

Blessing of the Animals



October 8, 2023



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www.COGSDunedin.com
E-Mail the church office: info@cogsdunedin.com

Sunday Services at 8 and 10 AM • Wednesday at 6 PM

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!

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

VOLUNTARY

Awaken the Dawn

arr. Larry Shackley

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

ENTRANCE HYMN

O God, Your Creatures Fill the Earth

ELLACOMBE

**O God, your crea-tures fill the earth with won-der and de-light,
And ev-'ry liv-ing thing has worth and beau-ty in your sight
So play-ful dol-phins dance and swim; your sheep bow down and graze.
Your song-birds share a morn-ing hymn to of-fer you their praise.**

**You made the pets we wel-come in—they're won-drous bless-ings, too.
With paws and whisk-ers, wings and fins, they of-fer praise to you.
O Lord, you call us to em-brace these crea-tures in our care.
May we show kind-ness, love and grace to all pets ev-'ry-where.**

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THE OPENING ACCLAMATION

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
People **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray... Almighty and everlasting God, you are always more ready to hear than we to pray, and to give more than we either desire or deserve: Pour upon us the abundance of your mercy, forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid, and giving us those good things for which we are not worthy to ask, except through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ our Savior; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

All **Amen.**

THE WORD OF GOD

The people sit.

THE FIRST READING

Exodus 20:1-4,7-9,12-20

Lector *The First Reading is taken from Exodus chapter 20...*

Then God spoke all these words:

I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; you shall have no other gods before me. You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not acquit anyone who misuses his name. Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. For six days you shall labour and do all your work. Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you. You shall not murder. You shall not commit adultery. You shall not steal. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor. When all the people witnessed the thunder and lightning, the sound of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking, they were afraid and trembled and stood at a distance, and said to Moses, "You speak to us, and we will listen; but do not let God speak to us, or we will die." Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid; for God has come only to test you and to put the fear of him upon you so that you do not sin."

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 119

ST. ANNE

(all singing)

**The heav'ns de-clare your glo-ry, Lord, the work you hands have made;
Your pow-er day by day is shown and night by night displayed.**

**There is no ut-ter-ance or speech, no voice is ev-er heard,
Yet ev-'ry na-tion hears the sound and ev-'ry place their word.**

**It runs from East to far-thest West to make its course com-plete,
And noth-ing in the world be-neath es-cap-es its scorch-ing heat.**

THE SECOND READING

Philippians 3:4b-14

Lector *The Second Reading is taken from Philippians chapter 3...*

If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless. Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith

in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

All stand as able.

THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELLACOMBE

(all singing)

Your crea-tures live in every land; they fill the sky and sea.

O Lord, you give us your com-mand to love them ten-der-ly.

We're called to have do-min-ion here—to care for them al-ways.

By lov-ing crea-tures you hold dear, we of-fer you our praise.

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THE GOSPEL

Matthew 21:33-46

Please stand.

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

People **Glory be to thee, O Lord.**

Deacon Jesus said, "Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went to another country. When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. Again he sent other slaves, more than the first; and they treated them in the same way. Finally he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, 'This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.'" So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?" They said to him, "He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time." Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the scriptures: 'The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord's doing, and it is amazing in our eyes?' Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom. The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and it will crush anyone on whom it falls." When the chief

priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.

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

The people sit.

REFLECTION

The Rev. Whitney Burton

All stand as able.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

People **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.**

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE *Please sit or stand as you prefer.*

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

Lector 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. Even the plants praise God, with their beauty. We give thanks for the flowers given in memory of Stanley Cichocki and Patricia Drega. We also give thanks to God for the birthdays this coming week of Kam McDaniel, Michael Lloveras, Nicholas Wilbur, and Bonnie Staatz, and for those celebrating anniversaries this week, Scott & Diane Hood, and Stephen & Priscilla Gill. Let us, then, praise God, saying:

People **Blessed be God for ever.**

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

People **Blessed be God for ever.**

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

People **Blessed be God for ever.**

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

People **Blessed be God for ever.**

Lector 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.

People **Blessed be God for ever.**

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

People **Blessed be God for ever.**

Lector 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.

People **Amen.**

The Celebrant adds a concluding collect.

CONFESSIO & ABSOLUTION *Please stand as able.*

Deacon Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor. (*Silence is kept.*)

People **Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. AMEN.**

Celebrant Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.

All **AMEN.**

THE GREETING OF PEACE

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

All may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

OFFERTORY

Morning Has Broken

arr. Larry Shackley

All stand as able.

THE PRESENTATION

Deacon We gladly present the fruits of our lives to the God who creates us, redeems us and sustains us. May we have the grace to use them to heal God's world.

PRESENTATION HYMN

OLD HUNDREDTH

**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. Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING: Eucharistic Prayer B

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

Celebrant *(Here a proper preface is read.)*

Therefore, we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

All **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

The Celebrant continues

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body,

which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me." Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

Celebrant and People **We remember his death, We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;**

The Celebrant continues

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with [_____ and] all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Celebrant And now as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,
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 BREAKING OF THE BREAD

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated bread. A period of silence is kept.

Celebrant The Gifts of God for the People of God.

All are invited to receive the Sacrament. If you would like to receive wine you may do so by sipping from the Chalice or allowing the Eucharistic Minister to intinct (dip) the wafer for you.

If you desire a blessing instead of Communion, cross your arms over your chest.

COMMUNION AND BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

The Priest will stand at the top of the center aisle and bless the animals.

- *Those with pets who wish to have communion, go to the Deacon for communion, then to Whitney for the blessing.*
- *Those without pets who wish to receive communion go straight to Deacon Cindy.*
- *Those with pets who do not wish to receive communion go to Whitney to have the pet blessed but then bypass the communion station and go back to their seats.*

Creative God, You Spread the Earth Traditional English Melody

Creative God, you spread the earth with life in many forms:
The deer and elk and columbine, the bee in humming swarms.
Forgive us for each flow'r and bird now vanished by our hand.
Teach us to treat with loving care the creatures of the land.

The planet teemed with living things before all human birth,
And even fire and beasts of prey renewed the life of earth.
Forgive us, that, the last to come, we threaten sea and air.
Teach us to tend life's fragile web with wise and tender care.

O playful God, you fill the field with lavender and blue.
You paint the bird with indigo, with red or tawny hue.
Forgive us that we grieve your heart, destroying what you do,
And teach us simpler, gentler ways to live on earth with you.

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By Ruth Duck, 1991

THE PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Celebrant 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.

All **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.**

Celebrant 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.

People **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

Celebrant 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.

People **Amen.**

THE SENDING HYMN

For the Beauty of the Earth

DIX

**For the beauty of the earth, for the glory of the skies,
For the love which from our birth over and around us lies:
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.**

**For the wonder of each hour of the day and of the night,
hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light:
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.**

**For thyself, best gift divine to the world so freely given;
for that great, great love of thine, peace on earth and joy in heaven:
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.**

THE DISMISSAL

Deacon Go in peace to love and serve the Lord!

People **Thanks be to God!**

SERVING US TODAY

Celebrant	The Rev. Whitney Burton
Deacon	The Rev. Cindy Roehl
Organist/Choirmaster	Tom Huffman
Crucifer/Server	Pat Cates
Torch/Chalicists	Gerry Boone & Brett Dickey
Lectors	Sandy Kneen & Sally Miller
Prayers of the People	Brett Dickey
Ushers	Steve & Caroline Maisel
Building & Grounds	Robin Megel
Welcome Table	Robin Megel, Lynne Henderson, Anne Punch
Soloist	Tony Halfhide

Announcements

Walking the Mourner's Path: We are offering this 8-week workshop program beginning the second week of October. This is different than other grief programs in that it is Christ-centered and allows you to find an answer to the question "Where is God in my pain?" By inviting God into the pain, healing occurs. For more information, please contact The Rev. (Deacon) Cindy Roehl.

Before You Knew Me: There is a richness in our backgrounds that is waiting to be turned into living color, uncovered and shared. For three weeks, Oct 10, 17, and 24, we will meet in the Patio Room from 6:30 PM – 7:45 PM for a fun way to learn about each other. Snacks will be served.

Stewardship Kickoff Sunday: This year's stewardship campaign will kick off on Sunday, Oct 22 with all celebrating together at one combined service at 9:00 AM.

Ministry Fair: Come learn about the many programs and ministries offered here at COGS. We will have our annual Ministry Fair immediately following the 9:00 AM service on Sunday, Oct 22.

Game Night: Join us October 20 at 6 PM in the Patio Room as we play your favorites and/or learn new games. Please RSVP to the office as a light supper will be provided for attendees. Bring your own beverage and a game to share.

Soul Sisters: Please join us for our October Soul Sisters meeting Saturday, October 21. We will have Nancy Blount from "Support the Girls" to talk to us about her organization. Soul Sisters begins at 9:30 AM and we meet in Kirk Hall. Look for the flyer between services.

Sunday Morning Christian Formation Classes: Adult classes are at 9:15 AM, and the Children's Sunday School are at 10:00 AM. We hope you will join us!



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