

# The Blessing of the Animals

## The Feast of Francis of Assisi

October 7, 2018 • 10:00 AM Service



639 Edgewater Drive • Dunedin, FL 34698  
(727) 733-4125 • Pastor Becky's cell: (727) 458-2625  
[www.churchgoodshepherd.org](http://www.churchgoodshepherd.org)  
E-Mail the church office:  
[goodnews@churchgoodshepherd.org](mailto:goodnews@churchgoodshepherd.org)

Sat. Service at 5 PM • Sun. Services at 8 and 10 AM • Wed. Service at 10 AM

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**We want you to know how welcome you are here!** The people of this parish community are here to create a safe and inspiring place to pursue your own life's journey and if we can be of assistance on that journey please let us know. The Episcopal Church is part of the world-wide Anglican Communion. Our worship style has its roots in the earliest forms of Christian worship, balancing both word and sacrament. We hope you will find in us a place and a community to call yours. We're glad you are here!

**Everyone who brings a pet** to be blessed will have their photograph taken during the blessing. The pictures will be posted on the church web site ([www.churchgoodshepherd.org](http://www.churchgoodshepherd.org)) and our Facebook page for you to download and print.

## GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

PRELUDE

*Appalachian Sunrise*

Joseph Martin

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS AND MISSION MOMENT

- ☐ We offer our prayerful voices on behalf of the animals, coming together in thanksgiving and prayer for them, and seeking God's blessing on our lives together.

GATHERING HYMN

*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 little flower that opens, each little bird that sings,  
He made their glowing colors, he made their tiny wings.*** Refrain

***The purple-headed mountain, the river running by,  
The sunset, and the morning that brightens up the sky.*** Refrain

GATHERING PRAYER

- ☐ Loving Creator, we share your earth with animals and all other life forms. As they help us in so many ways, help us to care for them, to enjoy their presence, to help them and one another follow the ways you have made for us. Give us the love and compassion of Jesus.
- ☐ **Amen.**

## WORD OF GOD

**THE READINGS:** Isaiah 11:1–9 • 1 Corinthians 15:39–41 • Matthew 6:25–29

THE FIRST READING:

- ☐ *The First Reading is taken from Isaiah, chapter 11...*

A shoot will grow up from the stump of Jesse; a branch will sprout from his roots. The Lord's spirit will rest upon him, a spirit of wisdom and understanding, a spirit of planning and strength, a spirit of knowledge and fear of the Lord.

He will delight in fearing the Lord. He won't judge by appearances, nor decide by hearsay. He will judge the needy with righteousness, and decide with equity for those who suffer in the land. He will strike the violent with the rod of his mouth; by the breath of his lips he will kill the wicked.

Righteousness will be the belt around his hips, and faithfulness the belt around his waist. The wolf will live with the lamb, and the leopard will lie down with the young goat; the calf and the young lion will feed together, and a little child will lead them.

The cow and the bear will graze. Their young will lie down together, and a lion will eat straw like an ox. A nursing child will play over the snake's hole; toddlers will reach right over the serpent's den. They won't harm or destroy anywhere on my holy mountain. The earth will surely be filled with the knowledge of the Lord, just as the water covers the sea.

℣ The Word of the Lord.

☩ **Thanks be to God.**

THE PSALM: *All Creatures of Our God and King*

by St. Francis

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

***Bright burning sun with golden beams, pale silver moon that gently gleams,  
O praise him, O praise him, Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!***

***Let all things their creator bless, and worship him in humbleness,  
O praise him, Alleluia!***

***Praise God the Father, praise the Son, and praise the Spirit, Three in One:  
O praise him, O praise him, Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!***

THE SECOND READING:

℣ *The Second Reading is taken from 1 Corinthians, chapter 15...*

All flesh isn't alike. Humans have one kind of flesh, animals have another kind of flesh, birds have another kind of flesh, and fish have another kind. There are heavenly bodies and earthly bodies. The heavenly bodies have one kind of glory, and the earthly bodies have another kind of glory. The sun has one kind of glory, the moon has another kind of glory, and the stars have another kind of glory (but one star is different from another star in its glory).

℣ The Word of the Lord.

☩ **Thanks be to God.**

THE GOSPEL:

**D** The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

**C** **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

**D** "Therefore, I say to you, don't worry about your life, what you'll eat or what you'll drink, or about your body, what you'll wear. Isn't life more than food and the body more than clothes? Look at the birds in the sky. They don't sow seed or harvest grain or gather crops into barns. Yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Aren't you worth much more than they are? Who among you by worrying can add a single moment to your life? And why do you worry about clothes? Notice how the lilies in the field grow. They don't wear themselves out with work, and they don't spin cloth. But I say to you that even Solomon in all of his splendor wasn't dressed like one of these.

**D** The Gospel of the Lord.

**C** **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

HOMILY

Cindy Roehl

SERMON HYMN

*This Is My Father's World*  
[Tune: Crown Him with Many Crowns]

**C** ***This is my Father's world, and to my listening ears  
all nature sings and round me rings the music of the spheres.  
This is my Father's world: I rest me in the thought of  
rocks and trees, of skies and seas, his hand the wonders wrought.***

***This is our Father's world, oh, let us not forget  
that though the wrong is great and strong, God is our Father yet.  
He trusts us with his world, to keep it clean and fair, all  
earth and trees, all skies and seas, all creatures everywhere.***

THE APOSTLES' CREED

**C** **I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, 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, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come 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.**

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

- ☐ As grateful children of God our Father, who has given us so much, we now rededicate our lives to God's purposes:

*[The Leader and People pray responsively]*

- ☐ God created us and placed us on this earth to be stewards of all living things and so to proclaim the glory of their Creator. Let us, then, praise God, saying:

☑ **Blessed be God for ever.**

- ☐ Blessed are you, O Lord, who created the animals and gave us the ability to train them to help us in our work.

☑ **Blessed be God for ever.**

- ☐ Blessed are you, O Lord, who gave us food from animals to replenish our energies.

☑ **Blessed be God for ever.**

- ☐ Blessed are you, O Lord, who for the sake of our comfort gave us domestic animals as companions.

☑ **Blessed be God for ever.**

- ☐ Blessed are you, O Lord, who shows us a sign of your providence, as your Son told us, by caring for the birds of the air.

☑ **Blessed be God for ever.**

- ☐ Blessed are you, O Lord, who through your lowliest creatures never ceases to draw us toward your love.

☑ **Blessed be God for ever.**

- ☐ Let us pray... O God, you have done all things wisely; in your goodness you have made us in your image and given us care over other living things. Reach out with your right hand and grant that we may be a blessing to our companion animals, as they are a blessing to us. May the love you have shown to us in creation and through Jesus Christ, our Lord, teach us to love all those with whom we share your Creation, both human and animal, in the present and into the future. We ask this through the power of your Holy Spirit.

☑ **Amen.**

## THE HOLY COMMUNION

### OFFERTORY SENTENCE [Ephesians 5:2]

- ☐ Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God. Be grateful you have gifts to share with a hurting world, and give with a cheerful heart.

### OFFERTORY

### PRESENTATION HYMN:

*Doxology*

- ☐ God of all creation, all you have made is good.  
Nourish us and all the world with these gifts.
- ☑ ***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
praise him, all creatures here below; Praise him above, ye heavenly host:  
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.***

### HOLY COMMUNION

*[The pastor will lead the congregation in the celebration of the Lord's Supper.]*

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

- ☑ **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 Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

### COMMUNION AND BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

*Becky will stand at the top of the center aisle and bless the animals.*

- *Those with pets who wish to have communion get the blessing, then go past her to one of two communion stations (one on either side.)*
- *Those without pets who wish to receive communion go straight to one of the stations.*
- *Those with pets who do not wish to receive communion go to Becky to have the pet blessed but then bypass the communion stations and go back to their seats.*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

- ☐ Please join me now in praying the Prayer of St. Francis, in whose honor we gather this day.  
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.**

THE BENEDICTION

- ☐ May God, who created the animals of this earth to be the helpers and companions of humanity, bless you with grateful hearts and gentle hands to care for all living things as he cares for us. And the blessing of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always.
- ☑ **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

*He's Got the Whole World*  
[Blessing of the Animals Version]

- ☑ ***He's got the whole world in His hands,  
He's got the whole wide world in His hands  
He's got the whole world in His hands.  
He's got the whole world in His hands.***

***He's got the eagles and the dolphins in his hands;  
He's got the puppies and the kitties in his hands;  
He's got the lizards and the lamas in his hands;  
He's got the whole world in His hands.***

***He's got the whole world in His hands,  
He's got the whole wide world in His hands  
He's got the whole world in His hands.  
He's got the whole world in His hands.***

THE DISMISSAL

☐ Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

☑ **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

*How Firm a Foundation*

Joseph Martin

### SERVING US TODAY

<b>Celebrant</b>	Becky Robbins-Penniman
<b>Deacon</b>	Cindy Roehl
<b>Priest Associate</b>	Ann Chaplin
<b>Keyboard</b>	Robert Moncrief
<b>Acolyte</b>	Maxine Simeone
<b>Chalicians</b>	Dan Smith
	Cheryl Sharpe
<b>Lectors</b>	Nancy Fisher
	Carolyn Hughes
<b>Prayers of the People</b>	Cheryl Sharpe
<b>Greeters</b>	Jim Ratliff
	Mary Ratliff
<b>Ushers</b>	Sally Wakefield
	Bob Roehl
<b>Pet Photos</b>	Mary Ann Man
<b>Welcome Center</b>	Nancy Fisher
	Susan Fowler
<b>Coffee Host</b>	Jim and Nancy Downs
<b>Building &amp; Grounds</b>	Dan Smith