



***October 3, 2026 at 11:00am
with the Children's Community Choir***

***The Cathedral Church of St. James
Diocese of Toronto • Anglican Church of Canada***

Welcome to St. James Cathedral

This sacred land is the territory of several Indigenous Nations - the Wendat, the Haudenosaunee, and the Anishnaabe, and the Métis peoples, with special recognition to the Mississaugas of New Credit. We also acknowledge that we are on the shores of Niigaani-gichigami/Lake Ontario. This territory is governed by the Dish With One Spoon Wampum Belt Treaty, an agreement between the Haudenosaunee Confederacy and the Anishnaabe Confederacy to peaceably share and sustain the life of the Great Lakes. In the spirit of that Treaty we seek to place at the centre of our gatherings the values of respectful reciprocity, diversity, peace, responsibility, and mutual aid.

Welcome to Blessing of the Animals! We are so excited to share this moment with you together.

St. James Cathedral is here to serve all the people of Toronto. We do this through services and events, concerts and lectures, and through the work of our Friday Drop-In and our Refugee Committee.

Please do come again. You can follow us through our website and social media presence, or join us for a service on any Sunday as follows:

8:00am Said Eucharist *Simple Communion service in traditional language*

9:00am Worship Together *All-ages Communion service with music*

11:00am Choral Eucharist *Sensory-rich Communion service with the Cathedral Choir*

4:30pm Choral Evensong *Meditative prayer service with the Cathedral Choir*

Live-streaming on the Cathedral's YouTube channel

www.youtube.com/@StJamesCathedralToronto/streams

Children & Families

Sunday School meets every week at the 11:00am service.

Please email Karyne Whalen at kwhalen@stjamescathedral.ca for more information.

For more information on our Children's Community Choir,
please email Director Cara Halpin at chalpin@stjamescathedral.ca

Accessibility

A wheelchair-accessible all-gender washroom is located
at the front of the Cathedral through the doors by the pulpit.

Assisted hearing devices are available from the sidespersons.

Connect with the Cathedral

Visit our website at stjamescathedral.ca | Follow us on Facebook at facebook.com/stjamesto

*As this is a very public and open space please be aware of your personal belongings.
Do not leave them unattended in the Cathedral or in the Cathedral Centre.*

ORDER OF THE SERVICE

Welcome

Officiant Let us bless our God, creator and giver of all.
People **Blessed be God, now and for ever. Amen.**

Opening Song – All Things Bright and Beautiful

All 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,
God made their glowing colours,
and made their tiny wings.

The cold wind in the winter,
the pleasant summer sun,
the ripe fruits in the garden:
God made them everyone.

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

Officiant God be with you.
People **And also with you.**

Officiant Most high, omnipotent, good Lord: 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 perfect joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

People **Amen.**

Psalm 104:1, 10-25

Reader A reading from the book of Psalms:

Bless the Lord, O my soul; O Lord my God, you are very great!
You are clothed with majesty and splendor.

You made the springs into rivers
that flow between the mountains.
All the animals drink their fill from them,
and the wild donkeys quench their thirst.
Beside them the birds of the air make their nests;
among the branches they lift their voice.
From your dwelling on high, you water the mountains;
the earth is satisfied with the fruit of your works.
You make grass grow for the cattle, and plants to serve humankind;
that they may bring forth food from the earth,
wine to gladden human hearts, oil to make the face shine,
and bread to strengthen the human heart.
The trees of the Lord are well supplied,
the cedars of Lebanon that you planted,
in which the birds build their nests,
while the stork makes the fir trees its dwelling.
The high hills belong to the mountain goats,
and the stony cliffs are a refuge for the badgers.
You made the moon to mark the seasons,
and the sun knows the time of its setting.
You bring on darkness that it may be night,
in which all the beasts of the forest prowl.
The lions roar for their prey
seeking their food from God.
The sun rises, and they withdraw
and lay themselves down in their dens.
People go forth to their work
and to their labor until the evening.
How manifold are your works, O Lord!
In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.
The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Reader
People

Reflection

Music from the Children's Community Choir – Our Gift For You

Choir Peace, peace, peace, never ending.
Joy, joy, joy, overflowing.
Love, love, love, ever lasting and true,
This is our gift for you.

Our message may be simple,
But the meaning is clear.
Our hearts are overflowing
This special time of year.

So listen to the words we say,
Let them sweep your heart away.
And though the days go by,
Yet our gift will still remain.

Prayers

Officiant Call out the names of those animals for whom we care.
Call out the names of those animals who are no longer with us.

We hold these beloved companions in our hearts as we pray.

Leader We thank you, God, for the gift of life: for the beauty and wonder of
creation, and for our own life which comes from you.

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

Leader We thank you for the richness of animal life: for fish and birds, insects,
reptiles, and mammals.

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

Leader We thank you for the animals who give us faithful companionship, joy when
we are happy and comfort when we are sad.

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

Leader We thank you for the animals whose lives and skills serve the many needs
of humanity.

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

Leader We thank you for calling us to care for these animals. May we learn love
and respect for all living things.

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

Officiant Blessed are you, living, loving God. All creation praises you. Let your
blessing be upon the St. John's Ambulance therapy dogs, that they may
comfort and uplift those they serve. Let your blessing be upon all who care

for pets and animals of all kinds, that they may faithfully fulfil the call to honour you in your creation, following the good example of St. Francis of Assisi; through Christ our Saviour. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Officiant As our Saviour taught us, let us pray:

All **Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.**

Closing Song – Let All Things Now Living

Tune: The Ash Grove

All 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!"

Officiant Let us bless the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Blessing of Animals

*The clergy will come to you to bless your pet.
Please tell the clergy the name of your pet.*

St. Francis of Assisi 1181-1226



Francis lived the indulgent life typical of a wealthy young Italian man of his day until a vision of Christ inspired him to change his ways and devote himself to serving the poor and marginalized. His dramatic transformation and enthusiastic preaching of the love of Christ soon amassed a large following. His Order of monastics was authorized by the Church in 1210, and Franciscan monastic communities can be found today in the Anglican Church as well as in their original Roman Catholic tradition. Francis is the patron saint of animals and the environment because of his profound experience of the presence of God in creation, and this is why many churches offer pet blessings to celebrate his feast day.

We welcome the following local businesses and organizations:

Essential First Aid Plus

Global Pet Foods (Lower Jarvis)

St. John Ambulance Therapy Dog Program

Who's Walking Who Dog Training Centres

Officiant: The Very Reverend Dr. Stephen Hance

Homilist: Maddy MacGregor

*Assisting Clergy: The Reverend Canon Geoffrey Sangwine,
The Reverend Canon Kristen Pitts, The Reverend Jillian Ruch,
The Reverend Canon Beth Benson and The Reverend Kate Harmon Siberine*

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