

# Blessing of the Animals



October 6, 2024



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Sunday Services at 8 and 10 AM • Wednesday at 6 PM  
**Our Sunday 10 AM service is livestreamed**

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## WELCOME TO GOOD SHEPHERD

**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!

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**A Gentle Reminder: Please enter the worship space quietly and reverently and silence your phones.**

# GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

**VOLUNTARY**

For the Beauty of the Earth

John Leavitt

*[During the Voluntary, please prepare for worship by observing attentive silence.]*

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

**ENTRANCE HYMN H-8**

Morning Has Broken

BUNESSAN

*(stanzas 1,2,6)*

**Morning has broken like the first morning, black bird has spoken like the first bird.  
Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning! Praise for them, springing fresh from the  
Word!**

**Sweet the rain's new fall sunlit from heaven, like the first dewfall on the first grass.  
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden, sprung in completeness where his feet pass.**

**Mine is the sunlight! Mine is the morning born of the one light Eden saw play!  
Praise with elation, praise every morning, God's recreation, of the new day!**

## THE OPENING ACCLAMATION

*Celebrant* Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

*People* **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

## COLLECT FOR PURITY

*All* **Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you  
no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of  
your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your  
holy Name; through Christ our Lord. 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

Job 1:1, 2:1-10

*Lector*      *The First Reading is taken from Job chapters 1 and 2...*

There was once a man in the land of Uz whose name was Job. That man was blameless and upright, one who feared God and turned away from evil. One day the heavenly beings came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan also came among them to present himself before the Lord. The Lord said to Satan, "Where have you come from?" Satan answered the Lord, "From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking up and down on it." The Lord said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man who fears God and turns away from evil. He still persists in his integrity, although you incited me against him, to destroy him for no reason." Then Satan answered the Lord, "Skin for skin! All that people have they will give to save their lives. But stretch out your hand now and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will curse you to your face." The Lord said to Satan, "Very well, he is in your power; only spare his life." So Satan went out from the presence of the Lord, and inflicted loathsome sores on Job from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head. Job took a potsherd with which to scrape himself, and sat among the ashes. Then his wife said to him, "Do you still persist in your integrity? Curse God, and die." But he said to her, "You speak as any foolish woman would speak. Shall we receive the good at the hand of God, and not receive the bad?" In all this Job did not sin with his lips.

*Lector*      The Word of the Lord.

*People*      **Thanks be to God.**



1 Let this be my su - preme de - sire, my ob - ject  
 2 To lead a blame - less life, O Lord, to trust you  
 3 To walk be - fore you in the truth, to shun all  
 4 Let this be my su - preme de - sire, my ob - ject

and my prayer, un - til I stand be -  
 with - out fear, to bring my hum - ble  
 e - vil ways, to come in - to your  
 and my prayer, un - til I stand be -

fore your throne to glo - ri - fy you there:  
 heart to you and know your love is near:  
 house to pray and shout a - loud your praise:  
 fore your throne to glo - ri - fy you there!

**THE SECOND READING**

Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:5-12

*Lector*      *The Second Reading is taken from Hebrews chapters 1 and 2...*

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs. Now God did not subject the coming world, about which we are speaking, to angels. But someone has testified somewhere, "What are human beings that you are mindful of them, or mortals, that you care for them? You have made them for a little while lower than the angels; you have crowned them with glory and honor, subjecting all things under their feet." Now in subjecting all things to them, God left nothing outside their control. As it is, we do not yet see everything in subjection to them, but we do see Jesus, who for a little while was made lower than the angels, now crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone. It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing

many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings. For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, saying, “I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters, in the midst of the congregation I will praise you.”

*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**

Mark 10:2-16

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

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

*Deacon*        Some Pharisees came, and to test Jesus they asked, “Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?” He answered them, “What did Moses command you?” They said, “Moses allowed a man to write a certificate of dismissal and to divorce her.” But Jesus said to them, “Because of your hardness of heart he wrote this commandment for you. But from the beginning of creation, ‘God made them male and female.’ ‘For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.’ So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate.” Then in the house the disciples asked him again about this matter. He said to them, “Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her; and if she divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery.” People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, “Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it.” And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.

*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 solidarity with those affected by Hurricane Helene. 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.*

## **CONFESSION & 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**

*Please be seated.*

**OFFERTORY** Creative God, You Spread the Earth Traditional English Meloday  
Miranda Harrison-Quillin, Soloist

*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

*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 H-380**

OLD HUNDREDTH

*(stanza 3)*

**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.**

## **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 adds a proper preface*

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:

## **Sanctus S-125** *All*

Richard Proulx

**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. 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,

*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 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 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 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 FRACTION ANTHEM**

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;  
therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

## 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.*

Let All Things Now Living

Larry Shackley  
Jason Krug

## 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.**

*(stanzas 1,4)*

**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]**

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

**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
Ministry Intern	Miranda Harrison-Quillin
Crucifer/Server	Pat Cates
Torch/Chalicists	Cheryl Sharpe & Linda Wells
Lectors	Mary Ratliff & Sally Miller
Prayers of the People	Mary Ratliff
Ushers	Crystal Collyer & Ayden Watson Caroline & Steve Maisel
Building & Grounds	Pat Cates
Welcome Table	Maureen Belote

## **Prayers are requested for:**

**The Week of September 29** – Gene B, Gerry B, Mike T, Baby Summer, Nels A, Judith A, Mandeville P, Eva P, Mavis S, Jacki P, Enez P, Lita Gaye L, Becky G, Hazel, Hilda, Mary Ann D, Helen H, Dustin B, Frank N, Tony B, Anne C, Lynne H

**Celebrations this week: Birthdays** – Nancy Valley, Sandra Powers, Kam McDaniel, Michael Lloveras, Nicholas Wilbur

**Anniversaries** – Diane and Scott Hood

## **Announcements**

**Miranda's Last Sunday** – Stay for coffee hour to celebrate Miranda's ministry at Good Shepherd.

**Hurricane Relief** – Give Locally to support Hurricane recovery by giving to the Rector's Discretionary fund and writing "Hurricane Relief" in the memo line. You can also give through Realm. Give Globally by giving to Episcopal Relief & Development/Hurricane Relief Fund at [www.episcopalrelief.org](http://www.episcopalrelief.org).

**Donations for Suncoast Animal League** – All donations of pet supplies given today will be taken to Suncoast Animal League.

**Rector's Discretionary Fund** – All loose offerings given during October 6<sup>th</sup> services are earmarked for the Rector's Discretionary Fund (RDF.) This fund assists individuals and families in the Dunedin and Clearwater area in affording utility costs. Please give generously as the RDF is funded solely by donations.

**Choir Returns Next Sunday, October 13** – Regular choir season resumes with the first rehearsal this Thursday, October 10 from 5:00-6:30 p.m. in the choir room. All singers are welcome who are willing to commit to the weekly rehearsal and to sing at the 10:00 service each week. We have some exciting music to learn and offer in worship this year. Contact Organist/Choirmaster Tom Huffman for more information.

**Fall Craft & Quilt Sale** – The weekend of October 12, 10 AM-2 PM, and October 13, 9 AM-2 PM COGS Crafters will offer a variety of everyday and seasonal, unique, handmade items for sale. Raffle tickets for the Carpenter Wheel Quilt are 1 for \$5 or 5 for \$20. All proceeds benefit Pack-A-Sack.

**Book Club** – Join Rev. Whitney for our first meeting of Book Club on October 13<sup>th</sup> at 11:45 AM. Bring your book suggestions as the first meeting will be about selecting the club's first read. Book club will meet on second Sundays after the 10 AM service.

**Exploring the Minor Prophets** – Join us Wednesdays at 12:30 PM for this Bible Study series. Books are available for \$10.

**Soul Sisters** – The October meeting of the Soul Sisters will take place in Kirk Hall on Saturday October 19 at 10 AM. Our speaker will be Adam Kulig from the Tarpon Springs Shepherd Center. All women of the parish are invited to attend.