

Blessing of the Animals

Sunday, October 2, 2022, 10 am

St. Martin's Episcopal Church

257 E. Milton, corner of Milton & Williams, Lebanon



WELCOME VISITORS

Please bring animals on a leash or in a carrier.

~ OR ~

*Bring photos or stuffed animals
if your pet is not good around lots of people and other animals*

Opening Song *'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.*

Verse 1* Each little flower that opens, each little bird that sings, he made their glowing colors, he made their tiny wings.
Refrain

Verse 2* The purple headed mountains, The rivers running by. The sunset and the morning, that brightens up the sky.
Refrain

Leader: Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

People: **And blessed be God's kingdom now and forever.
 Amen.**

A Prayer for Joy in God's Creation *(say together)*

A portion of Psalm 148

- ¹ Hallelujah! Praise the Lord from the heavens; *
 praise him in the heights.
- ³ **Praise him, sun and moon; ***
 praise him, all you shining stars.
- ⁵ Let them praise the Name of the Lord; *
 for he commanded, and they were created.
- 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 winged birds;
- 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 splendor is over earth and heaven.
Hallelujah!

A Prayer attributed to St. Francis *(said in Unison)*

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.

Litany of Prayers

Leader: Gracious and Ever living God, for all your creatures that breathe and move and have life,

All: We thank you, Lord.

Leader: For each pet we treasure with care and all your creatures everywhere entrusted to your never-failing care

All: We thank you, Lord.

Leader: For birds and beasts, fish and fowl, creatures of such variety and beauty that we are continuously amazed at your divine imagination,

All: We thank you, Lord.

Leader: For our greatest grandfather, Adam, who in the Garden of Eden gifted each animal with its own name

All: We thank you, Lord.

Leader: For our ancient ancestor Noah, who built the ark and welcomed aboard animals of all kinds,

All: We thank you, Lord.

Leader: For sheep and goats, donkeys and cows, doves and serpents, fish and birds, who were blessed by Jesus, your Son, by his being born in their midst and by his making use of them in his teachings,

All: We thank you, Lord.

Leader: For St. Francis of Assisi, who rejoiced in the beauty of your Creation and all your creatures,

All: We thank you, Lord.

Leader: We commend to your care all our animal friends who
have died, asking that you comfort us in our sorrow for
our loss,

All: *Hear Us, Lord for your mercy is great.*

*For the blessing of the animals, Kay will come around the group
of animals.*

Blessing of the Animals ~

Blessing Prayer ~

Blessed are you, Lord God, maker of all living creatures. On
the first and sixth days of creation, you called forth fish in the
sea, birds in the air, and animals on the land. You inspired St.
Francis to call all of them his brothers and sisters. We ask you
to bless the animals and all living creatures. By the power of
your love, enable them to live according to your plan. May we
always praise you for all your beauty in creation. Blessed are
you, Lord our God, in all your creatures! **Amen.**

Song **'All God's Critters Got a Place in the Choir'**

Refrain: *All God's critters got a place in the choir
Some sing low, some sing higher,
Some sing out loud on the telephone wire,
And some just clap their hands or paws
or anything they got, now...*

Listen to the bass, it's the one on the bottom
Where the bullfrog croaks and the hippopotamus
Moans and groans with a big t'do,
And the old cow just goes "Moo." (Moo!) *Refrain*

The dogs and the cats they take up the middle,
While the honeybee hums and the cricket fiddles.
The donkey brays and the pony neighs,
And the old coyote howls. (Ooo!) *Refrain*

Listen to the top where the little birds sing

on the melodies with the high notes ringing.
The hoot owl hollers over everything,
And the jaybird disagrees. (Skwaak!)

Refrain

Singing in the nighttime, singing in the day
The little duck quacks, then he's on his way.
The possum ain't got much to say,
And the porcupine talks to himself.

Refrain

It's a simple song of living sung everywhere
By the ox and the fox and the grizzly bear,
The grumpy alligator and the hawk above,
The sly raccoon and the turtle dove.

Refrain

Dismissal:

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia, alleluia!
Thanks be to God, Alleluia, Alleluia

* * *

***Please join us for refreshments after the
service. Good eatin's for animals and the
folks that brought/blessed them!***

* * *

St. Francis and the Wolf

Once a wolf terrorized the inhabitants of the small Italian town. Not only did the wolf kill and devour livestock but it began to attack and devour humans. All attempts to kill the wolf failed and the people of the town would literally shut the town down in fear whenever the wolf appeared. St. Francis heard of this and decided to go and meet the wolf. The huge wolf rushed toward Francis as soon as he

saw the saint approaching his lair. St. Francis made the sign of the cross and commanded the wolf in the name of God to stop his terrorizing of the town. Immediately, the wolf became docile before the saint. Francis went on to condemn the wolf for his attacks not just on animals but upon men and women who are made in the image of God. Francis told the wolf that if he ended his attacks he would see to it that the inhabitants of Gubbio would provide him with the food he needed.

The story goes that the wolf placed his paw in Francis' hand in agreement. Francis then walked the docile wolf back into the main square of Gubbio to the astonishment of the inhabitants and there reiterated the promise. Again, the wolf placed his paw in the saint's hand in agreement. The saint had tamed the wolf.

<https://www.wordonfire.org/resources/blog/st-francis-and-the-wolf-of-gubbio/19972/>



*Thanks to our local animal shelters for their
love of all God Creatures!*



All God's
Creatures



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