



Living Water

Season of Creation 2026

IMMERSION IN LIVING WATER

Ezekiel 47:9, 12



We Are Related to Water

September 27, 2026

We are a progressive community of faith seeking to follow the teachings of Jesus, pursue justice and live God's love.

No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.



A Note for Families / Folks of All Ages: Children are invited to join their teachers for Church School, upstairs following Sacred Play.

There are also clipboards with paper and coloring pages at the back of the sanctuary, for worshippers of any age to use during the service.

PRELUDE

Forest Lullaby Op. 27 No. 3

Roger Quilter

WELCOME TO WORSHIP**

One: This we know, the earth does not belong to us,

All: We belong to the earth.

One: This we know, all things are connected,

All: Like waterways that crisscross the land.

One: This we know, we did not weave the web of life,

All: We are merely strands in it.

One: This we know, whatever we do to the web,

All: We do to ourselves.

One: Let us give thanks for the gift of creation,

All: Let us give thanks for the Holy One who holds us all together.

THRESHOLD MOMENT

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

***OPENING HYMN**

Like a Healing Stream

See Insert

PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS

One: Life-Giving God, we forget, sometimes, that we belong to a living web.

All: When we isolate ourselves from the land, water and creatures, forgive us, we pray.

One: When we grasp, neglect or abuse your more-than-human creation,

All: Open our eyes to notice, our hands to share, and our hearts to lament what harm we inflict.

One: May the seeing, the sharing, and the grieving crack open our hearts,

All: The better to love, and in loving, the better to live in kinship with your whole Spirit-filled world. May it be so. Amen.

PRAYERFUL PAUSE

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

*Please rise, on your feet or in your hearts.

PASSING OF THE PEACE One: The peace of Christ be with you.
All: **And also with you.**

***SUNG RESPONSE** *Turn the World Around* Harry Belafonte

We come from the water, living in the water

Go back to the water, turn the world around! [clap, clap, clap!]

Water make the river, river wash the mountain

Fire make the sunlight, turn the world around [clap, clap, clap!]

Oh-oh-oh-oh-oh-oh! Oh-oh, turn the world around! [clap, clap, clap!]

Heart is of the river, body is the mountain

Spirit is the sunlight, turn the world around [clap, clap, clap!]

We are of the spirit, truly of the spirit

Only can the spirit, turn the world around [clap, clap, clap!]

Oh-oh-oh-oh-oh-oh! Oh-oh, turn the world around! [clap, clap, clap!]

Oh-oh-oh-oh-oh-oh! Oh-oh, turn the world around! [clap, clap, clap!]

SACRED PLAY

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION Lynne Lanctot

One: This is the sacred story of God's journey with God's people.

All: **Holy One, open our ears to hear, our hearts to receive and our lives to be
expanded by your Word. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE Psalm 65:5-10 and *Meditations with Meister Eckhart*

SACRED CONVERSATION *We Are Related to Water* Dr. Dwayne Tomah and
Rev. Alison J. Buttrick Patton

MOMENT OF CONTEMPLATIVE SILENCE

ANTHEM *There's a River Flowing in My Soul* Rose Sanders,
arr. Deirdre McClure

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER: Our Father-Mother in heaven, hallowed be Your name.
Your kin-dom come; Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day
our daily bread and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us
not into temptation but deliver us from evil, for Yours is the kin-dom and the
power and the glory forever. Amen.

SUNG RESPONSE

Peace, I Ask of Thee, O River

Gwyneth Walker

Peace I ask of thee, O river, peace, peace, peace. When I learn to live serenely,
cares will cease. From the hills I gather courage, vision of the day to be,
Strength to lead and faith to follow, all are given unto me.

Peace I ask of thee, O river, peace, peace, peace.

Peace I ask of thee, O river, peace, peace, peace.

OFFERING INVITATION

Help us to live God's love and justice. You can make a secure gift by scanning the QR code, by going to fccucc.org and clicking on "Donate," or by adding your contribution to the box at the back of the sanctuary.



MUSICAL INTERLUDE

BLESSING OF OUR GIFTS

*CLOSING HYMN

Like a Tree Beside the Waters

See Insert

The Meetinghouse Choir will sing verse 1.

The congregation is invited to join in singing verses 2 and 3.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Like a River Glorious

James Mountain,
Arr Joel Raney

* * * * *

WORSHIP NOTES

Thank you to this morning's ushers: Team D, Scott Berry, captain.

Recording: Gratitude to Alex Ratta for recording our worship this morning.

****The Call to Worship** is adapted from *The Iona Community Worship Book*, Wild Goose Publications. Used with permission.

WEEKLY @ FCC UCC

Bible Study every Tuesday, 12:30 - 1:30 pm in Davidson Lounge: Explore the scripture from the past Sunday, led by Pastor Steve.

Prayer Shawls, every Wednesday, 1 - 3 pm, in Davidson Lounge: New and experienced knitters welcome. Bring needles size 9, 10, or 11, and your own yarn, or check out the church yarn supply. Questions? Lynne: lanctotla74@gmail.com.

Meetinghouse Choir rehearses on Wednesdays, 6:15 – 8 pm. All singers are welcome. We meet in the Choir Room on the lower level of the church. Questions? Contact choir director Deirdre McClure at dmcclure@fccucc.org.

Handbell Rehearsal every Wednesday, 4:45 pm in Wright Pavilion.

Anyone who would like to join the ringers this year should contact handbell director Sharon Potter at handbells@fccucc.org to arrange a time to meet.

COMING UP @ FCCUCC

TODAY Dwayne Tomah, Passamaquoddy Language Teacher - Worship Guest and Second Hour Presenter, Sunday, September 27, 2026: We are delighted to

welcome Dwayne Tomah for an in-worship interview with Rev. Alison Patton (as part of our “Living Water” series), followed by a second hour screening and discussion of *Pagans in the Promised Land*. This documentary film explores the destructive impact of the Doctrine of Discovery on the Indigenous peoples of Turtle Island. Hosted by our Wabanaki Allies Working Group.



Fancy Fair Crafters, Thursday, October 1, 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm: It is time to ramp up production to get ready for the Holly Daze Bazaar. That being said, we would love to have you join us. FFC provides instructions and materials to make all projects, and the creations are easy and fun. If you aren't able to attend but would like to create some projects at home, we would really appreciate your help. If you have any questions, please contact Gin Gedney at 207-318-1581.

People of the Table: What Communion Has to Offer in a Fragmented World, Mini-Retreat, Sunday, October 4, 11:30 am - 1:30 pm: See bulletin back cover.

Dinner and Downtime (Hosted by the Fellowship Club), Tuesday, October 6, 5:30 - 8 pm in Guptill Hall: See full schedule and details in insert.

Climate Talk, Flood or Drought, Two Sides of the Same Coin, October 18 in Wright Pavilion: Join Dr. James Toxtli Melloh for a Lunch and Learn presentation on how the increase of severity of flooding has also increased drought conditions. Dr. Melloh looks at what is the cause and potential solutions for here at home and abroad. Hosted by the Environmental Working Group

Defend Democracy Vigil, October 25, 11:30 am – 12:30 pm: Please mark your calendars for this very important vigil, occurring just before the midterm elections, to encourage people to vote, because the greater the turnout, the more robust our democratic process! Poster making session: October 18.

Book Discussion: *The Land is Not Empty*, Sunday, November 15, 11:30 am - 1:00 pm, in Davidson Lounge: The Wabanaki Allies working group is sponsoring a book discussion of Sarah Augustine's *The Land Is Not Empty: Following Jesus in Dismantling the Doctrine of Discovery*. Judy Kimball and Deborah Tomblyn will facilitate the conversation.

➔ The book is available at Nonesuch Books. When purchasing, please mention FCCUCC in order to receive the discounted price.

MISSION AND SOCIAL WITNESS

From our Community Crisis Ministry: Last day to help us to Stock the Care Closet at Cape Elizabeth High School! Cape Elizabeth High School has requested items to stock its Care Closet, which provides personal care items and basic clothing to students. It is filled entirely by donations. Elizabeth Thomas, co-director of school counseling, said the school saw a significant increase in need last year.

There is a bin in the Narthex (the entryway to the sanctuary near Cottage Road).. Please donate new items, with the exception of shoes—good quality used shoes are welcome.

body wash (neutral scent)	menstrual products	women's underwear
body lotion (neutral scent)	shaving cream	(sizes xs-xl)
bras & bralettes (all sizes)		

New sneakers or athletic shoes (sizes big kid 4 through all adult sizes. All genders. Adult sizes will go to CEHS. Kids' sizes will fill needs at other schools.)

Seeking Volunteers for our Children's Clothes Closet

- Second and fourth Wednesdays, 11 am - 1 pm
- Second and fourth Saturdays, 12 pm - 2 pm

If you are interested in volunteering, contact Pastor Alison at revalisonpatton@fccucc.org and she will pass along your name to our coordinator AnnElissa Leveque.

Clynk Bags are in the narthex (inside main entrance). Collect your returnable cans and bottles and return them to a Clynk collection site at Hannaford or other participating grocery stores. Scan the code on the bags and the refunds will automatically be donated to our FCC mission team. *Thank you!*

Volunteer for Preble Street Food Hub: On the last Friday of each month, we prepare meals at the Food Hub, 75 Darling Avenue, South Portland, for delivery to Preble Street satellite sites. Please join us! To learn more about how to volunteer, see the Weekly Word or contact Danna Wiggins at dannawig2@gmail.com.

THE WIDER COMMUNITY

Wabanaki Alliance Annual Celebration of Nihkaniyane, Thursday, October 1 from 5 pm to 7:30 pm at the Wolfe's Neck Center in Freeport: More information and to purchase a ticket(s): <https://wabanakialliance.com/nihkaniyane2026/>. Email Marvin at mellison122@gmail.com if you'd like to carpool from church.

An Evening with Bishop Mariann Budde, Thursday, October 8, 7 pm at Merrill Auditorium, Portland: Presented by the Maine Council of Churches. Bishop Budde's keynote address, entitled "Courage Is Contagious," will explore how we can all learn to be brave. For more info and tickets: <https://mainecouncilofchurches.org/2026/07/bishop-mariann-budde/>

Dawnland - Film Screening & Conversation with Wabanaki REACH, Sunday, October 11, 12:30 pm, At First Parish, 425 Congress Street, Portland, ME 04101: Dawnland is an Emmy Award-winning documentary on the Maine's Truth & Reconciliation commission that confronted the harm caused by indigenous child removal. The 54-minute film will be followed by a conversation with two guests from Wabanaki REACH. The event is FREE / by donation. All donations benefit Wabanaki REACH. In person only. Please register: <https://tinyurl.com/56ujk8xk>.

WHAT'S UP?

Want to stay in the loop? Make sure you are on our email list! To UPDATE or ADD your contact info, go to: fccucc.org and select "Contact Us".

Find us, like and follow us on social media. Now on Substack! @FCCUCC



PEOPLE OF THE TABLE

What Communion Has to Offer in a Fragmented World.

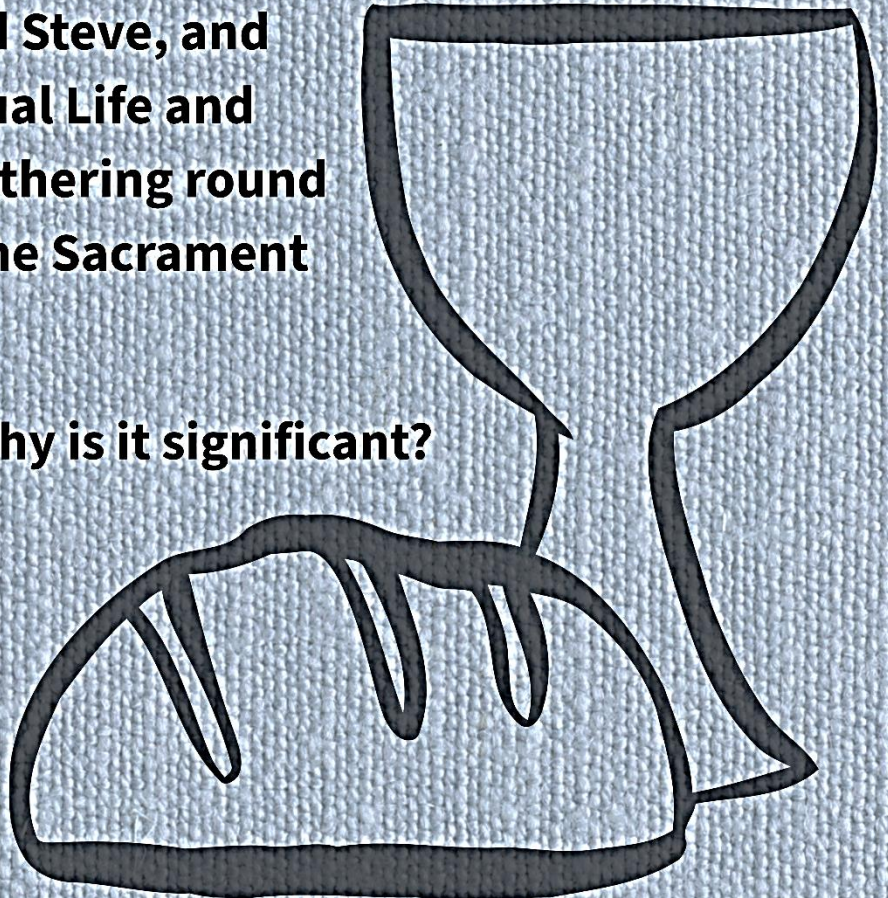
A mini retreat on Sunday, October 4 - 11:30-1:30 pm

Join Pastors Alison and Steve, and members of the Spiritual Life and Worship Team, for a gathering round the table to consider the Sacrament of Communion.

How does it work? Why is it significant?

Bring your questions and your stories, and dig deeper into the Feast together.

Lunch Provided



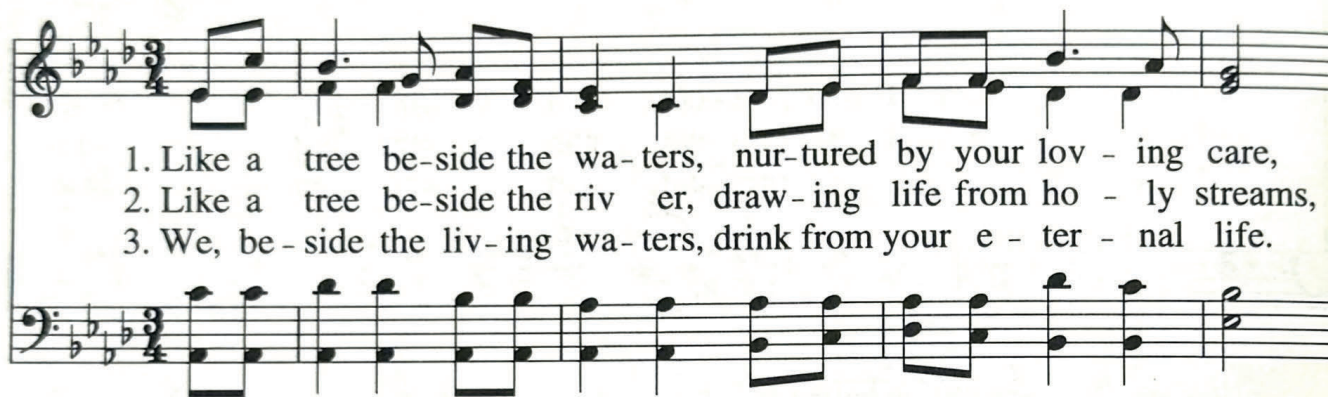
And for worship: Please use this sign-up portal to bring a bread from your cultural heritage or a bread that is meaningful for you.

You may sign up to bring bread or jam, jelly, etc.

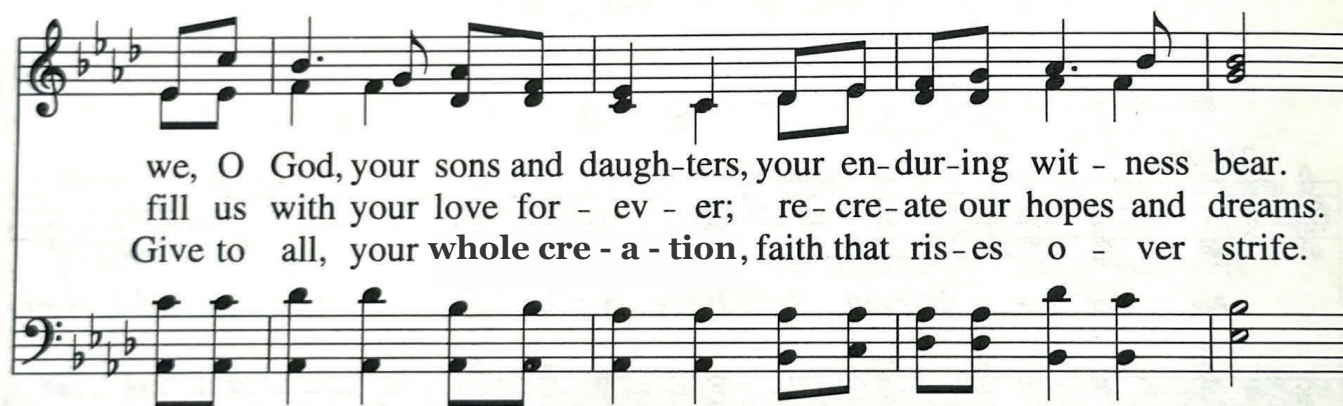
World Communion Sunday is a time to reflect on all those around the world who share this special bond of coming to the table together.

Use the QR code to sign up

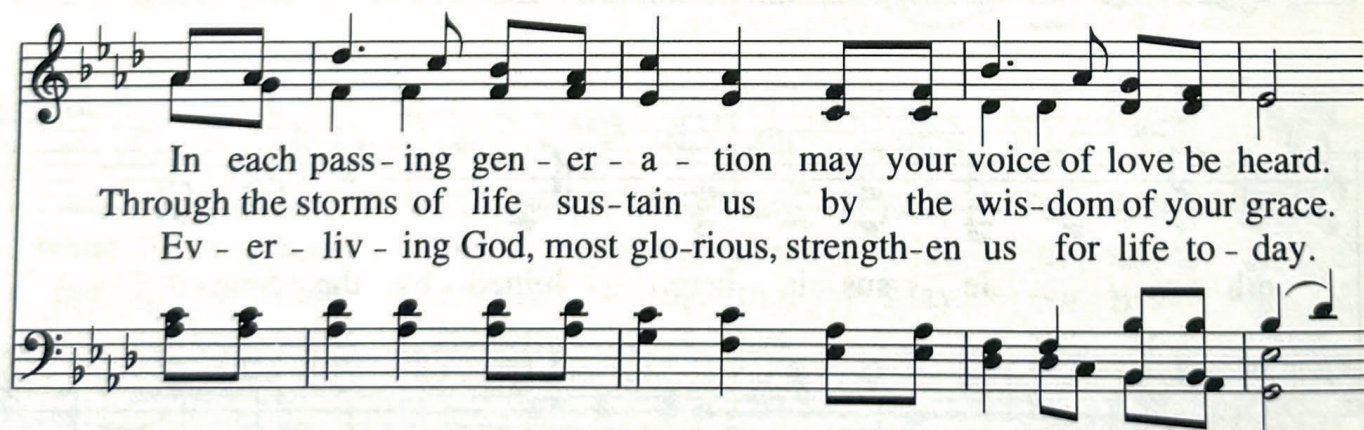




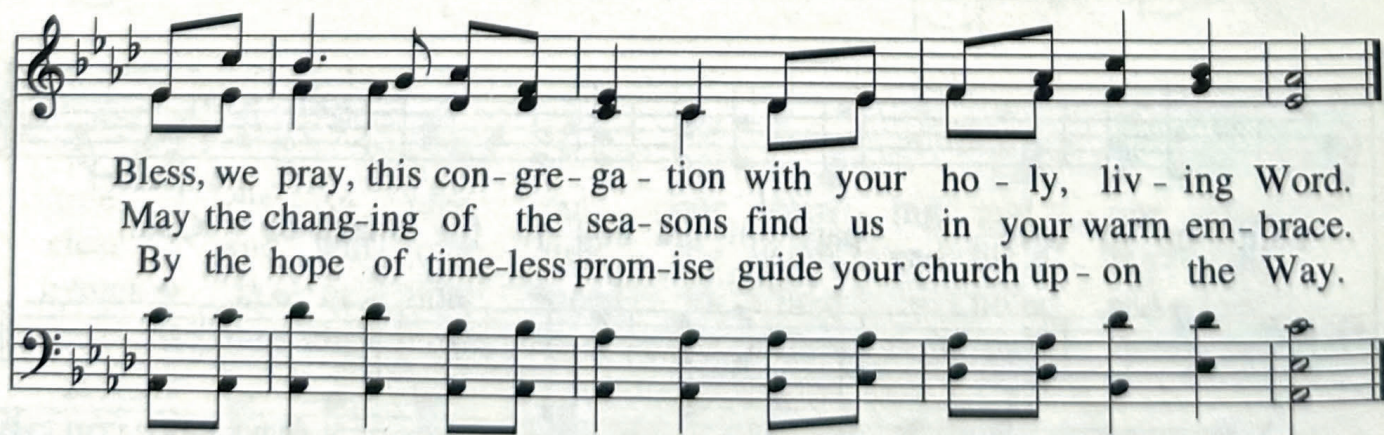
1. Like a tree be-side the wa-ters, nur-tured by your lov - ing care,
 2. Like a tree be-side the riv er, draw-ing life from ho - ly streams,
 3. We, be - side the liv-ing wa-ters, drink from your e - ter - nal life.



we, O God, your sons and daugh-ters, your en-dur-ing wit - ness bear.
 fill us with your love for - ev - er; re - cre - ate our hopes and dreams.
 Give to all, your whole cre - a - tion, faith that ris-es o - ver strife.



In each pass - ing gen - er - a - tion may your voice of love be heard.
 Through the storms of life sus-tain us by the wis-dom of your grace.
 Ev - er - liv - ing God, most glo-rious, strength-en us for life to - day.



Bless, we pray, this con-gre-ga - tion with your ho - ly, liv - ing Word.
 May the chang-ing of the sea-sons find us in your warm em-brace.
 By the hope of time-less prom-ise guide your church up - on the Way.

WORDS: James F. D. Martin, 1992, alt.
 MUSIC: Roy Hopp, 1989, adapt.

SILVER CREEK
 87.87D

Rev. James Martin wrote this text at the invitation of Campbellsport, Wisconsin,
 UCC for the celebration of its 125th anniversary year in 1993.

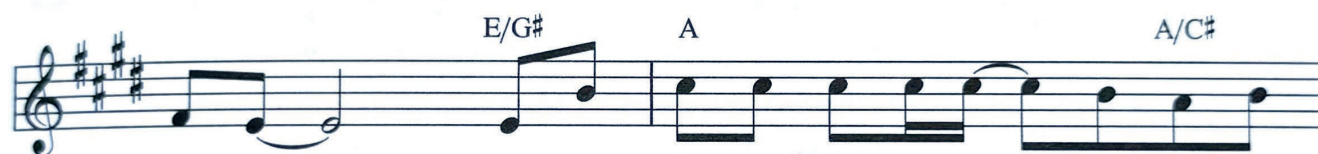
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Like a Healing Stream

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1. Like a heal-ing stream_ in a bar-ren
2. Like a gen-tle rain_ on a thirs-ty
3. Like a ri-ver strong_ with a rest-less
4. Like a migh-ty sea_ reach-ing far hor-



des-ert,___ Spir-it wat-er bring-ing life_ to dus-ty
 gar-den,___ Spir-it wat-er come to nour-ish ti-ny
 cur-rent,___ Spir-it wat-er rush-ing on_ to dis-tant
 -i-zons,___ Spir-it wat-er with a love_ both deep and



earth, God is trick-ling through our lives as in a dream un-fold-ing,
 seed, God is bub-bling through the soil_ to coax a new cre-a-tion,
 shore, God is carv-ing out a chan-nel in a new di-rec-tion,
 wide, God is work-ing in our hearts to shape a new to-mor-row:



pro-mis-ing re-viv-al and re-birth_ like a heal-ing stream.
 yearn-ing for an end_ to want and need_ like a gen-tle rain_
 call-ing for an end to hate and war_ like a riv-er strong.
 God will al-ways chal-lenge and pro-vide!_ Like a migh-ty



sea,___ like a ri-ver strong,___ like a gen-tle rain,___ like a heal-ing stream.