

Feast of St. Francis / Blessing of the Animals

Sunday, October 1, 2023, 2 pm

Prelude

"All Creatures of our God and King" *setting by David Johnson*

Welcome & Announcements

Ann Donaghy

Gathering Hymn, #400

All creatures of our God and King



1 All crea - tures of our God and King, lift up your voic - es, let us
*2 Great rush - ing winds and breez - es soft, you clouds that ride the heavens a -
*3 Swift flow - ing wa - ter, pure and clear, make mu - sic for your Lord to
4 Dear mo - ther earth, you day by day un - fold your bless - ings on our
5 All you with mer - cy in your heart, for - giv - ing o - thers, take your
*6 And ev - en you, most gen - tle death, wait - ing to hush our fi - nal
7 Let all things their cre - a - tor bless, and wor - ship him in hum - ble -



1 sing: Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Bright burn - ing
2 loft, O — praise him, Al - le - lu - ia! Fair ris - ing
3 hear, Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Fire, so in -
4 way, O — praise him, Al - le - lu - ia! All flowers and
5 part, O — sing now: Al - le - lu - ia! All you that
6 breath, O — praise him, Al - le - lu - ia! You lead back
7 ness, O — praise him, Al - le - lu - ia! Praise God the



1 sun with gold - en beams, pale sil - ver moon that gen - tly gleams,
2 morn, with praise re - joice, stars night - ly shin - ing, find a voice,
3 tense and fierce - ly bright, you give to us both warmth and light,
4 fruits that in you grow, let them his glo - ry al - so show:
5 pain and sor - row bear, praise God, and cast on him your care:
6 home the child of God, for Christ our Lord that way has trod:
7 Fa - ther, praise the Son, and praise the Spi - rit, Three in One:

Refrain



O praise him, O praise him, Al - le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

The refrain may be sung antiphonally, by phrase; all join in the final Alleluia.

Opening Litany

Presider

Blessed be the God of all creation.

People

And blessed be God's holy Name forever.

Bless your Creator, all animals of the land.

Praise and exalt our Creator forever.

Bless your Creator, all birds of the air.

Praise and exalt our Creator forever.

Bless your Creator, all creatures of the sea.

Praise and exalt our Creator forever.

Bless your Creator, all children of God.

With all of creation, we praise your name.

Collect of the Day

Presider

God be with you.

People

And also with you.

Presider

Let us pray,

Most high, omnipotent, good God, grant your people grace to renounce gladly the vanities of this world; that, following the way of blessed Francis, we may, for love of you, delight in your whole creation with perfectness of joy; through Jesus Christ our Sovereign, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

People

Amen.

First Reading, Job 39:1–18

The Rev. Deacon Corey Walmer

'Do you know when the mountain goats give birth?

Do you observe the calving of the deer?

Can you number the months that they fulfil,

and do you know the time when they give birth,
when they crouch to give birth to their offspring,
and are delivered of their young?

Their young ones become strong, they grow up in the open;
they go forth, and do not return to them.

'Who has let the wild ass go free?

Who has loosed the bonds of the swift ass,
to which I have given the steppe for its home,
the salt land for its dwelling-place?

It scorns the tumult of the city;

it does not hear the shouts of the driver.

It ranges the mountains as its pasture,

and it searches after every green thing.

'Is the wild ox willing to serve you?

Will it spend the night at your crib?

Can you tie it in the furrow with ropes,

or will it harrow the valleys after you?

Will you depend on it because its strength is great,

and will you hand over your labour to it?
Do you have faith in it that it will return,
and bring your grain to your threshing-floor?

'The ostrich's wings flap wildly,
though its pinions lack plumage.
For it leaves its eggs to the earth,
and lets them be warmed on the ground,
forgetting that a foot may crush them,
and that a wild animal may trample them.
It deals cruelly with its young, as if they were not its own;
though its labour should be in vain, yet it has no fear;
because God has made it forget wisdom,
and given it no share in understanding.
When it spreads its plumes aloft,
it laughs at the horse and its rider.

Leader Holy wisdom, Holy word.
People **Thanks be to God.**

A brief moment of silence for reflection

Second Reading, "Kahnekanoron- Water is Life, Part 1"
by K Dawn Martin

The Rev. Deacon Corey Walmer

for as long as my people's memory
stretches back; i, we, us-
have always been in relation to
these waters and this land

our old stories tell of mothers
dreaming, visioning and creating
new life

since Loon saw this Beautiful Flower
swimming through currents
and Goose saw her
whirling through air

as Skywoman was falling down and floating up
and falling down and floating up
and falling down and floating up-
ours waters have reflected us

Water and air relations bring
Skywoman to Turtles back

Muskrat carries soil to this
Beautiful Flower as she dances and sings
our first gardens into existence

streams push through
layers of dirt
as veins embrace waters and soil
growing the life blood of Our Mother
the Earth

as sapling and flint are birthed
who create all life on Earth;
sapling gathers dirt and water
to form our clay bodies
he blew in spirit three times
connecting all in Creation

Leader Holy wisdom, Holy word.
People **Thanks be to God.**

A brief moment of silence for reflection

The Gospel, Matthew 11:25-30

The Rev. Amanda Gerken-Nelson

Presider A reading from the Gospel of Matthew

At that time Jesus said, 'I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

'Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.'

Presider Holy wisdom, Holy word.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Homily

The Rev. Amanda Gerken-Nelson

Anthem

"All things bright and beautiful" by John Rutter

*All things bright and beautiful,
all creatures great and small,
all things wise and wonderful,
the Lord God made them all.*

*Each little flower that opens,
each little bird that sings,
he made their glowing colors,
he made their tiny wings.*

*The purple-headed mountain,
the river running by,
the sunset, and the morning
that brightens up the sky,*

*The cold wind in the winter,
the pleasant summer sun,
the ripe fruits in the garden,
he made them every one.
He gave us eyes to see them,
and lips that we might tell
how great is God Almighty,
who has made all things well.*

The Prayers of the People

The Rev. Deacon Corey Walmer

Leader Holy God, Creator of heaven and earth,
People **Have mercy upon us.**

Leader Holy and Mighty, Redeemer of the world,
People **Have mercy upon us.**

Holy Immortal One, Sanctifier of the faithful,
Have mercy upon us.

Grant that all your creatures may serve you with thanksgiving;
Pour out your blessing on earth, O God.

Grant favorable weather, temperate rain, and fruitful seasons, providing food and
drink for all your creatures;
Pour out your blessing on earth, O God.

Open our eyes to the wonder of creation, that we may see you in all your works;
Pour out your blessing on earth, O God.

Stir in us the desire to care for your creation;
Pour out your blessing on earth, O God.

Make us wise and faithful stewards of creation, caring for the earth, the waters,
the air, and all that live therein;
Pour out your blessing on earth, O God.

Forgive us who waste and pollute your creation and strengthen us to restore what we have disregarded;

Pour out your blessing on earth, O God.

Look with compassion on those that are abused and mistreated, show us their dignity in your creation;

Pour out your blessing on earth, O God.

Remember those creatures that have died yet remain dear to us that, that they may rejoice in your new creation;

Pour out your blessing on earth, O God.

Holy Immortal One, no sparrow falls without your knowing it; nothing dies but is remembered by you; nothing comes into being that you do not see. Give us courage and resolve to build up the common good, holding fast to the hope of a new creation in which all shall dwell eternally, through Jesus Christ, our Risen Savior.

Amen.

The Blessing of the Animals

Presider God's animals inhabit the skies, the land, and the sea; we share the earth with them, and like them rely on God's blessings to sustain and preserve us. We gather today in communion and friendship with Francis of Assisi who preached to animals and moved throughout the known world sharing God's unconditional love for all beings. Remembering Francis' love for all God's creatures, we gather with the animals entrusted to your care that we may bless them.

The Presider will come to those gathered with animals or photos of animals and offer a blessing.

Presider [Name of pet], May God who created and preserves you bless, defend, heal, and keep you, this day and always. Amen.

When all of the animals present have been blessed the Presider prays:

Presider Almighty and everlasting God, Creator of all things and Giver of all life: Let your blessing be upon these and all animals. May our love and care for them reflect your compassion and safekeeping of all creation. Grant these animals health, peace, and safety. Strengthen us to love and care for them following the good example of Francis of Assisi, through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

Collect for pets who have died

Presider Let us pray. God of all creation: we give you thanks and praise for the lives of our beloved departed pets. We thank you for their love and affection, their companionship and playfulness. Some pets, though they die, live with us and within us for ever. Thank you for the bountiful blessing of being their caretakers and families while on this earth and comfort us who mourn their loss. **Amen.**

A moment of silence for reflection

The Lord's Prayer

Presider God be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Presider Let us pray.
People **Holy One, our only Home,
hallowed be your name.
May your day dawn,
your will be done,
here as in heaven.
Feed us today,
and forgive us as we forgive each other.
Do not forsake us at the test,
but deliver us from evil.
For the glory, the power,
and the mercy are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

Closing Prayer: Canticle 12 A Song of Creation

Benedicite, omnia opera Domini

Leader Creatures, let the earth glorify our God,
People **sing praise and give honor for ever.**
Glorify our God, O mountains and hills, and all that grows upon the earth,
sing praise and give honor for ever.
Glorify our God, O springs of water, seas, and streams,
O whales and all that move in the waters.
All birds of the air, glorify our God,
sing praise and give honor for ever.
Glorify our God, O beasts of the wild,
and all you flocks and herds.
O people everywhere, glorify our God,
sing praise and give honor for ever.

Closing Hymn, #593

Lord make us servants of your peace



1 Lord, make us ser - vants of your peace: where there is
2 Where all is doubt, may we sow faith; where all is
3 Je - sus, our Lord, may we not seek to be con -
4 May we not look for love's re - turn, but seek to
5 Dy - ing, we live, and are re - born through death's dark



1 hate, may we sow love; where there is hurt, may we for -
 2 gloom, may we sow hope; where all is night, may we sow
 3 soled, but to con - sole, nor look to un - der - stand - ing
 4 love un - self - ish - ly, for in our giv - ing we re -
 5 night to end - less day: Lord, make us ser - vants of your



1 give; where there is strife, may we make one.
 2 light; where all is tears, may we sow joy.
 3 hearts, but look for hearts to un - der - stand.
 4 ceive, and in for - giv - ing are for - given.
 5 peace, to wake at last in hea - ven's light.

Dismissal

Deacon Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
People Thanks be to God.

Postlude

“God, Whose Form is All Creation” by Mark Sedio

RESOURCES

Liturgy: St. Francis Day/Blessing of Animals. Book of Occasional Services ©2018
 Poem: Indigenous Arts & Stories - Kahnekanoron- Water is Life (our-story.ca)

SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY

Presider	The Rev. Amanda Gerken-Nelson
Worship Leader	The Rev. Deacon Corey Walmer
Music	Christina Edelen
Musicians	The St. Bart’s Choir
Ushers	Ann Donaghy, Pam Hobson
Altar Guild	Jamie Michaud, Paule French
A/V	Joe Michaud
Counters	Harriet Davis, Pal Covie
Lawn Care	Joe Michaud
VPOW	Ann Donaghy