

# The Blessing of the Animals

The Feast of St. Francis, Patron Saint of Animals and the Environment

~ Sunday, October 2, 2022 ~  
10:00 AM



## Grace Episcopal Church

The Rev. Susan L. Scranton

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The pets from Grace Church



# The Blessing of the Animals

The Feast of St Francis, Patron Saint of Animals and the Environment

## Morning Prayer

October 2, 2022 ~ 10:00 AM

### Welcome and Call to Worship

This is the day that the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

**Opening Hymn:** (Page 11)

Bunessan

“All Things Bright & Beautiful”

## THE INVITATORY AND PSALTER

**Officiant:** Lord, open our lips.

**People:** And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

**All:** Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. AMEN.

**Venite ~ Psalm 95:1-7**

(Said by all)

The earth is the Lord's, for he made it: Come let us adore him.

Come, let us sing to the Lord;

let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.

Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving  
and raise a loud shout to him with psalms.

For the Lord is a great God,  
and a great King above all gods.

In his hands are the caverns of the earth,  
and the heights of the hills are his also.

The sea is his, for he made it,  
and his hands have molded the dry land.

Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee,  
and kneel before the Lord our Maker.

For he is our God,  
and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand.

Oh, that today you would hearken to his voice!

The earth is the Lord's, for he made it: Come let us adore him.

**Psalm 104 (Selected parts)** ~ *Said responsively between reader and people*

Reader: O Lord, how manifold are your works! In wisdom you have made them all.

**ALL: The earth is full of your creatures. These all look to you to give them their food in due season.**

Reader: When you give to them, they gather it up; when you open your hand, they are filled with good things.

**ALL: When you send forth your spirit, they are created; and you renew the face of the ground.**

Reader: May the glory of the Lord endure forever; may the Lord rejoice in his works.

**ALL: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning is now, and will be for ever. AMEN.**

## THE LESSONS

**First Lesson: Genesis 1:23-25, 31a**

Laurel McKenzie

A Reading from Genesis:

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.

Then God said, "Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth." So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth."

God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

## **Canticle 12: A Song of Creation**

*Benedicite, omnia opera Domini*

*The Earth and its Creatures ~ (Said together)*

Let the earth glorify the Lord,  
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.  
Glorify the Lord, O mountains and hills,  
and all that grows upon the earth,  
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.  
Glorify the Lord, O springs of water, seas, and streams,  
O whales and all that move in the waters.  
All birds of the air, glorify the Lord,  
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

Glorify the Lord, O beasts of the wild,  
and all you flocks and herds.  
O men and women everywhere, glorify the Lord,  
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. **AMEN.**

## **Second Lesson: Job 12:7-10a**

Laurel McKenzie

A Reading from Job:

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.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

## **Canticle of All Creatures ~ St. Francis of Assisi**

*(Said together)*

All praise to you, most high, all powerful, all good Lord.  
To you alone, all praise belongs.  
Praise to you, through everything you have made.  
All praise, my Lord, through Sister Moon and the Stars, set in the sky,  
so wonderful and bright.

All praise, my Lord, through Brothers Wind and Air, and all the weathers,  
cloudy, calm, or stormy, by which you nourish all you have made.  
All praise, my Lord, through Sister Water, so precious, useful, humble, and pure.  
All praise, My Lord, through Brother Fire, who lights up the night.  
How joyful he is! How beautiful and strong!  
All praise, my Lord, through Sister Earth, our mother who feeds us  
and gives us fruits and herbs and colored flowers.  
Praise and bless my Lord. Thank Him and serve Him with great humility.

### **The Gospel Reading: Matthew 11:25-26**

The Rev. Susan L. Scranton

A Reading from the Gospel of Matthew:

Jesus said, "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?"

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

### **Homily**

The Rev. Susan L. Scranton

**The Apostles' Creed** ~ *Officiant and People together, all standing.*

I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.  
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.  
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the Virgin Mary.  
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.  
He descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again.  
He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. AMEN.

## THE PRAYERS

*Officiant*      The Lord be with you.

**People**        **And also with you.**

*Officiant*      Let us pray.

### **The Lord's Prayer** ~ *Officiant and People*

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name,  
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread.**

**And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.**

**And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

## **The Suffrages ~ Responsive Prayers**

Officiant: Show us your mercy, O Lord;  
**People: And grant us your salvation.**  
Officiant: Clothe your ministers with righteousness;  
**People: Let your people sing with joy.**  
Officiant: Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;  
**People: For only in you can we live in safety.**  
Officiant: Lord, keep this nation under your care;  
**People: And guide us in the way of justice and truth.**  
Officiant: Let your way be known upon earth;  
**People: Your saving health among all nations;**  
Officiant: Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;  
**People: Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.**  
Officiant: Create in us clean hearts, O God;  
**People: And sustain us with your Holy Spirit.**

## **The Collects**

O God, you make us glad with the weekly remembrance of the glorious resurrection of your Son our Lord: Give us this day such blessing through our worship of you, that the week to come may be spent in your favor; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **AMEN.**

Heavenly Father, in you we live and move and have our being: We humbly pray you so to guide and govern us by your Holy Spirit, that in all the cares and occupations of our life we may not forget you, but may remember that we are ever walking in your sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **AMEN.**

O God, we thank you for making the animals to brighten our lives. Help us to save them from danger as Noah did. Help us to love them and care for them as St. Francis did. And when we see the animals that you have made, help us to remember that you are holy and worthy of praise. In the name of the Father (who thought up the giraffe and the zebra) and of the Son (who was named after the beautiful white Lamb) and the Holy Spirit (who came to us as a Dove). **AMEN.**

O God;, who has made all the earth and every creature that dwells therein: Help us, we pray you, to treat with compassion the living creatures entrusted to our care, that they may not suffer from our neglect nor become the victims of any cruelty; and grant that in caring for them we may find a deeper understanding of your love for all creation. **AMEN.**

## Let Us Pray...

Let us give thanks to God, our Creator, for all the gifts he has given us.

**We thank you, Lord.**

For the sun and moon, the stars and planets, and our rivers, lakes, and oceans.

**We thank you, Lord.**

For wind and cloud, rain and sun.

**We thank you, Lord.**

For water – to drink, to play in, to bathe in, and for baptism.

**We thank you, Lord.**

For fire that gives us light in darkness and warmth when we are cold.

**We thank you, Lord.**

For Mother Earth who feeds us and protects us and for flowers, trees, grass, and bushes.

**We thank you, Lord.**

For our pets you have entrusted to us. They bring us joy, they calm us, make us laugh, play with us, and keep us safe.

**We thank you, Lord.**

For all animals on the earth; for fish and birds, cattle, goats, and sheep, and all those creatures that crawl and creep.

**We thank you, Lord.**

Help us to be good stewards of your creation and continually find joy and wonder in all your works.

**We thank you, Lord.**

We pray for all of our beloved animals who have died, knowing that your love for them will never perish. Comfort all those who mourn.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

We pray for our own needs and for those of others. We also pray for those on our parish prayer list. Are there others?

**Lord, hear our prayer.**



OFFICIANT: Almighty and everlasting God, Creator of all things and Giver of all life, let your blessings be upon all these animals. May our relationships with them mirror your love, and our care for them be an example of your bountiful mercy. Grant the animals health and peace. Strengthen us to love and care for them as we strive to imitate the love of Jesus Christ our Lord and of God's servant Francis. **AMEN.**

### **A Prayer of St. Chrysostom ~ Said by all**

Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. **AMEN.**

### **Blessing**

### **Dismissal**

Officiant: Let us bless the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Officiant: Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine: Glory to him from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever. **AMEN.**

~ Individual Blessings Offered for Each Animal ~



*Following the blessings, please stay for hospitality and conversation with the congregation of Grace Episcopal Church.*

*Enjoy getting a photo taken with your pet  
and there are treats for everyone!*

# Hymn

## All Things Bright and Beautiful

Royal Oak

*Descant*



All things bright and beau - ti - ful, crea-tures great and small,

*Refrain*



All things bright and beau - ti - ful, all crea-tures great and small,



all things wise and won - der - ful, God made them all.



all things wise and won - der - ful, the Lord God made them all.



1 Each lit - tle flower that o - pens, each lit - tle bird that sings,  
 2 The pur - ple - head - ed moun-tain, the riv - er run - ning by,  
 3 The cold wind in the win - ter, the pleas-ant sum - mer sun,  
 4 He gave us eyes to see them, and lips that we might tell

*Repeat Refrain*



he made their glow-ing col - ors, he made their ti - ny wings.  
 the sun - set, and the morn - ing that bright-ens up the sky.  
 the ripe fruits in the gar - den, he made them ev - ery one.  
 how great is God Al - might - y, who has made all things well.

The Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God by Marilyn and Susan Scranton in loving memory of Susan's grandmothers, Esther Ingle and Louise Redelings and in memory of Shelly, Johann, Beethoven and Barney.

**Serving In Today's Worship:**

Lectors.....Laurel McKenzie, Miles Bresee  
Acolytes.....April Moore  
Flower Guild.....Marilyn Scranton  
Ushers.....Grace Usher Ministry  
Hospitality.....Blessing of the Animals Committee  
Vestry Person of the Week.....Pat McAlmond



**Prayer List**

**For healing and comfort:** Doug Rice, Ruth Green, Zane LeClair, Peggy Wallace, Tony Keyser, Carol Winship, Patricia Pannabecker, James Tyree, Beau Wright, Gwen Barnett, Madison, John Coppack, Madison Gleason, Samantha Taylor, John Williamson  
**For strength & guidance:** Linda Rice, Sharyl Barrett, Emery, Ellie & Aranda Gleason  
**For healing after surgery:** Judy Webster  
**For those who have died:** Carolyn Hinig  
**For those in mourning:** David Hinig & Family  
**For those serving in the military:** Chad Donohoe ~ U.S. Navy, Nelson Acosta ~ U.S. Air Force, Andrew Grimaldi ~ U.S. Army

**OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS**

1 – Gregg Martin	14 – Stacey Aldrete	25 - Lucie Pelleriti	30 - Karl Davis
8 – Janet Kawamoto	20 – Rick Sandona	23 – Tim Seielstad	30 – Barbara Dexter
11 – Mizuki Williamson	22 – Travis Lippert	26 - Cathy St. Onge	30 – Peter Stacy
	23 – Alysha Kawamoto		

**OCTOBER WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES**

Catie and Jared Anders – 10 ~ Ann and Doug Jones – 29 ~ Sonja and Randy Lakin – 17  
Laurel and Alex McKenzie ~ Frances and Don Stocking – 30