



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. Dr. Jennifer Reece, Celebrant

Connie Mayo, Choir Director

Alan Flowers, Guest Musician

Fourth Sunday of the Season of Creation

Pentecost Proper 21

September 27, 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: *Chorale Prelude*

Johannes Brahms

Opening Hymn: 522 *Glorious things of thee are spoken (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 they were thrown into the desert to die, Hagar and Ishmael came upon a spring in its midst.

Congregation: **Come, Holy Spirit, and guide us to 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. And so we immerse ourselves in these waters from these many places.

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, you show your glory throughout your Creation, calling it very good: Grant us the fullness of your blessing, that we, stewarding your garden, may become partakers in your joy; 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: Ezekiel 47: 1-12

[In my vision the man whose appearance shone like bronze] then brought me back to the entrance of the temple; there water was flowing from below the entryway of the temple toward the east (for the temple faced east), and the water was flowing down from below the south side of the temple, south of the altar. Then he brought me out by way of the north gate and led me around on the outside to the outer gate that faces toward the east, and the water was trickling out on the south side.

Going on eastward with a cord in his hand, the man measured one thousand cubits and then led me through the water, and it was ankle-deep. Again he measured one thousand and led me through the water, and it was knee-deep. Again he measured one thousand and led me through the water, and it was up to the waist. Again he measured one thousand, and it was a river that I could not cross, for the water had risen; it was deep enough to swim in, a river that could not be crossed. He said to me, "Mortal, have you seen this?"

Then he led me back along the bank of the river. As I came back, I saw on the bank of the river a great many trees on the one side and on the other. He said to me, "This water flows toward the eastern region and goes down into the Arabah, and when it enters the sea, the sea of stagnant waters, the water will become fresh. Wherever the river goes, every living creature that swarms will live, and there will be very many fish once these waters reach there. It will become fresh, and everything will live where the river goes. People will stand fishing beside the sea from En-gedi to En-eg-laim; it will be a place for the spreading of nets; its fish will be of a great many kinds, like the fish of the Great Sea. But its swamps and marshes will not become fresh; they are to be left for salt. On the banks, on both sides of the river, there will grow all kinds of trees for food. Their leaves will not wither nor their fruit fail, but they will bear fresh fruit every month, because the water for them flows from the sanctuary. Their fruit will be for food and their leaves for healing."

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying.

Congregation: **Thanks be to God**

Psalm 46

S-411

A

B

Robert Knox Kennedy
(b. 1945)



A God is our refuge and strength,*
a very present help in trouble. (return to A)

A Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change,*
though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea. ||

B though its waters roar and foam,*
though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

**There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,*
the holy habitation of the Most High. ||**

**God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved;*
God will help it when the morning dawns.**

**The nations are in an uproar; the kingdoms totter;
he utters his voice; the earth melts.* ||**

**The Lord of hosts is with us;*
the God of Jacob is our refuge.**

Come, behold the works of the Lord;*
see what desolations he has brought on the earth. ||

He makes wars cease to the end of the earth;
he breaks the bow and shatters the spear;*
he burns the shields with fire.

"Be still, and know that I am God!*"
**I am exalted among the nations;
I am exalted in the earth." ||**

**The Lord of hosts is with us;*
the God of Jacob is our refuge.**

Second Lesson: The Book of Revelation 22: 1-7, 16-17

Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life^[b] with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month, and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. Nothing accursed will be found there any more. But the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him; they will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. And there will be no more night; they need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

And he said to me, "These words are trustworthy and true, for the Lord, the God of the spirits of the prophets, has sent his angel to show his servants what must soon take place."

"See, I am coming soon! Blessed is the one who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book."

"It is I, Jesus, who sent my angel to you with this testimony for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star."

The Spirit and the bride say, "Come."

And let everyone who hears say, "Come."

And let everyone who is thirsty come.

Let anyone who wishes take the water of life as a gift.

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying.

Congregation: **Thanks be to God.**

Sequence Hymn: 692 *I heard the voice of Jesus say (in back of bulletin)*

Gospel: John 7: 37-41a

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

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

On the last day of the festival, the great day, while Jesus was standing there, he cried out, "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me, and let the one who believes in me drink. As the scripture has said, 'Out of the believer's heart shall flow rivers of living water.' " Now he said this about the Spirit, which believers in him were to receive, for as yet there was no Spirit because Jesus was not yet glorified.

When they heard these words, some in the crowd said, "This is really the prophet." Others said, "This is the Messiah.

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Sermon

The Rev. Dr. Jennifer Reece

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: ELW 423 *Shall we gather at the 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 -



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: 608 *Eternal Father, strong to save (in back of bulletin)*

Postlude: Voluntary on *Melita*

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.

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 28	8:30 a.m. Simmering Pot 4:30 p.m. Meditation/Silent Prayer (Zoom)
Wednesday, September 30	10:00 a.m. Meditation/Silent Prayer (in person) 10:30 a.m. Part 1 of a three-part series entitled <i>Using our own Stories to be Advocates for Peace and Justice</i> offered by The Rev. Alice Hildebrand
Sunday, October 4	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
Sunday, October 11	5:00 p.m. Celtic Evensong, Anne Scarff, reflector
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!**

Glorious things of thee are spoken *The Hymnal 1982, #522*

Descant

4 Blest in - hab - it - ants of Zi - on, washed in the Re -

1 Glo - rious things of thee are spo - ken, Zi - on, ci - ty
 2 See! the streams of liv - ing wa - ters, spring - ing from e -
 3 Round each ha - bi - ta - tion hov - ering, see the cloud and
 4 Blest in - hab - it - ants of Zi - on, washed in the Re -

deem - er's blood! Whom their souls re -

of our God; he whose word can - not be
 ter - nal love, well sup - ply thy sons and
 fire ap - pear for a glo - ry and a
 deem - er's blood! Je - sus, whom their souls re -

ly on, makes them kings and priests to God.

bro - ken formed thee for his own a - bode;
 daugh - ters and all fear of want re - move.
 cov - ering, show - ing that the Lord is near.
 ly on, makes them kings and priests to God.

'Tis his love his peo - ple raise o - ver

on the Rock of A - ges found - ed, what can shake thy
 Who can faint, when such a riv - er ev - er will their
 Thus de - riv - ing from their ban - ner, light by night, and
 'Tis his love his peo - ple rais - es o - ver self to

Continued next page

self to reign and as priests, his

sure re - pose? With sal - va - tion's walls sur -
 thirst as - suage? Grace which, like the Lord, the
 shade by day, safe they feed up - on the
 reign as kings: and as priests, his sol - emn

sol - emn prais - es each an of - fering brings.

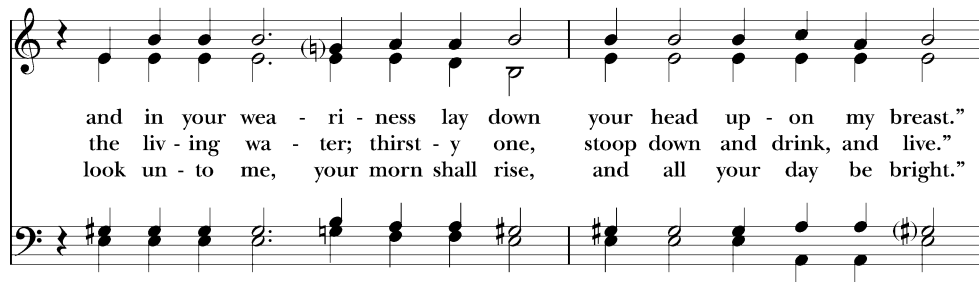
round - ed, thou may'st smile at all thy foes.
 giv - er nev - er fails from age to age.
 man - na which he gives them when they pray.
 prais - es each for a thank - of - fering brings.

Words: John Newton (1725-1807), alt. Music: *Austria*, Franz Joseph Haydn (1732-1807); desc. Michael Y. Young, (b. 1939).
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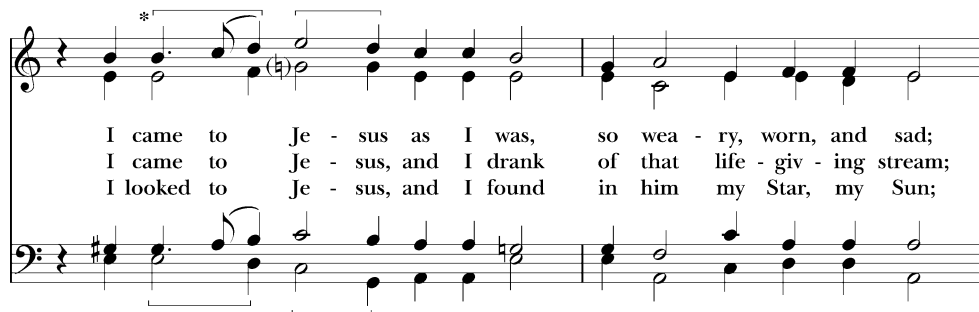
I heard the voice of Jesus say *The Hymnal 1982*, #692



1 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Come un - to me and rest;
2 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Be - hold, I free - ly give
3 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "I am this dark world's light;



and in your wea - ri - ness lay down your head up - on my breast."
the liv - ing wa - ter; thirst - y one, stoop down and drink, and live."
look un - to me, your morn shall rise, and all your day be bright."



I came to Je - sus as I was, so wea - ry, worn, and sad;
I came to Je - sus, and I drank of that life - giv - ing stream;
I looked to Je - sus, and I found in him my Star, my Sun;



I found in him a rest - ing place, and he has made me glad.
my thirst was quenched, my soul re - vived, and now I live in him.
and in that light of life I'll walk till pil - grim days are done."

*The bracketed notes are to be treated as triplet groups.

Words: Horatius Bonar (1808-1889), alt. Music: *The Third Tune*, Thomas Tallis (1505?-1585?); ed. John Wilson (1905-1992).
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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.

Eternal Father, strong to save *The Hymnal 1982, #608*



1 E - ter - nal Fa - ther, strong to save, whose arm hath bound the
 2 O Christ, whose voice the wa - ters heard and hushed their ra - ging
 3 Most Ho - ly Spi - rit, who didst brood up - on the cha - os
 4 O Trin - i - ty of love and power, thy chil - dren shield in



rest - less wave, who bidd'st the might - y o - cean deep its
 at thy word, who walk - edst on the foam - ing deep, and
 dark and rude, and bid its an - gry tu - mult cease, and
 dan - ger's hour; from rock and tem - pest, fire and foe, pro -



own ap - point - ed lim - its keep: O hear us when we
 calm a - mid its rage didst sleep: O hear us when we
 give, for wild con - fu - sion, peace; O hear us when we
 tect them where - so - e'er they go; thus ev - er - more shall



cry to thee for those in per - il on the sea.
 cry to thee for those in per - il on the sea.
 cry to thee for those in per - il on the sea.
 rise to thee glad hymns of praise from land and sea.

Words: William Whiting (1825-1878), alt. Music: *Melita*, John Bacchus Dykes (1823-1876).

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.