

Dear Ones,

I finally went into the lake last week (twice!). I didn't go in during the earlier heat wave, in June, because the water temperature was still too cold. I expected the water to still be fairly chilly, so I was pleasantly surprised to discover it was really quite warm, other than a few spots, where there seemed to be a current of cold water. Someone told me there are springs that feed fresh, cold water into the lake. I pondered that as I did my leg exercises out where it was deep enough that my feet didn't scrape the bottom.

What are the hidden springs that bring fresh, cold spiritual water into your life? Do you welcome it as a change, or try to avoid its momentary discomfort?

In the meantime....*keep the faith*,
Nancy+

THIS SUNDAY'S READINGS

Genesis 25:19-34 * Psalm 119: 105-112 * Romans 8:1-11 * Matthew 13:1-9, 19-23

CREATION CARE TIPS

We're Havin' a Heat Wave, a Tropical Heat Wave – Song by Irving Berlin, sung by Ella Fitzgerald

Yes, this song would have fit better for last week's "Keeping the Faith," but that hot spell won't be the last of this summer's heat, so I am using it to introduce this week's message.

In early May 2017, Bruce and I took our little blue convertible from our home in New Jersey to our home in Norway, just weeks before we sold that house and made the official move. We stayed off highways, because the car was built in 1953 and its steering wheel shook like crazy above 52 mph. It took two days of driving or navigating and watching the beautiful countryside – there's no taking your eyes off the road while driving a 64-year-old car! When we got as far as Harrison, we stopped at our favorite restaurant for a late lunch. It was 92 degrees there!

Why am I telling this story? Because the heat we had last week isn't the only time we've had 90+ degree weather. And it won't be the last. But because of global warming, hot spells – or heat waves if you prefer – are becoming more frequent, and hotter. We will need to adjust our activities, our homes, our lives to the reality of a warmer environment.

It may be that the Earth is entering a new geologic age, and it may be that the Industrial Revolution altered our way of life enough to raise the temperature of the Earth, its atmosphere, and its waters. I won't argue the point, because we need to work together, not argue.

What to do? I'm not sure. We need to reduce the heat we add to the atmosphere and the water. But our world of 8.2 billion will not return to the days of the horse and buggy, with a population of 770 million. And if we did, we'd have so many horses that all the methane they produce would cause multiple problems! Solar energy and wind energy both reduce the heat produced per kilowatt-hour; hybrid cars reduce the gas used and heat produced, and electric cars reduce the amount of heat produced even further. Will that be enough? No, because these partial solutions don't address air travel, manufacturing plants, wildfires or myriad other heat sources. So, we adjust to the warmer global temperatures and pray that environmental experts find solutions.

As Nancy prayed to conclude the Prayers of the People: God our life-giver...Grateful for your abundant provision and trusting in your goodness, we cast all our cares upon you, through the abundant grace of Christ Jesus. Amen (from *Sundays and Seasons, Year A 2026*)

– Patty Watts, Christ Church Earth Keeper

Hurt not the earth—neither the sea—nor the trees. Revelation 7:3

CALENDAR

SUN: 10:15 AM Eucharist/In-person and online
TUE: 5:15 PM Vestry meeting
WED: 9:00 AM Eucharist/Bible Study
THU: 7:15 PM Zoom Compline

DOWNSTAIRS

You know that we host the food pantry, but did you know we also host:

- An exercise class
- Healthy Oxford Hills mat pilates class
- Swingin' Bears square dance club
- Maine Health – Food is Medicine classes
- Maine Health – Bumps and Babies
- Three AA meetings
- Pediatric yoga (part of the year)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A/C in church is not functioning. Vestry is weighing the option of repairing the existing unit vs. installing a heat pump, which will also help with fuel costs in the winter.

Thank you to Br. Matthias Tanner, guest preacher this week.

Our organist, Susan, is on vacation this week so we will be singing à capella.

Volunteer opportunities *Many thanks to all those who have been working on these tasks!* There are still plenty of ways to help. Speak to Jen Lehr for more information.

Youth program in Bethel Speak to Rosemary for more info about the program for kids at the Bethel Historical Society, Thursday mornings.

Summer Coffee Hour Please feel free to move coffee hour outside if the weather allows.

Sabbatical Teams the vestry will be working on filling out these teams. Let them know your preferences today!

Thursday lunch bring a bag lunch and join us at noon on Thursday (7/16) for good conversation and fellowship.

Sunday School is on hiatus for the summer.

For ongoing and up-to-date information about diocesan activities and news, as well as news from other congregations, sign up for **the DioLog**. <https://episcopalmaine.org/newsletter/>

MINISTRIES LIST

	<u>This week:</u>	<u>Next week:</u>
Lector 1:	Bruce Watts	Michelle Christoph
Psalmist:	Fran Martin	Tom Knight
Lector 2:	Jason Long	Nancy Mering
Acolyte:	Michelle Christoph	Peter Hammond
Euch. Minister:	Tom Knight	Jim Christoph
Usher:	Jen Lehr	David Mering
Altar Guild:	Caroline Leonard	Caroline Leonard
Coffee Hour:	Allison and Jason Long	Caroline Leonard
Counter:	Marg Means	Tom Knight
Closer:	Tom Knight	Carlyn Kroitzsh