rehearsal
Saturday, September 12	8:30 a.m. Women's Breakfast at Stonecutters Kitchen
Sunday, September 13	10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist with The Rev. Andrew Stoessel presiding. 5:30 p.m. Celtic Eventide -- Ron Stegall, reflector

Looking Ahead

October 8	7:00 p.m. "Courage is Contagious" - An evening with Bishop Mariann Budde, Merrill Auditorium in Portland
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GPS (Giving Our Priorities Shape)

Caring for Creation

Every September into October, Christians worldwide celebrate our call to care for God's Creation through prayer, praise, and advocacy. This year, we unite around the theme of "Living Water." We are called to take the initiative to promote environmental justice, to be aware of and to advocate for environmental actions that do not take water for granted but rather understand the need to protect and conserve water as essential to the existence of humanity and all life on our planet.

For starters, **our GPS Action Invitation is to consider how we use water at home.**

- Could you install a rain barrel at the corner of your house to provide for your garden's needs?
- Can you remember to turn off faucets or showerheads whenever possible to reduce water use?
- Reflect on the simplicity, satisfaction, and good health of drinking at least several glasses of water a day. Realize that in many parts of the world, all the above uses are increasingly not possible, and the scarcity of water is causing life-threatening situations.

Baptized in Water

456

1 Bap-tized in wa - ter, sealed by the Spir - it, cleansed by the
 2 Bap-tized in wa - ter, sealed by the Spir - it, dead in the
 3 Bap-tized in wa - ter, sealed by the Spir - it, marked with the

blood of Christ our king: heirs of sal - va - tion, trust - ing his
 tomb with Christ our king: one with his ris - ing, freed and for -
 sign of Christ our king: born of the Spir - it, we are God's

prom - ise, faith - ful - ly now God's praise we sing.
 giv - en, thank - ful - ly now God's praise we sing.
 chil - dren; joy - ful - ly now God's praise we sing.

Text: Michael Seward, b. 1932

Music: Gaelic tune; arr. hymnal version

Text © 1982 Jubilate Hymns, admin. Hope Publishing Company

Arr. © 2006 Augsburg Fortress

BUNESSAN

558 D

Creating God, Your Fingers Trace

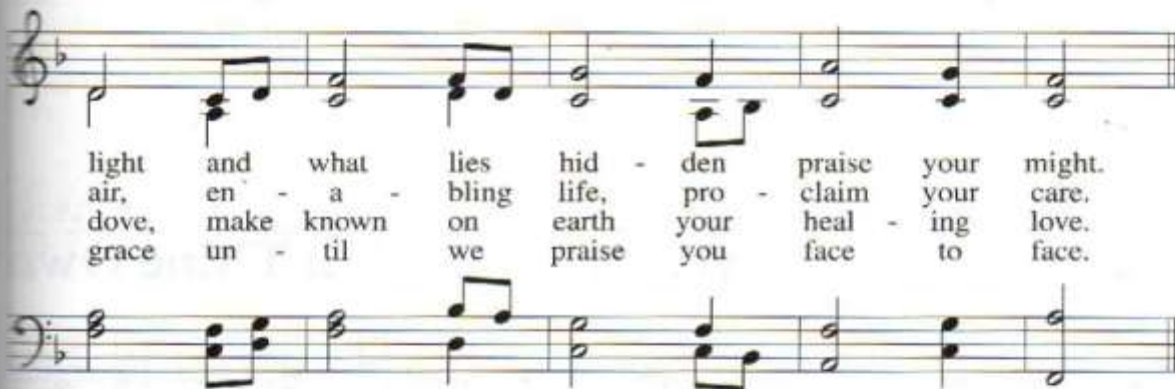
684



1 Cre - at - ing God, your fin - gers trace the bold de -
 2 Sus - tain - ing God, your hands up - hold earth's mys - t'ries
 3 Re - deem - ing God, your arms em - brace all now de -
 4 In - dwell - ing God, your gos - pel claims one fam - 'ly



signs of far - thest space; let sun and moon and stars and
 known or yet un - told; let wa - ter's frag - ile blend with
 spised for creed or race; let peace, de - scend - ing like a
 with a bil - lion names; let ev - 'ry life be touched by



light and what lies hid - den praise your might.
 air, en - a - bling life, pro - claim your care.
 dove, make known on earth your heal - ing love.
 grace un - til we praise you face to face.

Text: Jeffery Rowthorn, b. 1934

Music: W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835; arr. hymnal version

Text © 1979 The Hymn Society, admin. Hope Publishing Company

Text © 2006 Augsburg Fortress

PROSPECT
L.M.

423

Shall We Gather at the River

1 Shall we gath - er at the riv - er, where bright an - gel feet have trod,
 2 On the mar - gin of the riv - er, wash - ing up its sil - ver spray,
 3 Ere we reach the shin - ing riv - er, lay we ev - 'ry bur - den down;
 4 Soon we'll reach the shin - ing riv - er, soon our pil - grim - age will cease;

with its crys - tal tide for - ev - er flow - ing by the throne of God?
 we will walk and wor - ship ev - er, all the hap - py gold - en day.
 grace our spir - its will de - liv - er, and pro - vide a robe and crown.
 soon our hap - py hearts will quiv - er with the mel - o - dy of peace.

Refrain

Yes, we'll gath - er at the riv - er, the beau - ti - ful, the beau - ti - ful riv - er.

gath - er with the saints at the riv - er that flows by the throne of God.

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.