



Monday Musing: September 7th, 2026 Water...

As I remember and write these memories, I am thinking if my kids knew, they'd be saying, "Really, Mom!!?" But memories are important to share, aren't they?

I remember bath time, putting two little boys into the tub together where they played with the soap making bubbles, and twisted the washcloths pretending they were fish. I remember pool time at Mom and Dad's place, where Dad taught the boys to not be afraid to dive under the water. He would throw coins in and any they retrieved, they got to keep. I remember the boys learning to swim with the Red Cross at Camp Samac, and then swimming out to the raft in the Otonabee River where we would rent a cottage each year for one week. We used to go outside in the rain to play and jump in puddles. We saved snow in the winter to make snowmen

in the summer when it was really hot. By the water, in the water, around the water, these places are where so many memories of really good, special and sacred times with my boys were made. Remembering our family adventures in water, or canoeing along a river, delights my spirit like a glass of ice-cold water on a hot day quenches my thirst.

Since the beginning, whether in science books or scripture, water is the place in which life began. In our scriptures, a prominent body of water of new life and new beginnings is the Jordan River. The Jordan River is the geographic and spiritual boundary between the Wilderness and the Promised Land. Beyond this biblical and real river, there are many other wildernesses, as there are many other promised lands. Crossing the Jordan River, or the river of our own spiritual journeys, takes us from who we were to who we become. Scripturally, God is there in the water of the river. Personally, intimately, God is there each time we rise up and breathe into a new life.

When God began to create the heavens and the earth, God separated the waters of chaos for the dry land of earth to appear. God parted the Sea of Reeds for Moses to lead the Israelites through on dry land away from and out of oppression and slavery. Elijah rolled up his cloak as he stood with Elisha at the Jordan River. He then struck the water and the river parted for them to cross. After Elijah was taken to heaven, Elisha took Elijah's cloak, parted the Jordan for his journey back to lead the Israelites, and to make a bad stream whole and life giving again. John the Baptist didn't part the waters of the Jordan, but he broke the waters with every person he baptized, taking them under and bringing them up, just as Jesus broke out of the water at his own baptism by John where the spirit of God identified Jesus as holy, set apart, God's son.

Life can't survive without water. Life can't survive without air. Life can't survive without nourishment and ... companionship, community, and caring. From the first Creation Story in Genesis, God created beginning with the waters and many other stories tell of broken, parted waters revealing the path to new life. But look what happened in the second Creation Story where God created out of the dust of the earth, out of the dry ground instead. The first story tells us all was good. The second story tells us a different creation led to the brokenness of disobedience, murder, and lies.

In the water stories of the scriptures, there are journeys from wilderness and chaos, to promise and hope. In the depth of the dark of the waters, or the depth and decay of the wilderness, God is there. Or is God actually the depth and the dark itself, the womb of creation itself, from which life is born with the breaking of the waters?

Prayer

Holy God of water, fresh and clean, moving and living,
Providing, quenching, reviving, bringing and birthing new life,
May we come to know your healing waters flowing around our troubled souls,
moving us, softening us, and shaping our rough rock edges,
Till we, ourselves, are whole once again. Amen.

Scripture this Week: First Sunday of Creation Time

Exodus 14:19-31	God parts the sea.
Exodus 15:1-21	Miriam and Moses lead the people in singing.
Psalms 114	The earth trembles.
Romans 14:1-12	Whether we live or die, we belong to God.
Matt 18:21-35	How many times must we forgive?

TR Question (theological question)

How have you experienced God's presence in the darkest times of life, crossing what waters to new life, or waiting for others to cross their own Jordans?

In the first Creation Story, God is transcendent, the creator of all things. In the second Creation Story, God is immanent, walking with us in the garden of the earth. Putting these very different stories together, how do they together paint a picture of God?

May your journeys through Creation Time delight your spirits as the changing colours of the trees delight your eyes,

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