Living Water
Season of Creation 2026

Immersion in Living Water
EZEKIEL 47:9, 12

Resources for Rhode Island
September 1: The Feast of Creation
To
October 4: Feast of St. Francis

The "Feast of Creation in Christ" was officially adopted by the **Revised Common Lectionary**, for celebrations to begin on September 1, 2026, or the first Sunday thereafter. This Feast begins the Season of Creation. The Feast has been approved by Christian denominations all over the world.

The theme of the 2026 Season of Creation is *Living Waters: Immersion in Living Waters*.

> Our Biblical text for this year is drawn from Ezekiel 47: 1- 12, which portrays God's life-giving water flowing from the temple of God. The river grows deeper and deeper restoring barren land, reviving waters, and sustaining flourishing ecosystems. The vision invites human responsibility: recognizing ecological damage, embracing interconnectedness, we are called to immerse ourselves in the water, and actively safeguarding and working for the renewal of creation so that environmental healing and human well-being may flourish together.

For a full description go to https://seasonofcreation.org/

The diocesan Creation Care Ministry team views observance of the Season of Creation through the lens of four verbs: Pray, Learn, Act and Advocate. *An Episcopal Path to Creation Justice*, the environmental ministry project of the New England dioceses, inspired use of this model.

Pray

Talk with your priest about liturgy that could be used either throughout the Season of Creation (Sept. 1-October 4), or on a specific Sunday. The following link will take you to The Episcopal Church's approved Creation Care liturgical resources.
https://newcreationliturgies.org/seasonofcreation/

Have a service by the river, lake, pond or coastal point near your church or within your community, inviting Episcopal and ecumenical neighbors. Check out the description of Wild Worship on the diocesan website

- https://episcopalri.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/Wild-Worship-Description.pdf

Create petitions for the Prayers of the People during the Season of Creation, and beyond, asking God's help for healthy rivers, watersheds, coastal waters and oceans, and for the just use of water resources all over the world.

From the Service of Holy Baptism in the Book of Common Prayer:

> We thank you, Almighty God, for the gift of water. Over it the Holy Spirit moved in the beginning of creation. Through it you led the children of Israel out of their bondage in Egypt into the land of promise. In it your Son Jesus received the baptism of John and was anointed by the Holy Spirit as the Messiah, the Christ, to lead us, through his death and resurrection, from the bondage of sin into everlasting life.

Prayer over water is foundational to our Christian faith.

Here are petitions that may be added to the Prayers of the People for each Sunday during the Season. As noted, all are invited to localize them, or adapt them as desired.

Sept. 6, 2026 Exodus 12:1-14 *The Passover*
Moses called the people of Israel to remember their release from bondage in Egypt into new life as a people. During this Season of Creation we remember the ways God sustains all life through water, [particularly the *insert name of local river/lake/ocean*]. We give thanks for the living water of oceans embracing our Earth, of rivers flowing, of springs emerging from the deep, and rain from above in due season.

Sept. 13, 2026 Exodus 14:19-31 *Israel delivered at the sea*
We pray for all the seas God has created, [especially the *insert name of ocean/sea close to your diocese/community*]. God spoke through Moses, causing the Red Sea to save God's people**.** May our words and deeds today sustain the oceans' mighty currents, spiraling with abundant life, feeding the creatures within, above and beside their waters. Help your people, O God, make choices to nurture, revive and honor the living waters you have made.

Sept. 20, 2026 Exodus 16:2-15 *Manna in the wilderness*
As the morning dew proclaimed the miracle of manna in the wilderness, so our skies grace us dawn to dawn with air to breathe and rain to fill streams, and lakes, and aquifers [like the *insert name of stream, lake, or aquifer*]. Thank you, God, for the precious gift of living water. Give us

the strength and wisdom to use the dew of sky and ground with justice for humanity and the more-than-human world.

Sept. 27, 2026 Exodus 17:1-7 *Water from the rock*
We ask you, O God, to break open the hard rock of drought in places that once brought forth abundant life. [In particular we pray for *insert name of degraded waterway or source of pollution disrupting aquatic life*]. Break open the hard hearts of those whose decisions lead to thirst, poverty and the death of many placed on the margins of a world where power flows to the few.

Oct. 4, 2026 The Feast of St. Francis
Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20 *The commandments at Sinai*
O God, you call us to honor father and mother so that our days may be long in the land you have given us. You have given us this fragile earth, our island home. Help us raise our voices with your blessed servant Francis to honor Mother Earth, that with our sacred family of creation; Moon and Sun, Wind and Water, we may all glorify God in our own ways, showering your land of joy with abundance for all creatures, great and small.

Learn

Climate change and human activity are changing the waters flowing in and around Rhode Island. Fertilization of lawns causes waters to be overloaded with nutrients, leading to damaging algal blooms. Winter road salt reaches our rivers, changing water chemistry, affecting the growth of aquatic life. More severe summer drought dries up home wells. Climate change taxes the oceans integral to our weather. What are some issues your community is struggling with around water?

Here are some organizations that might help you learn about Rhode Island's water issues.

<u>Watersheds and Rivers</u>
Woonasquatucket River Watershed Council - https://wrwc.org
Blackstone River Watershed Council – blackstoneriver.org
Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Association – wpwa.org
Pawtuxet River Authority and Watershed Council – pawtuxet.org
Aquidneck Land Trust Watershed FAQ
– https://ailt.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/Watersheds-Fact-Sheet-08-23-2022.pdf

See Rhode Island Rivers Council website for complete list of Little Rhody's watersheds and support organizations. https://ririvers.org/watershed-map/

<u>Narragansett Bay</u>
Save the Bay - https://savebay.org/
URI Coastal Institute - https://ci.uri.edu/initiatives/ongoing-initiatives/ecoval/

How is water connected to your spirituality?
Where does the Bible talk about water?

Here are a couple of books you might explore:
Is a River Alive? by Robert McFarlane

The Sea Around Us and *The Edge of the Sea* by Rachel Carson
Speak with the Earth and It Will Teach You: A Field Guide to the Bible by Daniel Cooperrider

Act

What are some activities you can do with your parishioners around water issues? Here are a couple of ideas:

- Coordinate a paddle with a conservation group to learn about local waterways
  Check watershed council websites for events
- Do a shore cleanup. For more information:
  https://volunteer.savebay.org/agency/detail/?agency_id=68996
- Think about ways you can save water at your church or encourage water conservation among parishioners
- Coordinate a water day celebration with a local water conservation district

Advocate

Water is necessary for all life. We are called to be stewards of all creation, and advocating for clean drinking water and vibrant aquatic ecosystems is a good way to help.

Check out advocacy opportunities resources from the following organizations:

Clean Water Action - https://cleanwater.org/states/rhode-island
Save the Bay – https://savebay.org/get-involved/advocacy/
Audubon Society of Rhode Island - https://asri.org/advocacy/priorities.html