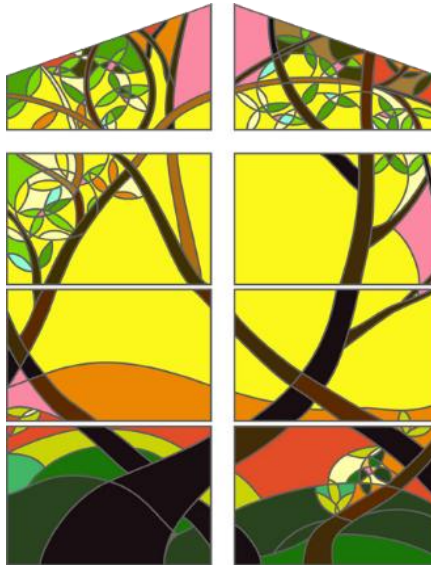


St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church



Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 27, 2026 - 10 am

Welcome to the fourth Sunday in the Season of Creation

The Season of Creation is a time to renew our relationship with God and all Creation through celebration, conversion, and commitment. This annual ecumenical season invites Christians to pray and act together for Earth, our common home. This year's theme is Living Water, based on the image of the river in Ezekiel 47:9-12. The symbol depicts water flowing from the Temple of God - at first a tiny stream that grows deeper, and deeper and as it does so, it brings life to dead areas and restores fertility to damaged or barren ecosystems. Through living water comes healing; but in order to receive new life, we too must step into the water and also become part of God's river of life, taking part in the healing of creation. Visit SeasonOfCreation.org for more information.



Living Water

Season of Creation 2026

IMMERSION IN LIVING WATER

Ezekiel 47:9, 12

Prelude

Dance

Michael Bedford
(b. 1949)

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

Hymn 427

When morning gilds the skies

Laudes Domini

Opening Acclamation

Presider: This is the day the Creator has made.

People: Let us rejoice and be glad in it.



Glorify the Lord, all you works of the / Lord, *
praise him and highly exalt him for / ever.
In the firmament of his power, glorify the / Lord, *
praise him and highly exalt him for / ever.

Glorify the Lord, you angels and all powers of the / Lord, *
O heavens and all waters above the / heavens.
Sun and moon and stars of the sky, glorify the / Lord, *
praise him and highly exalt him for / ever.

Glorify the Lord, O springs of water, seas, and / streams, *
O whales and all that move in the / waters.
All birds of the air, glorify the / Lord, *
praise him and highly exalt him for / ever.

The Collect of the Day

Presider: God be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Presider: 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. **Amen.**

The First Reading

Exodus 17:1-7

Lector: A reading from the book of Exodus

From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. The people quarreled with Moses, and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?" But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" So Moses cried out to the Lord, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me." The Lord said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the Lord, saying, "Is the Lord among us or not?"

Lector: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16

Hear my teaching, O my people; *

incline your ears to the words of my mouth.

I will open my mouth in a parable; *

I will declare the mysteries of ancient times.

That which we have heard and known,

and what our forefathers have told us, *

we will not hide from their children.

We will recount to generations to come

the praiseworthy deeds and the power of the Lord, *

and the wonderful works he has done.

He worked marvels in the sight of their forefathers, *

in the land of Egypt, in the field of Zoan.

He split open the sea and let them pass through; *

he made the waters stand up like walls.

He led them with a cloud by day, *

and all the night through with a glow of fire.

He split the hard rocks in the wilderness *
and gave them drink as from the great deep.
He brought streams out of the cliff, *
and the waters gushed out like rivers.

The Second Reading

Philippians 2:1-13

Lector: A reading from Paul's letter to the Philippians

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death— even death on a cross.

Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

Lector: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn 439

What wondrous love is this, O my soul

Wondrous Love

Gospel

Matthew 21:23-32

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

People: **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

When Jesus entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things.

Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet." So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

"What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' He answered, 'I will not'; but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, 'I go, sir'; but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him."

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon

The Rev. Elizabeth Riley

Nicene Creed

EOW

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayers of the People

- Deacon:* Let us offer our prayers to God who is source and life, Creator of the Universe, Source of all life, whom the angels sing; wondrous Light of all mysteries known or unknown to humankind, and life that lives in all.
- Leader:* Eternal God, we thank you for the beauty of the World: for the teeming life of the seas, the flight of birds, and the diversity of animal life. Grant us grace to treat Creation with respect and care; to protect endangered species, to preserve the variety of habitats, and to honor the delicate balance of nature. God of life:
- People:* **Hear our prayer.**
- Leader:* We thank you for the wealth of blessings from land and sea; for the power of wind, and the warmth of sun. We pray for the nations of the Earth; give us the will to cherish this planet and to use its resources sustainably for the welfare of all. God of justice:
- People:* **Hear our prayer.**
- Leader:* As flood waters rise and droughts persist, we pray for the faithful witness of the Church, called to reconcile and heal: especially for this congregation and its leadership, both lay and ordained, and for the Diocese of Olympia. God of grace:
- People:* **Hear our prayer.**
- Leader:* We pray for the human family. We exult in our diversity and giftedness; we repent of our sins, divisions and violence. By the power of your Spirit, restore your image within us. As every human being is known and loved by you, may we care for one another with love and respect.
We pray for those you have commended to our care, especially . . . and those we name now, either silently or aloud. God of compassion:
- People:* **Hear our prayer.**

Leader: We pray for those who are traveling, that you will be their companion on the way and that they will come to a deeper knowledge of you, their Creator, especially . . . and those we name now, either silently or aloud. God who walks with us:

People: **Hear our prayer.**

Leader: We thank you for the Earth you have created, for our place in the web of life, and for those people and other creatures who are dear to us. We rejoice in all the blessings of this life, especially . . . and those we name now, either silently or aloud. God of joy:

People: **Hear our prayer.**

Leader: We pray for those who have died, whom we entrust to your eternal love, and for species gone extinct; may we support and comfort those who mourn. Especially we pray for . . . and those we name now, either silently or aloud. God of peace:

People: **Hear our prayer.**

Presider: Gracious God, the air sings with songs of glory, water flashes silver with creation, and the forests bloom with leaves for healing nations. May your light and love fill our hearts and souls and minds, that we may share your abundant grace with the world. **Amen.**

Confession

Deacon: Let us confess our sins to God.

All: **God of compassion, have mercy upon us.
Heal our relationship with all creation.
Forgive us for our mistreatment and neglect
of the creatures who share the earth with us.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent
for what we have done to harm them,
and for what we have not done to help them.
Fill us with your Spirit, that we may care for one another
and for all creatures, according to your will
and in the fullness of your love;
through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. Amen.**

Absolution

Presider: Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

The Peace

Presider: Peace with yourself. Peace with Creation.
Peace with one another. The peace of Christ be always with you.

People: **And also with you.**

WELCOME AND COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Offertory Anthem

Wade in the Water
St. Dunstan's Choir

Negro Spiritual,
arr. Carl Haywood

The Offertory is a time to present and give thanks for bread and wine, financial offerings, and time and talent given to the church. We gather our offerings through passing the plate where all are invited (though none are required) to give. Contributions can also be made online through the QR code here. Time and Talent cards are available in pew backs to represent the many hours given. For all the gifts of time, treasure, and talent, we give thanks.



Offertory Hymn



The musical score is written for a single voice part in treble clef, key of D major (two sharps), and 4/4 time. It consists of five lines of music. The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a final double bar line at the end of the fifth line.

For the fruit of all cre - a - tion, thanks be to God.
In the just re - ward of la - bor, God's will be done.

For his gifts to ev - ery na - tion, thanks be to God.
In the help we give our neigh - bor, God's will be done.

For the plow - ing, sow - ing, reap - ing, si - lent growth while
In our world - wide task of car - ing for the hun - gry

we are sleep - ing, fu - ture needs in
and de - spair - ing, in the har - vests

earth's safe - keep - ing, thanks be to God.
we are shar - ing, God's will be done.

Text: F. Pratt Green (b. 1903), alt. Music: East Acklam, Francis Jackson (b. 1917).

Offertory Blessing

Presider: All things come from you, O Lord.

People: And of your own have we given you.

The people stand or kneel.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Prayer 2

EOW

Presider: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Presider: Lift up your hearts.

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

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

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

Presider: We praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God, source of life abundant. From before time you made ready the creation. Your Spirit moved over the deep and brought all things into being: sun, moon, and stars; earth, winds, and waters; and every living thing. You made us in your image, and taught us to walk in your ways. But we rebelled against you, and wandered far away; and yet, as a mother cares for her children, you would not forget us. Time and again you called us to live in the fullness of your love.

And so this day we join with Saints and Angels in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity, lifting our voices to magnify you as we sing:

Sanctus

S-124

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might, hea - ven 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.

Setting: From New Plainsong; David Hurd (b. 1950)

The presider continues,

Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God. To deliver us from the power of sin and death and to reveal the riches of your grace, you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant, that she might conceive and bear a son, Jesus the holy child of God. Living among us, Jesus loved us. He broke bread with outcasts and sinners, healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor. He yearned to draw all the world to himself yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love. Then, the time came for him to complete upon the cross the sacrifice of his life, and to be glorified by you.

On the night before he died for us, Jesus was at table with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, and said: "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine. Again, he gave thanks to you, gave it to them, and said: "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins.

Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Now gathered at your table, O God of all creation, and remembering Christ, crucified and risen, who was and is and is to come, we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine, and ourselves, a living sacrifice. Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ. Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth and make us your new creation, the Body of Christ given for the world you have made. In the fullness of time bring us, with all your saints, from every tribe and language and people and nation, to feast at the banquet prepared from the foundation of the world.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever.

All: **AMEN.**

The Lord's Prayer

Presider: And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.**

Give us this day our daily bread.
 And forgive us our trespasses,
 as we forgive those who trespass against us.
 And lead us not into temptation,
 but deliver us from evil.
 For thine is the kingdom,
 and the power, and the glory,
 for ever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

Presider: This is Living Bread, given for all Creation.

People: All who eat this bread share in Christ's Body.

Fraction Anthem

WLP 764

The musical score is written for a two-part setting in 3/2 time, featuring a treble and bass staff. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are distributed across three systems of music. The first system contains the first line of the anthem. The second system contains the second line, including a long melisma over the word 'Lord'. The third system contains the third line, also including a long melisma over the word 'Lord' and ending with a 'Fine' marking. The notation includes various chords and single notes, with some notes tied across measures.

Taste and see. Taste and see the good - ness

of the Lord. O taste and see. Taste and

see the good - ness of the Lord, of the Lord.

Fine

Setting: James E. Moore, Jr. © 1992 GIA Publications, Inc.

The Invitation

Presider: The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

Communion Hymn 339

Deck thyself, my soul, with gladness Schmucke dich

Post Communion Prayer

Presider: Let us pray

All: 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.

Birthdays, Anniversaries, Special Events

All: Watch over your child(ren), O Lord, as their days increase; bless and guide them wherever they may be. Strengthen them when they stand; comfort them when discouraged or sorrowful; raise them up if they fall; and in their heart(s) may your peace which passes all understanding abide all the days of their life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Blessing

Presider: Go forth now to care for God's world. Use resources wisely.
Share your knowledge. Sacrifice where necessary.
Live in harmony with all creation.
Go out into all the world as prophets of a new way of living
and preach the good news to all.
And the blessing of the Creator God, the Risen Son,
and the Promised Holy Spirit bless you
that you might be a blessing to others today and always. **Amen.**

Hymn 492

Sing, ye faithful, sing with gladness

Finnian

Dismissal

Deacon: Tend the earth, care for God's good Creation;
as you have received freely, so give freely.
Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

*We welcome you to remain for prayer or meditation during the postlude.
If you need to leave right away, please be careful not to disturb those who are listening.*

Postlude

Postludium

Anonymous
(17th Century)

*Altar flowers are given today from Colleen Johnson
in memory of her father, Roy Johnson, who passed away three years ago.*



Healing Prayer is offered at the altar after the postlude.

SERVING TODAY

Presider & Preacher: The Rev. Elizabeth Riley
Deacon: The Rev. Alan Christensen
Music Director: Susanna Valleau
Eucharistic Ministers: Chris Johns
Healing Minister: Mary Shehane
Lectors: Lucy Thoms-Damm, Tom Wear
Prayers of the People: Phil Sterlington
Vestry Host: Acacia Georgescu | **Ushers:** Scott Prather
Altar Guild: Paula Ross | **Flower Guild:**
Hospitality: Madeline Sego, Lucy Thoms-Damm
Counters: Marilyn Firman, Tina Polf
A/V: Jonathan Thoms

In honor of the Season of Creation: An Ecumenical Celebration, prayers are drawn from the resource "Season of Creation for Episcopal Parishes," developed by the Rev. Dr. Margaret Bullitt-Jonas and the Rev. John Elliott Lein, and approved for use in the Episcopal Diocese of Olympia by the Rt. Rev. Phil LaBelle.
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