

*Humanity was not created to preside over all other creatures,  
but to live in harmony with them.*

– Ashley Montagu

THE FIRST PARISH CHURCH IN WESTON, U.U.

Weston, Massachusetts

*Gathered in 1698*

ORDER OF SERVICE

October 4, 2020

18th Sunday after Pentecost / The Feast of St. Francis

Annual Blessing of the Animals

PRELUDE: “Little Bird,” Op. 43, No 4 by Edvard Grieg (1843-1907)

“The Swan,” from *Carnival of the Animals* by Camille Saint-Saëns (1835-1921)

“The Hen” by Jean-Philippe Rameau (1683-1764)

CALL TO WORSHIP

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

\*HYMN: “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.**

**1. Each little flower that opens, each little bird that sings,  
God made their glowing colors, and made their tiny wings.**

Refrain

**2. The purple-headed mountain, the river running by,  
the sunset, and the morning that brightens up the sky.**

Refrain

**3. The cold wind in the winter, the pleasant summer sun,  
The ripe fruits in the garden, God made them every one.**

Refrain

Minister: The Peace of God be with you.

People: **And Also with You.**

Minister: Let us pray.

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER, FOLLOWED BY THE LORD’S PRAYER

**Giver and Source of Life and Love, as we gather this day under a colorful canopy of leaves and sky, we are grateful for the bonds we share: with all living things,, with this community, and with you. Remind us that we are just one part of your larger creation. We are one small and recent story in the larger saga of life on this small, beautiful planet, our only home. As we celebrate the animals in our lives this morning, help us to find ways to live more in harmony with all other species and with one another. Inspired by your servant Francis from long ago, may we too remember our kinship to the sun, the moon, and all living things. This we as in the spirit of your son Jesus, who taught us to pray, saying:**

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\*Please rise in body or spirit

**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, the power and the glory.  
Forever and ever. Amen.**

EXCHANGE OF PEACE

CHALICE LIGHTING: Joan and Bob Wilson, with Beau

TIME FOR ALL AGES: Rev. Sarah Napoline

ANTHEM: "Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi" by Richard Smith  
Mary Shaw, soprano soloist, accompanied by Geoffrey Wieting

St. Francis of Assisi, (ca 1181-1226) patron saint of animals and environment could be viewed as the original Earth Day advocate. Francis' devotion to God was expressed through his love for all of God's creation. He was canonized in 1228 and became the patron saint of all of Italy.

READING: Isaiah 11: 1-10 *The vision of the Peaceable Kingdom*

OFFERTORY: "Prayer of the Cat," from *Prayers from the Ark*  
by Ivor R. Davis (1966)

Rose Hegele, soprano, as The Cat; Mary Shaw, TJ Rufo-Curran,  
and Bill Sano as The Feline Chorus

DOXOLOGY

**From all that dwell below the skies,  
Let the Creator's praise arise  
Let the Redeemer's name be sung  
Through every land, by every tongue!**

**Eternal are thy mercies Lord:  
Eternal truth attends thy word;  
Thy praise shall sound from shore to shore,  
Till suns shall rise and set no more.**

REFLECTION: "Mirrors and Webs" – Rev. Jeff Barz-Snell

THE BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

Unison Response: **We bless our fellow creatures, the \_\_\_\_\_** (fill in name of animals)

Minister: We're now going to bless our animals. For each category, we will ask you to say the names of your pets, then we will say a blessing, and then we'll all bless those animals with the unison words below. Please put your hands on your pet as he or she is blessed, and, if you'd like, invite others near you to place their hands on your pet, too.

Unison Responses: **We bless our fellow creatures, the dogs.**  
**We bless our fellow creatures ,the cats.**  
**We bless our fellow creatures, the farm animals.**  
**We bless our fellow creatures, the birds.**  
**We bless our fellow creatures, the stuffed animals.**  
**We bless our fellow creatures, the snakes.**  
**We bless our fellow creatures, the fish.**

Final Unison Response: **We bless all creatures of the earth,**  
**our brothers and sisters and siblings**  
**in the web of life.**

CLOSING SONG: "All God's Creatures Got a Place in the Choir" by Bill Staines

Chorus:

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

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE: "To All Things Now Living" ("Ash Grove")

We invite you to join us on the Playground for a time of socially distanced fellowship and refreshment after the service.

Minister:	Rev. Jeffrey Barz-Snell
Asst. Minister for Families & Community Outreach:	Rev. Sarah Napoline
Organist:	Geoffrey Wieting
Choir Director:	William C. Sano
Youth and Family Ministries Coordinator:	Robert Jones
Fellowship Hour Coordinator:	Paula Leger
Sexton:	Alan Flynn
Parish Administrator:	Betsy Gibson

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE FPCW SOCIAL JUSTICE TASK FORCE will meet today at 2:00 pm on Zoom  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85454254458>; Meeting ID 854 5425 4458

KNITERS & STITCHERS will meet on Monday, Oct. 5<sup>th</sup>, for our weekly gathering at noon on Zoom.  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87947600098>; Meeting ID: 879 4760 0098

SENIOR MEN'S LUNCH will gather on Zoom on Tuesday, Oct. 6, at noon  
<https://uuma.zoom.us/j/96329830871>; Meeting ID: 963 2983 0871

WEDNESDAY MORNING MEDITATION will meet Oct. 7, on Zoom at 8:30 am  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82332140993>; Meeting ID: 823 3214 0993

FPCW BOOK GROUP will meet next on Thursday, Oct. 22, at 9:30 am on Zoom when they will discuss Charles Dickens's *A Tale of Two Cities*. Newcomers are always welcome; if you'd like to be on the mailing list for Zoom log-in information, please contact Betsy Gibson in the Church Office (781.893.7798).

WAYS TO PARTICIPATE IN UPCOMING WORSHIP SERVICES – We are looking for people to participate remotely in upcoming services using video. This includes video-recorded readings and chalice lightings. If you are interested, feel free to reach out to Jeff or Betsy in the Church Office, or simply be on the look-out for upcoming opportunities.