



# St. Francis Day: Liturgy for the Blessing of the Animals

Opening Sentence (from Psalm 24:1):

Leader: *The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it,*

All: *The world and all who dwell therein.*

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## Opening Song

“All Things Bright and Beautiful”

*Hymn 405 Verses 1 and 5*

*Refrain*



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



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



Each lit - tle flower that o - pens, each lit - tle bird that sings,



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.



how great is God Al - might - y, who has made all things well.



## Opening Prayer

**Leader:**

Let us pray.

God of all creation, you made the earth and called it good. You filled it with living creatures, great and small, and you entrusted us to care for them as our companions and helpers. Today we thank you for the animals who share our lives and bring us joy. Help us to be kind and gentle stewards of your creation, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All:** *Amen.*

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## Story from Scripture

**Reader:**

A Reading from Genesis 1:24-31 (adapted for children):

God said, “Let the earth bring forth every kind of animal — livestock, creatures that crawl, and wild animals.” And it was so. God made them all and saw that it was good. Then God said, “Let us make humankind in our image... and let them care for all the animals.” And God blessed them and said, “See, I have given you every living thing — they are yours to care for.” And God saw everything that God had made, and indeed, it was very good.

**Reader:**

The Word of the Lord.

**All:** *Thanks be to God.*

## Children's Songs

### "I Can Sing"

Oh I can sing. God made me

Oh, I can sing God made me

Oh, I can sing God made me.

God made me.

La La La la la la

La la la la la la

La la la la la la

La La La

Oh, I can clap. . .

Clap clap clap . . .

Oh I can laugh . . .

Ha ha ha . . .

## **“If I Were a Butterfly”**

If I were a butterfly, I'd thank you Lord, for giving me  
wings

if I were a Robin in a tree, I'd thank you Lord, that I  
can sing

And if I were a fish in the sea, I'd wiggle my tail and I'd  
giggle with glee.

But I just thank you Father for making me me.

### **Chorus**

For you gave me a heart and you gave me a smile.

You gave me Jesus and you made me your child.

So I just thank you Father for making me me.

If I were an elephant, I'd thank you Lord for raising  
my trunk

If I were a kangaroo, you know I'd hop right up to you.

And if I were an octopus, I'd thank you Lord, for my  
good looks

But I just thank you Father for making me me.

### **Chorus**

If I were a wiggly worm, I'd thank you, Lord, that I can  
squirm

If I were a fuzzy wuzzy bear, I'd thank you, Lord, for  
my fuzzy wuzzy hair

And if I were a crocodile, I'd thank you, Lord, for my  
big smile

But I just thank you Father for making me me.

## **“My God is So Big”**

### **Chorus**

My God is so big so strong and so mighty

There's nothing my God cannot do.

My God is so big so strong and so mighty

There's nothing my God cannot do.

My God is so big so strong and so mighty

There's nothing my God cannot do.

The Mountains are his

The rivers are his

The stars are his handiwork, too.

My God is so big so strong and so mighty

There's nothing my God cannot do.

## **Brief Reflection**

*The Rev. Stewart Tabb*

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## **Prayers for All Creation**

**Leader:** Let us offer prayers for all God's creatures.

After each prayer, respond:

**All:** *Amen! Alleluia*

- For the animals we love, that they may be healthy, happy, and cared for.
- *Amen! Alleluia*
- For all creatures in the wild, that their homes may be protected.
- *Amen! Alleluia*

- For animals who are sick, lost, or abused, that they may find healing and safety.
- *Amen! Alleluia*
- For veterinarians, animal shelters, and all who care for creatures in need.
- *Amen! Alleluia*
- For the animals that we have loved but who have died and now live with you.
- *Amen! Alleluia*
- For ourselves, that we may learn to live gently and lovingly with all God's creation.
- *Amen! Alleluia*

### **Concluding Prayer:**

Loving God, Creator of all, hear our prayers. Help us to live as friends to every creature and faithful caretakers of the earth you have made. Amen.

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### **The Blessing of the Animals**

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### **Closing Prayer of Thanksgiving**

#### **Leader:**

Gracious God, we thank you for the wonder of creation and the joy these animals bring into our lives. May we always remember that we are part of one family — your family — with every living thing. Help us to walk gently on the Earth and love as Jesus loved.

## Closing Songs

“This Little Light of Mine”

“Shalom”

### **Blessing & Dismissal**

**Leader:**

May the God who created all living things bless you  
and keep you.

May Christ, who loved all creatures, walk beside you.  
And may the Spirit, who gives life to the world, fill you  
with joy and peace.

**All:** *Amen.*

**Leader:**

Go in peace to love and care for all God’s creation.

**All:** *Thanks be to God!*

### **“The Bell Song”**

*Go now in peace.*

*Go now in peace.*

*May the love of God surround you.*

*Everywhere, everywhere, You may go.*

# *In Our Prayers*

Alexander Beamon, Joe Beck, Gloria Carter, Billy Clark, Linda Day, Elaine Evans, Diane Forrest, Sam Hedgecock, Kate Hien, Kris Huddle, Katie Hughes, Bryan Knight, Shana Paul, Sydney Ruloph, Diane Shepheard, Nancy Whitman, and Margaret Wynn.

We pray for Sean our Presiding Bishop, Susan our Bishop, Stewart our Rector, and Genevieve our Deacon.

We pray for the people of Ascension, that formed by our Baptismal promises we might embody God's community of Shalom in the world.

We give thanks for the dedicated teachers and staff of Ascension Episcopal Day School, as well as its children and their families.

We give thanks for the birthday of Suzi Montagna (10/10).

We give thanks for the anniversary of Tim & Libby Trampenau (10/6).

We give thanks for all who serve on Altar Guild.



# Announcements

**We are grateful for Karla Stead** for playing the piano for us today. Thank you, Karla!

**Roy's ROMEOs will return on Monday, October 13<sup>th</sup>** to The Royal Garden Chinese Restaurant, located at 155 W Ocean View Ave, between Duffy's Lane and 1st View St, in the Ocean View Shopping Center. Lunch will start at 11:30am, as usual. Please come and join us for good food, fun, and fellowship!

**Facebook Livestream** Please remember that services are livestreamed to Facebook each week for those who are unable to attend. If you prefer not to appear on the livestream, please choose a seat towards the back of the church. We move the cameras during Communion to avoid filming. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

**Food Pantry Needs!** The Food Pantry has begun its preparations for Thanksgiving when we give out extra food to make a Thanksgiving feast. You can help by bringing in cranberry sauce, canned pumpkin, yams, gravy packets, stuffing mix, other trimmings, and by providing financial help. Turkeys will, of course, be required closer to November. Thank you!

## **Outreach, Collections, & Opportunities**

**Catholic Worker** is in need of large cans of coffee, caffeinated only. Any brand is fine. There is still a continuing need for white socks. Thank you!

**Reminder:** The deadline for announcements is Tuesday at 5pm. Announcements received after that time may not make it into the bulletin or the emailed announcements.

## Weekly Studies:

**Tuesday Centering Prayer** meets at 7:45am on Tuesdays on Zoom for one hour. The meeting opens at 7:30 for chatting, then at 7:45 we proceed with the reading of a psalm, 20 minutes of silent prayer/meditation followed by a discussion of the reading. The group is currently reading *The Great Search: Turning to Earth and Soul in the Quest for Healing and Home* by John Philip Newell. We are a diverse group with members joining from three countries and various religious backgrounds. You are invited to join us at any time. To get on the Zoom invite list, please contact Anji Harris (anjiharris54@gmail.com) or Sally Miller (757-489-5293 or [samiller903@yahoo.com](mailto:samiller903@yahoo.com)).

**Re-Imagining Church** meets on Thursdays at 8am. The meeting serves as a time of spiritual reflection and planning as we listen for and try to follow God's call to Ascension. Please join us; your perspective may be how God is informing us what we should be doing next.

### Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86978887176?pwd=xI7YlfzPv6WROI0aGIKgWT6z7tYg2c.1>

**Meeting ID:** 869 7888 7176    **Passcode:** 171544

**Thursday Mid-Morning Seekers' Bible Study** will watch a video, read scripture passages, and discuss the questions together. I recommend joining the meeting early in case you have any issues getting connected. I hope to see everyone on Thursday at 10:00 am! If you are not on the email group or have trouble accessing the Zoom, please contact Susan Meredith at [merbec@cox.net](mailto:merbec@cox.net) or 757-617-1959.

**Meeting ID:** 810 7002 6611    **Passcode:** Bible

## **A Look at the Week Ahead:**

### **Tuesday**

7:30 am Centering Prayer – Zoom

10:00 am Food Pantry - Pantry

11:30 am Building & Grounds – Rose Hall

### **Wednesday**

6:00 pm Small Group Study - Zoom

### **Thursday**

8:00 am Re-Imagining Church - Zoom

10:00 am Food Pantry – Pantry

10:00 am Mid-Morning Seeker's Bible Study – Zoom

### **Sunday**

8:45 am Godly Play – Parish Hall

8:45 am Coffee & Adult Formation – From Hall for  
Coffee to Lounge

10:00 am Holy Eucharist Rite II - Sanctuary

OUR VISION IS  
Honoring the Past  
Looking Forward in Hope  
Be the Face of Healing  
Healing is the Core Value

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**Your Vestry is here to serve you!**

\*Senior Warden    +Junior Warden    ^Register

**Clergy**

**Bishop** The Right Reverend Susan Haynes

**Rector** The Reverend Stewart Tabb

**Deacon** The Reverend Genevieve Nelson

**Guest Pianist** Karla Stead

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