



## **The Blessing of Animals**

*Saturday October 2, 2021 at 10:30am*

*Officiant: The Reverend Canon Dr. Stephen Fields*

*Assisting Clergy: The Reverend Canon Beth Benson*

*Deacon & Homilist: The Reverend Claire Latimer-Dennis*

*Music Director & Organist: Thomas Bell*

*Cantors: Irene Courage and Ineza Mugisha*

### **Hymn**

*Please stand.*

Text: Francis of Assisi; Tune: Lasst Uns Erfreuen

*Cantors*

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.*

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 - Collect for The Feast of Francis of Assisi**

*Officiant* Grant us, Almighty God, after the example of your holy servant Francis, to do what you would have us do, and always to desire what is pleasing in your sight, that cleansed by your love, enlightened by your truth, and kindled with the fire of your Holy Spirit, we may follow in the footsteps of your beloved Son and make our way to you, O God most High; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

*People* **Amen.**

**Reading** Genesis 1: 20-25

*Please be seated.*

*Reader* And God said, 'Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky.' So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm, and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good. God blessed them,

saying, 'Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.' And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day. And God said, 'Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind.' And it was so. God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind, and the cattle of every kind, and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good.

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

**Anthem** All Things Bright and Beautiful

Text: Cecil Frances Alexander;  
Music: William Henry Monk

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

Each radiant flower that opens, each vibrant bird that sings,  
God made their glowing colours, God made their lively wings.  
*All things bright...*

The cold wind in the winter, the pleasant summer sun,  
the ripe fruit in the garden, God made them every one.  
*All things bright...*

The rocky mountain splendour, the loon's wild, haunting call,  
the great lakes and the prairies, the forest in the fall.  
*All things bright...*

God gave us eyes to see them, and lips that we might tell  
how great is the Creator, who has made all things well.  
*All things bright...*

**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

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

### *Cantors*

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 maintain physical distancing.*

*Please tell the clergy the name of your pet.*

### **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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