



The Blessing of the Animals

Saturday October 6, 2018 at 10:30am

Officiant: The Reverend Louise Peters • Homilist: The Reverend Leigh Kern

First Reader: Lanadee Lampman • Second Reader: Dominic Cobran

Director of Music: Robert Busiakiewicz • Organist: Nick Veltmeyer

Sung by Members of the Choir of St. James Cathedral

Hymn

Please stand.

Tune: Lasst Uns Erfreuen; Text: Francis of Assisi

All creatures of our God and King,
lift up your voices, let us sing:

Alleluia, Alleluia!

Bright burning sun and golden beams,
pale silver moon that gently gleams:

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

Great rushing winds and breezes soft,
you clouds that ride the heavens aloft,
O sing now, Alleluia!

Fair rising morn, with praise rejoice;
stars nightly shining, find a voice,

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

Swift flowing water, pure and clear,
make music for your Lord to hear,
Alleluia, Alleluia!

Fire, so intense and fiercely bright,
you give to us both warmth and light,

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

Earth ever fertile, day by day
unfold your blessings on our way,
O sing now, Alleluia!
All flowers and fruit that in you grow,
God's glory let them also show:
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

Let all things their creator bless,
and worship God in humbleness,
Alleluia, Alleluia!
Praise God the Father, praise the Son,
and praise the Spirit, Three-in-One:
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

Welcome and Greeting

Officiant The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

People **And also with you.**

Officiant Let us bless our God, the Creator and Sustainer of all life.

People **Blessed be God now and for ever. Amen.**

Opening Prayer

Reading Job 12: 7-13

Please be seated.

Reader 'But ask the animals, and they will teach you; the birds of the air, and they will tell you; ask the plants of the earth, and they will teach you; and the fish of the sea will declare to you. Who among all these does not know that the hand of the Lord has done this? In his hand is the life of every living thing and the breath of every human being. Does not the ear test words as the palate tastes food? Is wisdom with the aged, and understanding in length of days? 'With God are wisdom and strength; he has counsel and understanding.'

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Anthem God Of The Sparrow

Tune: Roeder; Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda

God of the sparrow, God of the whale, God of the swirling stars,
how does the creature say Awe, how does the creature say Praise.

God of the earthquake, God of the storm, God of the trumpet blast,
how does the creature cry Woe, how does the creature cry Save.

God of the rainbow, God of the cross, God of the empty grave,
how does the creature say Grace, how does the creature say Thanks.

God of the hungry, God of the sick, God of the prodigal,
how does the creature say Care, how does the creature say Life.

God of the neighbour, God of the foe, God of the pruning hook,
how does the creature say Love, how does the creature say Peace.

God of the ages, God near at hand, God of the loving heart,
how do your children say Joy, how do your children say Home.

Reading A Reading from St. Francis of Assisi

*The Canticle of
the Creatures (adapted)*

Reader “Be praised, my Lord, through all your creatures, especially through
my lord Brother Sun, who brings the day; and you give light through
him. And he is beautiful and radiant in all his splendour! Of you,
Most High, he bears the likeness.

Be praised, my Lord, through Sister Moon and the stars; in the
heavens you have made them, precious and beautiful.

Be praised, my Lord, through Brothers Wind and Air, and clouds
and storms, and all the weather, through which you give your
creatures sustenance.

Be praised, My Lord, through Sister Water; she is very useful, and
humble, and precious, and pure.

Be praised, my Lord, through Brother Fire, through whom you
brighten the night. He is beautiful and cheerful, and powerful and
strong.

Be praised, my Lord, through our sister Mother Earth, who feeds us
and rules us, and produces various fruits with coloured flowers and
herbs.

Be praised, my Lord, through those who forgive for love of you; through those who endure sickness and trial. Happy those who endure in peace, for they will be crowned.”

Homily

Please stand.

Hymn

Tune: The Ash Grove; Text: Katherine K. Davis

Let all things now living a song of thanksgiving
to God the creator triumphantly raise,
who fashioned and made us, protected and stayed us,
who still guides us on to the end of our days.
Love’s banners are o’er us; God’s light goes before us,
a pillar of fire shining forth in the night,
till shadows have vanished and darkness is banished,
as forward we travel from light into Light.

God’s law still enforces the stars in their courses
And causes the sun in its splendour to shine;
the hills and the mountains, the rivers and fountains,
the deeps of the ocean in praises combine.
We too should be voicing our love and rejoicing;
with glad adoration a song let us raise
till all things now living unite in thanksgiving:
“To God in the highest, hosanna and praise!”

Prayers

Please remain standing.

Intercessor As we stand in God’s presence, let us give thanks for the gift of life and the wonder of creation.

***People* Glory to God for ever and ever.**

Intercessor For the richness of animal life, for fish, birds, insects, reptiles and mammals.

***People* Glory to God for ever and ever.**

Intercessor For animals of pasture, for those trained in search and rescue and those that enable people who are hearing or visually impaired, to live independently.

***People* Glory to God for ever and ever.**

Intercessor For animals that give us faithful companionship, joy when we are happy and comfort when we are sad.

People **Glory to God for ever and ever.**

Intercessor For veterinarians and all who work to relieve pain and suffering; for those who provide safety and shelter to animals who are abused, injured or homeless.

People **Glory to God for ever and ever.**

Intercessor For the memory of the animals we have loved who have died.

People **Glory to God for ever and ever.**

Intercessor For the life, witness and prayers of St. Francis of Assisi.

People **Glory to God for ever and ever.**

Officiant Blessed are you, gracious God; all creation praises you.
You have made us stewards of your creation.

You made animals as our companions,
that in caring for them we might learn
to love and care for all your creatures,
and find in them a sign of your grace.

As we fulfill this call, may we draw closer to you,
the giver of all life, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

People **Amen.**

Officiant Joining our prayers together we now pray the Prayer of St. Francis:

People **Lord, make us instruments of your peace.**

Where there is hatred, let us sow love;

where there is injury, pardon;

where there is discord, union;

where there is doubt, faith;

where there is despair, hope;

where there is darkness, light;

where there is sadness, joy.

Grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console;

to be understood as to understand;

to be loved as to love.

**For it is in giving that we receive;
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.**

Officiant Let us bless our God, the Creator and Sustainer of all life.

People **Blessed be God now and forever. Amen.**

Blessing of Animals

You are invited to bring your pet forward for a blessing.

Please tell the clergy the name of your pet.

Adults and children are invited into the Cathedral for an Animal Scavenger Hunt.

St. Francis of Assisi 1181-1226



Francis lived the high-spirited life typical of a wealthy young Italian man of his day until Christ in a vision called him to help the Church return to a life of radical service to the poor. His preaching of the love of Christ soon amassed a large following. His Order was authorized by the Church in 1210. Abolished in England at the Reformation, Franciscan communities for men and women have been restored throughout the Anglican Church in the last century. The current Bishop of Rome has taken his name, the first Pope to do so. In 1224, Francis received the stigmata, making him the first recorded person to bear the wounds of Christ's Passion. He is the patron saint of animals and the environment because of his intense mystical experiences of the presence of God in the created order. He is also known for the creation in 1223 of the first Christmas crèche or Nativity Scene.

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