

The Blessing of the Animals

St. Paul's Church, Charlottetown, PEI

October 4, 2015

1:00 p.m.

Gathering

Blessed be God, Creator of Heaven and Earth.

All creation sings your praises.

Hymn 415: All Things Bright and Beautiful

Refrain:

***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. *Refrain:*

The cold wind in the winter,
the pleasant summer sun,
the ripe fruits in the garden,
God made them every one. *Refrain:*

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

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

The Collect

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray,

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. Amen.

Reading: *Genesis 1:24-31*

A reading from the 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 said, 'See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.' And it was so. God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God

Psalm 148.7-14

¹ Hallelujah!

Praise the Lord from the heavens; *
praise him in the heights.

² **Praise him, all you angels of his; *
praise him, all his host.**

³ Praise him, sun and moon; *
praise him, all you shining stars.

⁴ **Praise him, heaven of heavens, ***
and you waters above the heavens.

⁵ Let them praise the name of the Lord; *
for he commanded, and they were created.

⁶ **He made them stand fast for ever and ever; ***
he gave them a law which shall not pass away.

⁷ Praise the Lord from the earth, *
you sea-monsters and all deeps;

⁸ **Fire and hail, snow and fog, ***
tempestuous wind, doing his will;

⁹ Mountains and all hills, *
fruit trees and all cedars;

¹⁰ **Wild beasts and all cattle, ***
creeping things and wingèd birds;

¹¹ Kings of the earth and all peoples, *
princes and all rulers of the world;

¹² **Young men and maidens, ***
old and young together.

¹³ Let them praise the name of the Lord, *
for his name only is exalted,
his splendour is over earth and heaven.

¹⁴ **He has raised up strength for his people**
and praise for all his loyal servants, *
the children of Israel, a people who are near him.
Hallelujah!

Psalm Prayer

Let us pray

Blessed are you, Lord our God,
creator of heaven and earth;
you open our eyes to see the wonders around us,
and our hearts and mouths to praise you.
Now give us strength for loving service,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Gospel: Matthew 6:25-33

The Lord be with you

And also with you

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ

‘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? And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? Therefore do not worry, saying, “What will we eat?” or “What will we drink?” or “What will we wear?” For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

The Gospel of Christ

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

Hymn 414: God of the Sparrow

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 neighbor
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

Prayers for Animals

Almighty and everlasting God, Creator of all things and giver of all life, let your blessing 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 God's servant Francis. **Amen.**

Let us give thanks to God our Father for all gifts so freely bestowed upon us....
for the beauty and wonder of your creation, in earth and sky and sea;

We thank you, Lord.

For the richness of the mountains, plains and rivers;

We thank you, Lord.

For all that is gracious in the lives of men and women;

We thank you, Lord.

For all creatures that breathe, and move, and have life;

We thank you, Lord.

For the songs of birds and the loveliness of flowers and trees;

We thank you, Lord.

For the trust shown us in giving into our care these, our pets;

We thank you, Lord.

That each one here may be treasured with care;

We pray to you, Lord.

That we may love and honour all your works, O God;

We pray to you, Lord.

That we may continue to grow in our grateful enjoyment
of your abundant creation;

**To the honour and glory of your name,
now and forever, we pray to you, Lord. Amen.**

Blessing of Animals

The clergy will make their way around the assembly to give an individual blessing.

The Blessing of Each Pet (Individually)

N. may you be blessed in the Name of the Father,
and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

May you and *your human* enjoy life together
and find joy with the God who created you.

Prayers for pets and animals

Gracious and heavenly God, to you be all praise, and glory, and honour! We praise you and give thanks for blessing us with all sorts of creatures; for all the animals, birds and fish, which fill your world. We thank you for the wild and the tame, for the domestic and free and may they all enjoy healthy and appropriate habitats and be allowed to flourish. Let us protect wild places. May all you creatures, all that you've created, be treated with respect and honour. O God, your world is wonderful, and particularly this day we thank you for our pets and the companionship they bring us. This we pray in Christ's name. **Amen.**

Prayer of *(attributed to)* St. Francis

Lord, make us instruments of your peace.

Where there is hatred, let us sow love;

Where there is injury, pardon;

Where there is doubt, faith;

Where there is despair, hope;

Where there is darkness, light;

Where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master, 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 live.

Amen.

Bless the Lord, all you his creatures,

And forget not all his benefits.

Let us pray.

Most high, omnipotent good Lord, grant your people grace to renounce gladly the vanities of this world; that, following the way of St. Francis, we may for love of you delight in your whole creation with perfectness of joy. O God, you have made us and all living things. You are even more wonderful than what you have made. We thank you for giving us these pets who bring us joy. As you take care of us, so also we ask your help that we might take care of those who trust us to look after them. By doing this, we share in your own love for all creation. We ask this in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

The Blessing *(From St. Clare)*

Live without fear:

your Creator has made you holy,

has always protected you,

and loves you as a mother.

Go in peace to follow the good road

and may God's blessing be with you always. **Amen**

Hymn: Make Me a Channel of Your Peace

Make me a channel of your peace.
Where there is hatred let me bring your love;
Where there is injury, your pardon, Lord;
And where there's doubt, true faith in You.

Make me a channel of your peace.
Where there's despair in life let me bring hope;
Where there is darkness, only light;
And where there's sadness, ever joy.

**Oh, master, grant that I may never seek
So much to be consoled as to console;
To be understood as to understand;
To be loved, as to love with all my soul.**

Make me a channel of your peace.
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
In giving to all men that we receive;
And in dying that we're born to eternal life.

**Oh, master, grant that I may never seek
So much to be consoled as to console;
To be understood as to understand;
To be loved, as to love with all my soul.**

The Scattering

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