



Blessing of the Animals

Augsburg University Daily Chapel

Friday, October 1, 2021

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND INVOCATION

GATHERING SONG

"You and I"

by Laurence Cole

OPENING READING

A Reading from Nancy Swartz,
In Our Image: God's First Creatures:

One: In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth and the light and the darkness. And the waters and the land, and the trees and the plants. And the sun and the moon and the stars. And the fish in the waters and the birds in the sky. And all the wild creatures upon the earth.

All: And God saw that it was good. But something was missing.

And God said, "Let us make humans in Our image, after our likeness." The animals asked, "Are You speaking to us?" And God said, "Yes. I am speaking to all that I have created. Humankind shall be a part of nature, like each of you. Let us give our gifts to humanity..." The animals each thought about which gift they could give so they would always feel connected to human beings.

"Make them brave," growled the tiger.

"Gentle," baaaaed the lamb.

"Make them quiet," whispered the clam.

"Hard working," said the ant.

"Make them fast," growled the cheetah.

"Keep them busy," buzzed the bee.

"Graceful," said the swan.

"Curious," chattered the chimpanzee.

"Let them mind their own business," said the ostrich!

"Give them voices that sing," sang the nightingale.

"Good hearing," screeched the owl.

"Good vision," said the hawk.

"A good appetite," said the shark!

And so God created humankind. In the image of God and in the image of all na-

ture, God created them. And nature lived with humankind. All lived together as one family.

All: And God saw that it was very good.

PSALMODY: Circle of Praise – A Version of Psalm 148

All dogs and cats, large and small

Praise the Lord!

All rabbits, hamsters, and guinea pigs:

Praise the Lord!

All goldfish, guppies, and swimming creatures:

Praise the Lord!

All robins, wrens, and singing birds:

Praise the Lord!

All bats, squirrels, and raccoons:

Praise the Lord!

All horses, cows, and sheep:

Praise the Lord!

All lizards, snakes and creeping things:

Praise the Lord!

Every animal in the sky, the sea, and the forest:

Praise the Lord!

REFLECTION

Jennifer Troy
Paws for Learning

PRAYER OF BLESSING

God who loves the whole world,

we pray for our friends, the animals.

We give you thanks for all the animals in the whole wide world—

and give thanks for all they have done for us

in carrying our burdens,

in companionship

and in giving service to humankind since the world began.

We remember animals who are suffering in any way—
for those who are hurt or neglected
for those who are hunted or lost, deserted or hungry
for those who are endangered.

Forgive us for the times we have destroyed the homes of animals
in the forests, oceans or fields.

We thank you for blessing us with the unconditional love of our pets, so that
our pets make You better known to us.

Make us good partners and lovers of the animals you have entrusted to us.

We pray for your mercy, comfort and blessing for all animals.

Let everyone say:....Amen.

Those with animals or pictures of their beloved companion are welcomed
to come to the center for a blessing. The liturgist will ask the name of the
animal and offer this blessing:

BLESSING (based on Psalm 148)

L: Praise God for (name of animal),
And bless (name of animal),
A creature of God's creating.

C: **Thanks be to God for (name of animal)!**

SENDING HYMN Let All Things Now Living

1 Let all things now liv - ing a song of thanks - giv - ing to
2 God rules all the forc - es: the stars in their cours-es and

God the cre - a - tor tri - um - phant - ly raise,
sun in its or - bit o - be - dient - ly shine;



who fash - ioned and made us, pro - tect - ed and stayed us, who
the hills and the moun - tains, the riv - ers and foun - tains, the

still guides us on to the end of our days.
deeps of the o - cean pro - claim God di - vine.

God's ban - ners are o'er us, God's light goes be -
We too should be voic - ing our love and re -

fore us, a pil - lar of fire shin - ing forth in the night,
joic - ing; with glad ad - o - ra - tion a song let us raise

till shad - ows have van - ished and dark - ness is ban - ished, as
till all things now liv - ing u - nite in thanks - giv - ing: "To

for - ward we trav - el from light in - to light.
God in the high - est, ho - san - na and praise!"

Text: Katherine K. Davis, 1892–1980, alt.
Music: THE ASH GROVE, Welsh folk tune
Text © 1939, 1966 E. C. Schirmer Music Company.

BENEDICTION & DISMISSAL

May God
help us to save our animals from danger as Noah did.
help us to love them and care for them as St. Francis did.
and when we see the animals that God has made,
learn from them how to sing God's praise.

In the name of the Creator
(who thought up the giraffe and the zebra)
and of the Jesus
(who was named after the beautiful white Lamb)
and the Holy Spirit (who came to us as a Dove).
Amen.

Go in peace. Serve and love all creatures!
Thanks be to God!

WORSHIP LEADERS

Liturgist: Rev. Babette Chatman, Univeristy Pastor

Speakers: Jennifer Troy, Paws for Learning

Organist/Pianist: Andrea Sorum, Campus Ministry Musician

CREDIT

Blessing the Animals © Jan L. Richardson. janrichardson.com.

A special THANK YOU to Jennifer Troy, Executive Director of Paws for Learning, for joining us today with her furry friends. Paws For Learning provides K9 assisted academic support teams and K9 assisted care teams in schools and colleges and also in communities in the wake of tragic loss.

Paws For Learning provides a unique learning environment between adult volunteers, their canine companions and so many students, staff and families in Minnesota. School communities can see the real difference our ongoing visits make in the lives of students. Together we can help students as they improve their skills in the areas of math, reading, writing, work completion, attendance, time on task, wellness, or social-emotional/behavioral health. For more information and to learn how you can support Jennifer in her work: www.pawsforlearning.org

St. Francis of Assisi: On October 4, people all over the world are celebrating St. Francis Day in honor of the Patron Saint of Animals, Saint Francis of Assisi. In remembrance of his love for all sentient beings, guardians sometimes take their animal companions to church for a Blessing of the Animals.

UPCOMING DAILY CHAPEL

MWF @ 10:40am & TTh @ 11:30am

Monday, October 4 at 10:40 am: Centering Prayer for Healing, Justice, and Hope

Tuesday, October 5 - No Chapel - Christensen Symposium

Wednesday, October 6 at 10:40 am: Ciara Kowalczyk, Urban Servant Corps

