



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

The Rev. Andrew Stoessel, Celebrant

Connie Mayo, Choir Director

Alan Flowers, Guest Musician

Second Sunday of the Season of Creation

Pentecost Proper 19

September 13, 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: *Jerusalem*

C. H. H. Perry

Opening Hymn 427 *When morning gilds the skies (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: Amos proclaimed, "May justice cascade down like the waters; righteousness like a river ever flowing."

Congregation: **Come Holy Spirit, with powerful waves of justice.**

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.

O God, because in our ignorance and selfishness we so often fail to care rightly for your Creation, mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit may soften and unite our hearts with all living beings who suffer; through Jesus Christ the Wisdom of Creation, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever.

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: Book of Exodus 14:19-31

The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them. It came between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel. And so the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night.

Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The LORD drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night, and turned the sea into dry land; and the waters were divided. The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. The Egyptians pursued, and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. At the morning watch the LORD in the pillar of fire and cloud looked down upon the Egyptian army, and threw the Egyptian army into panic. He clogged their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, "Let us flee from the Israelites, for the LORD is fighting for them against Egypt."

Then the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers." So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the LORD tossed the Egyptians into the sea. The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained. But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left.

Thus the LORD saved Israel that day from the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. Israel saw the great work that the LORD did against the Egyptians. So the people feared the LORD and believed in the LORD and in his servant Moses.

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying.

Congregation: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 114

S-415

Jerome Webster Meachen
(b. 1930)



When Israel went out from Egypt,*
the house of Jacob from a people of strange language, ||
Judah became God's sanctuary,*
Israel his do-minion.

The sea looked and fled,*
Jordan turned back. ||
The mountains skipped like rams,*
the hills like lambs.

Why is it, O sea, that you flee?*
O Jordan, that you turn back? ||
O mountains, that you skip like rams?*
O hills, like lambs?

Tremble, O earth, at the presence of the Lord,*
at the presence of the God of Jacob, ||
who turns the rock into a pool of water,*
the flint into a spring of water.

Second Lesson: A Reading from the Babylonian Talmud, Taanit 23a

While the sage, Honi, was walking along a road, he saw a man planting a carob tree.

Honi asked him, "How long will it take for this tree to bear fruit?"

"Seventy years," replied the man.

Honi then asked, "Are you so healthy a man that you expect to live that length of time and eat its fruit?"

The man answered, "I found a fruitful world because my ancestors planted it for me. Likewise I am planting for my children."

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying.

Congregation: **Thanks be to God.**

Sequence Hymn 488 *Be thou my vision O Lord of my heart (in back of bulletin)*

Gospel: Matthew 18:21-35

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

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

Peter came and said to Jesus, "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

"For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, 'Pay what you owe.' Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Sermon

The Rev. Andrew Stoessel

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 Hymn: LEVAS 201 *I've got peace like a river (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 name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the

high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

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 433 *O Christ the Same (in back of bulletin)*

Postlude: Voluntary on *Londonderry Air*

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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"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.

CALENDAR

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

Sunday, September 13	5:00 p.m. Celtic Eventide with Ron Stegall, reflector
Monday, September 14	4:30 p.m. Meditation/Silent Prayer (Zoom)
Wednesday, September 16	10:00 a.m. Meditation/Silent Prayer (in person) 10:30 a.m. Part 1 of a two-part series on <i>Lectio Divina</i> (Holy Reading) offered by Joan Maxwell. 4:00 p.m. Choir rehearsal
Saturday, September 19	8:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast at the Parish Hall
Sunday, September 20	9:30 a.m. Gathering at the Meditation Garden 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist with Pastor Elaine Hewes 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 & Potluck

GPS (Giving Our Priorities Shape)

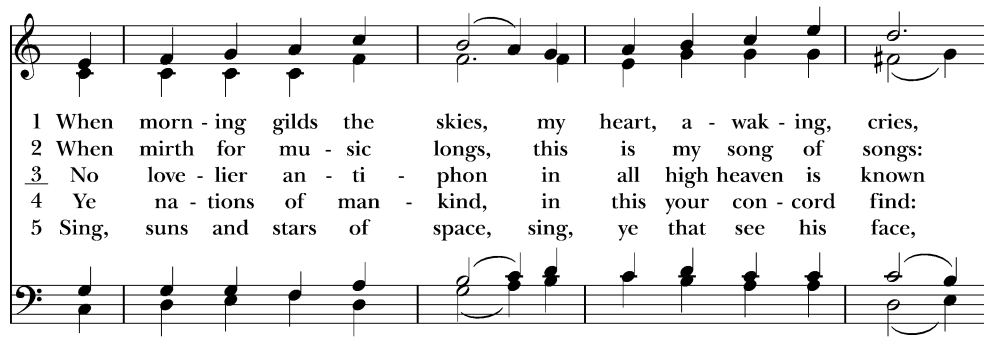
Caring for Creation

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.

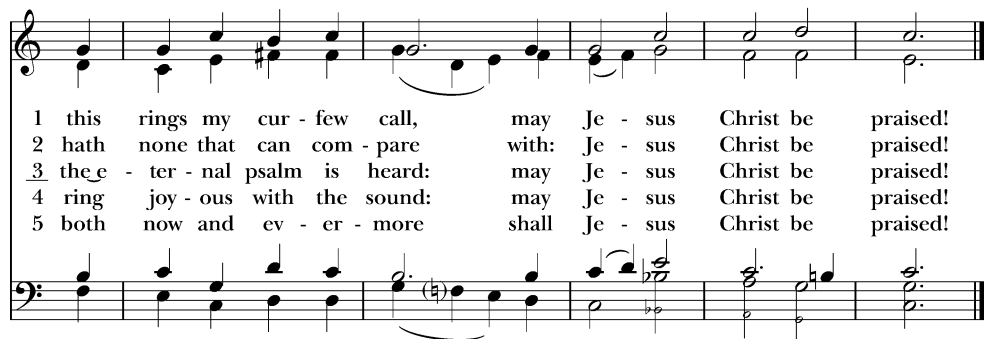
When morning gilds the skies *The Hymnal 1982, #427*



1 When morn - ing gilds the skies, my heart, a - wak - ing, cries,
 2 When mirth for mu - sic longs, this is my song of songs:
 3 No love - lier an - ti - phon in all high heaven is known
 4 Ye na - tions of man - kind, in this your con - cord find:
 5 Sing, suns and stars of space, sing, ye that see his face,



1 may Je - sus Christ be praised! When eve - ning sha - dows fall,
 2 may Je - sus Christ be praised! God's ho - ly house of prayer
 3 than, Je - sus Christ be praised! There to the e - ter - nal Word
 4 may Je - sus Christ be praised! Let all the earth a - round
 5 sing, Je - sus Christ be praised! God's whole cre - a - tion o'er,



1 this rings my cur - few call, may Je - sus Christ be praised!
 2 bath none that can com - pare with: Je - sus Christ be praised!
 3 the e - ter - nal psalm is heard: may Je - sus Christ be praised!
 4 ring joy - ous with the sound: may Je - sus Christ be praised!
 5 both now and ev - er - more shall Je - sus Christ be praised!

Words: German, ca. 1800; tr. Robert Seymour Bridges (1844-1930), alt. Music: *Laudes Domini*, Joseph Barnby (1838-1896).

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart *The Hymnal 1982*, #488



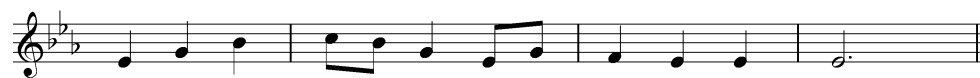
1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
 2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;
 3 High King of hea - ven, when vic - tory is won,



all else be nought to me, save that thou art—
 I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord;
 may I reach hea - ven's joys, bright hea - ven's Sun!



thou my best thought,— by day or by night,
 thou my great Fa - ther; thine own may I be;
 Heart of my heart, — what - ev - er be - fall,



wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.
 thou in me dwell - ing, and I one with thee.
 still be my vis - ion, O Ru - ler of all.

Words: Irish, ca. 700; versified Mary Elizabeth Byrne (1880-1931); tr. Eleanor H. Hull (1860-1935), alt. Music: *Slane*, Irish ballad melody; adapt. *The Church Hymnary*, 1927; harm. David Evans (1874-1948). By permission of Oxford University Press.

I've Got Peace Like a River *Lift Every Voice and Sing II, #201*

1. I've got peace like a riv - er, I've got peace like a
 2. I've got joy like a foun - tain, I've got joy like a
 3. I've got love like an o - cean, I've got love like an

1. riv - er, I've got peace like a riv - er in my
 2. foun - tain, I've got joy like a foun - tain in my
 3. o - cean, I've got love like an o - cean in my

1. soul; I've got riv - er in my soul.
 2. soul; I've got foun - tain in my soul.
 3. soul; I've got o - cean in my soul.

Words: Traditional. Music: Negro Spiritual.

1 O Christ the same, through all our sto - ry's pag - es,
 2 O Christ the same, the friend of sin - ners, shar - ing
 3 O Christ the same, se - cure with - in whose keep - ing

our loves and hopes, our fail - ures and our fears;
 our in - most thoughts, the se - crets none can hide,
 our lives and loves, our days and years re - main,

e - ter - nal Lord, the King of all the a - ges,
 still as of old, up - on your bod - y bear - ing
 our work and rest, our wak - ing and our sleep - ing,

un - chang - ing still a - mid the pass - ing years;
 the marks of love, in tri - umph glo - ri - fied:
 our calm and storm, our plea - sure and our pain:

WORDS: Timothy Dudley-Smith (1926-)
 MUSIC: Irish melody; arr. John Barnard (1948-)
 Words © 1984 Hope Publishing Company
 Music Arr. © 1982 Jubilate Deum (Aldine, Hope Publishing Company)

LONIXONDERRY AIR
 11.10.11.10.D.

continued next page

O liv - ing Word, the source of all cre - a - tion,
 O Son of Man, who stooped for us from heav - en,
 O Lord of love, for all our joys and sor - rows,

who spread the skies, and set the stars a - blaze,
 O Prince of life, in all your sav - ing power,
 for all our hopes, when earth shall fade and flee,

O Christ the same, who wrought our whole sal - va - tion,
 O Christ the same, to whom our hearts are giv - en,
 O Christ the same, be - yond our brief to - mor - rows.

we bring our thanks for all our yes - ter - days.
 we bring our thanks for this the pres - ent hour.
 we bring our thanks for all that is to be.

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.