



Living Water

Season of Creation 2026

IMMERSION IN LIVING WATER

Ezekiel 47:9, 12

**The Eighteenth Sunday
after Pentecost: Proper 21**

Holy Eucharist: Rite II

September 27, 2026, 10:00 AM

St. John's Episcopal Church
297 Lowell Avenue, Newtonville, Massachusetts



St. John's Weekly Calendar

Sunday, September 27 <i>The Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost:</i> <i>Proper 21</i>	8:00 am Morning Prayer: Rite II w/Holy Eucharist, <i>spoken</i> (in-person) 10:00 am Holy Eucharist: Rite II, <i>sung</i> (in-person & livestream) 11:30 am Vestry Meeting
Monday, September 28	6:30 pm EfM
Tuesday, September 29	9:30 am EfM
Thursday, October 1	6:00 pm Compline, <i>spoken</i> (Zoom) 7:30 pm Choir Practice
Sunday, October 4 <i>The Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost</i> <i>The Feast of St. Francis (observed) &</i> <i>The Blessing of the Animals</i>	8:00 am Morning Prayer: Rite II, <i>spoken</i> (in-person) 10:00 am Holy Eucharist: Rite II, <i>sung</i> (in-person & livestream) 11:00 am Sermon Group 12:00 pm Parish Cookout

Prayer Requests

The Ecumenical Cycle of Prayer

We Pray for
Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Peru

The Diocesan Cycle of Prayer

We Pray for
Churches of the North Shore Deanery
Ascension Memorial Church, Ipswich
St. Stephen's Memorial Church, Lynn
Emmanuel Chapel, Manchester-by-the-Sea
Wyman Memorial Church of St. Andrew,
Marblehead
Ministries with Homeless Persons and Refugees

The Anglican Cycle of Prayer

We Pray for
The Church of Bangladesh

Birthdays

Macy Wood 09/28

Anniversaries

Bryn and Tom Wood 09/28
Rev. Michael Thompson and Patrick Groulx 10/02

Pray for: Alec, Angela, Anne J, Anne S, Anne T, Austin, Bob M, Bob Z, Cathy & Family, Christian, Doug, Ella, Elliott, Emma, Evelyne, Flynn, Fred, Gary, James, Jeanne, John, Kathryn, Kevin, Lena, Margaret, Marina, Mark, Mary, Phyllis, Rick, Shelbi, and Thomas.

Please note that the service is being live-streamed and recorded on our website and YouTube page.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We acknowledge that we work and pray on the historical and unceded territory of the Massachusett people, and we are grateful for the example of their stewardship. We seek to be instruments of justice and peace for all, especially Indigenous Peoples.

Order of Service

From September 1 through October 4, we will celebrate the Season of Creation by using authorized resources from *Season of Creation: A Celebration Guide for Episcopal Parishes* (SoC 2025).

Prelude

From *Three Liturgical Preludes*
III. Con moto e teneramente

George Oldroyd (1886-1956)

Please stand as you are able for

Processional Hymn 408, “Sing praise to God, who reigns above”

Mit Freuden zart

Welcome

Opening Acclamation & Collect for Purity

SoC 2025 p 48, BCP p 355

Presider: This is the day the Creator has made.

People: Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

All: Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Gloria in excelsis, S 280

Robert Powell (1932-2025)

The Creation Collect of the Day

SoC 2025 p 30

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.**

Please be seated for

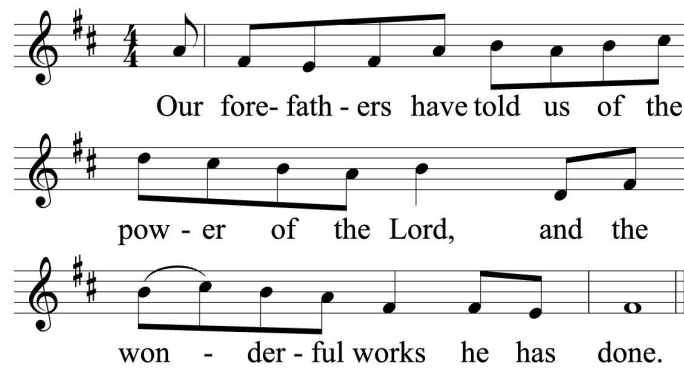
The First Reading: Exodus 17:1-7

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?”

After the Reading, is said

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.

People: Thanks be to God.



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- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>1 Hear my teaching, O my people; *
incline your ears to the words of my mouth.</p> <p>2 I will open my mouth in a parable; *
I will declare the mysteries of ancient times.</p> <p>3 That which we have heard and known,
and what our forefathers have told us, *
we will not hide from their children.</p> <p>4 We will recount to generations to come
the praiseworthy deeds and the power of
the Lord, *
and the wonderful works he has done.R</p> | <p>12 He worked marvels in the sight of their
forefathers, *
in the land of Egypt, in the field of Zoan.</p> <p>13 He split open the sea and let them pass through; *
he made the waters stand up like walls.R</p> <p>14 He led them with a cloud by day, *
and all the night through with a glow of fire.</p> <p>15 He split the hard rocks in the wilderness *
and gave them drink as from the great deep.</p> <p>16 He brought streams out of the cliff, *
and the waters gushed out like rivers.R</p> |
|---|---|

The Second Reading: Philippians 2:1-13

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.

After the Reading, is said

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

***People:* Thanks be to God.**

Please stand as you are able for

Hymn 392, "Come, we that love the Lord"

Vineyard Haven

The Holy Gospel: Matthew 21:23-32

Before the Gospel, is said

Presider: 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."

After the Gospel, is said

Presider: The Gospel of our Savior.

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

Following the Gospel, when the Preacher invites you, please be seated for

The Homily

Laura Brewer

Following the Homily, please stand as you are able for

The Nicene Creed

EOW 1 p 53

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.

The Prayers of the People

Form VI, BCP p 392

*Please join in the **bolded** parts.*

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

Silence

For all people and creatures in their daily life and work;
For our families, friends, neighbors, and for all living beings.

For water, lands, and air; for this community, the nation, and the world;
For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.

For the just and proper use of your creation;
For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;
For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.

For the Church in Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, and Peru;

For The Church of Bangladesh;

For the Ministries with Homeless Persons and Refugees;

For these churches of the North Shore Deanery: Ascension Memorial Church (Ipswich), St. Stephen's Memorial Church (Lynn), Emmanuel Chapel (Manchester-by-the-Sea), and Wyman Memorial Church of St. Andrew (Marblehead);

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;

For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.

For Sean, our Presiding Bishop; Julia, Ian, and Mary, our Bishops; Michael, our Rector; and for all bishops and other clergy and lay ministers;

For all who serve God in the Church.

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation.

For Alec, Angela, Anne J, Anne S, Anne T, Austin, Bob M, Bob Z, Cathy & Family, Christian, Doug, Ella, Elliott, Emma, Evelyne, Flynn, Fred, Gary, James, Jeanne, John, Kathryn, Kevin, Lena, Margaret, Marina, Mark, Mary, Phyllis, Rick, Shelbi, and Thomas.

Please name others for whom you wish to pray, either silently or aloud.

Silence

Hear us, Lord;

For your mercy is great.

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.

For those celebrating birthdays this week, especially Macy Wood.

For those celebrating anniversaries this week, especially Bryn and Tom Wood, and Rev. Michael Thompson and Patrick Groulx.

Please name other thanksgivings, either silently or aloud.

Silence

We will exalt you, O God our Creator;
And praise your Name for ever and ever.

We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

Silence

Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;
Who put their trust in you.

The Presider concludes with the following Collect.

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.**

The Confession of Sin

SoC 2025 p 52

Minister: Let us confess our sins against God and God's creation.

During the Confession of Sin, it is traditional to kneel.

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.**

The Presider stands and says

Almighty 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. **Amen.**

Please stand as you are able for

The Peace

Presider: The God of heaven has made a home on earth.

People: Christ dwells among us and is one with us.

Presider: The peace of Christ be always with you.

People: And also with you.

Announcements

Offertory Anthem

Praise, O Praise

Martin How (1931-2022)

Praise, O praise our God and King;
Hymns of adoration sing:
For his mercies still endure
Ever faithful, ever sure.

Praise him that he made the sun
Day by day his course to run:
For his mercies still endure
Ever faithful, ever sure.

And the silver moon by night
Shining with her gentle light:
For his mercies still endure
Ever faithful, ever sure.

Praise him that he gave the rain
To mature the swelling grain
For his mercies still endure
Ever faithful, ever.

And hath bid the fruitful field
Crops of precious increase yield:
For his mercies still endure
Ever faithful, ever sure.

Praise him for our harvest-store
He hath filled the garner-floor:
For his mercies still endure
Ever faithful, ever sure.

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer 3, Enriching Our Worship 1 p 62

Presider: God 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: All thanks and praise are yours at all times and in all places, our true and loving God; through Jesus Christ, your eternal Word, the Wisdom from on high by whom you created all things. You laid the foundations of the world and enclosed the sea when it burst out from the womb; You brought forth all creatures of the earth and gave breath to humankind.

Wondrous are you, Holy One of Blessing, all you create is a sign of hope for our journey; And so as the morning stars sing your praises we join the heavenly beings and all creation as we shout with joy:

Sanctus and Benedictus S 129

Powell

Presider: Glory and honor are yours, Creator of all, your Word has never been silent; you called a people to yourself, as a light to the nations, you delivered them from bondage and led them to a land of promise. Of your grace, you gave Jesus to be human, to share our life, to proclaim the coming of your holy reign and give himself for us, a fragrant offering. Through Jesus Christ our Redeemer, you have freed us from sin, brought us into your life, reconciled us to you, and restored us to the glory you intend for us.

We thank you that on the night before he died for us Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, gave it to his friends and said: "Take, eat, this is my Body, broken for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper Jesus took the cup of wine, said the blessing, gave it to his friends and said: "Drink this, all of you: this cup is the new Covenant in my Blood, poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me."

And so, remembering all that was done for us: the cross, the tomb, the resurrection and ascension, longing for Christ's coming in glory, and presenting to you these gifts your earth has formed and human hands have made, we acclaim you, O Christ:

People: **Dying, you destroyed our death.**

Rising, you restored our life.

Christ Jesus, come in glory!

Presider: Send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts of bread and wine that they may be to us the Body and Blood of your Christ. Grant that we, burning with your Spirit's power, may be a people of hope, justice and love.

Giver of Life, draw us together in the Body of Christ, and in the fullness of time gather us with ever-blessed Mary the God-bearer, blessed John the Evangelist, and all your people into the joy of our true eternal home.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, we worship you our God and Creator in voices of unending praise.

All: **Blessed are you now and for ever. AMEN.**

The Lord's Prayer

BCP p 365

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

All: **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: Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

People: Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

Agnus Dei S 163

Powell

Presentation of the Gifts

Presider: The Gifts of God for the People of God. Holy food for Holy People. Receive what you are.

— All people are welcome to receive communion at God's table in this place. —

St. John's offers communion in both kinds (bread and wine).

If you would like to receive the wine, you are invited to drink directly from the chalice.

Due to public health guidelines, we ask that you not dip the bread in the chalice.

Please be reassured that communion is fully received if you receive the bread alone.

If you would prefer to receive a blessing instead of communion, please come forward and simply cross your arms over your chest.

Communion Hymn 306, "O Food to pilgrims given"

Psalm 6

Please stand as you are able for

The Prayer After Communion

Enriching Our Worship 1 p 70

Presider: Let us pray.

All: Loving God, we give you thanks for restoring us in your image and nourishing us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood. Now send us forth a people, forgiven, healed, renewed; that we may proclaim your love to the world and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

The Blessing

The Priest blesses the People, and the People respond: "Amen."

Hymn 544, "Jesus shall reign where e'er the sun"

Duke Street

The Dismissal

Minister: Let us go forth into all Creation, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit. Alleluia. Alleluia.

People: Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Postlude

From *Messa della Madonna*
Canzon dopo l'Epistola

Girolamo Frescobaldi (1583-1643)

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Please join us in DiMauro Hall for coffee hour, a time of community and fellowship. To get to DiMauro Hall, walk toward the altar, exit through the door on the right, and follow the signs and people. Anyone would be happy to help you find it.



LEADERS OF THIS MORNING'S SERVICE

Presider: The Reverend Michael Thompson, Esq.

Preacher: Laura Brewer

Music Director: Jeffrey Mills

Wardens: Kristin Knudson and Laura Brewer

Lay Eucharistic Minister: Cole Stanton

Altar Guild: Jane Huston

Lector & Counter: Kristin Knudson

Usher: Tom Wood

IT Minister: Jeff Barrell

VP of the Day: Becky Snow

Today's Woman in Music

Frances Elizabeth Cox (1812-1897), translated this morning's Processional Hymn from the German of Johann Jacob Schütz. Little is known of her life, except that she apparently never left Oxford. Her father was also a translator. She ranks next to John Wesley and Catherine Winkworth in the quality of her hymn translations and the frequency with which they are still sung. Her first published translations, in 1841, included nearly fifty texts. In her second edition, published in 1864, she dropped 22 from that first edition, modified several of the remaining translations, and added 29 new ones. In addition to "Sing praise to God, who reigns above," can you find her other two hymn translations in *The Hymnal 1982*?

Saint John's Parish

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The Right Reverend Julia E. Whitworth, *Bishop of Massachusetts*
The Right Reverend Ian T. Douglas, *Assisting Bishop of Massachusetts*
The Right Reverend Mary D. Glasspool, *Assisting Bishop of Massachusetts*

The Reverend Michael Thompson, Esq., *Rector*
rector@saintjohnsnewton.org

Kristin Knudson & Laura Brewer, *Wardens*
Betsy Blagdon, *Treasurer*
Sarah Moravick, *Clerk*
Alastair Battson, Brian Goeselt, Lily McKay
Elizabeth Seaman, Alec Schoeck, Becky Snow
Vestry Members

Jeffrey Mills, *Organist and Choirmaster*
Cathy Richmond Robinson, *Parish Administrator*
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