Prayers for Creation & Blessing of the Animals

Feast of Saint Francis, observed
October 4, 2026
10:00 a.m. on the Woodbridge Lawn

The people and animals gather on the lawn.

Presider Blessed be the God of all creation.
People **And blessed be God's holy Name forever.**

Presider God's animals inhabit the skies, the land, and the sea; we share the earth with them, and like them rely on God's blessing to sustain and preserve us. We gather today in communion and friendship with Francis of Assisi, who preached to animals and moved throughout the known world sharing God's unconditional love for all beings.

Presider God be with you.
People **And also with you.**

Let us pray.

Most high, omnipotent, good Lord, grant your people grace to renounce gladly the vanities of this world, that, following the way of blessed Francis, we may for love of you delight in your whole creation with perfect joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Sprit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Scripture
Luke 12:22-32

Lector A reading from Luke.

Jesus said to his disciples, "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat, or about your body, what you will wear. For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing. Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds! And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? If then you are not able to do so small a thing as that, why do you worry about the rest? Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will he clothe you—you of little faith! And do not keep striving for what you are to eat and what you are to drink, and do not keep worrying. For it is the nations of the world that strive after all these things, and your Father knows that you need them. Instead, strive for his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well. Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom."

The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM *read together* Psalm 104:10-25

**You, LORD God, send the springs into the valleys; *
they flow between the mountains.**

**All the beasts of the field drink their fill from them, *
and the wild horses quench their thirst.**

**Beside them the birds of the air make their nests *
and sing among the branches.**

**You water the mountains from your dwelling on high; *
the earth is fully satisfied by the fruit of your works.**

**You make grass grow for flocks and herds *
and plants to serve humankind;**

**That they may bring forth food from the earth, *
and wine to gladden our hearts,**

**oil to make a cheerful countenance, *
and bread to strengthen the heart.**

**The trees of the LORD are full of sap, *
the cedars of Lebanon which God planted,**

**in which the birds build their nests, *
and in whose tops the stork makes a dwelling.**

**The high hills are a refuge for the mountain goats, *
and the stony cliffs for the rock badgers.**

**You appointed the moon to mark the seasons, *
and the sun knows the time of its setting.**

**You make darkness that it may be night, *
in which all the beasts of the forest prowl.**

**The lions roar after their prey *
and seek their food from God.**

**The sun rises, and they slip away *
and lay themselves down in their dens.**

**People go forth to their work *
and to their labor until the evening.**

**O LORD, how manifold are your works! *
In wisdom you have made them all;
the earth is full of your creatures.**

LITANY FOR ALL CREATION

Presider I invite you to name those animals and creatures for whom you care.

The people offer these names out loud or silently, and then the Leader says

Leader Holy God, Creator of heaven and earth,
grant that all your creatures may serve you with thanksgiving;
Pour out your blessing on earth, O God.

Open our eyes to the wonder of creation,
that we may see and serve you in all your works;
Pour out your blessing on earth, O God.

Forgive us who waste and pollute your creation,
and strengthen us to restore what we have disregarded;
Pour out your blessing on earth, O God.

Look with compassion on all who suffer from disregard or pollution,
storms or drought, and uphold their dignity and care;
Pour out your blessing on earth, O God.

Remember those creatures that have died yet remain dear to us,
whom we now name.
(The people remember and pray for departed pets either out loud or silently.)

We carry with us the joy they gave us,
and we pray that they now rejoice in your new creation.
Pour out your blessing on earth, O God.

Presider Holy Immortal One: No sparrow falls without your knowing it; nothing dies but is remembered by you; nothing comes into being that you do not see. Give us courage and resolve to build up the common good, holding fast to the hope of a new creation in which all shall dwell eternally, through Jesus Christ, our Risen Savior.

All **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

source: Martha Blacklock, Mother Thunder Mission

Presider God be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Let us pray.

Holy One, our only Home,
hallowed be your Name.
May your day dawn, your will be done, here as in heaven.
Feed us today, and forgive us as we forgive each other.
Do no forsake us at the test, but deliver us from evil.
For the glory, the power, and the mercy are yours,
now and forever.
Amen.

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

Presider Remembering Francis' love for all of God's creatures,
let us bless and give thanks for the animals entrusted to our care.

Almighty and everlasting God, Creator of all things and Giver of all life:

All **Let your blessing be upon these and all animals.**
May our love and care for them
reflect your compassion and safekeeping
of all creation.
Grant these animals health, peace, and safety.
Strengthen us to love and care for them
following the good example of Francis of Assisi,
through Jesus Christ our Savior.
Amen.

DISMISSAL

Presider Let us bless the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God!**

The ministers circulate among the congregation, blessing the animals individually, with these or similar words

May the God who creates and preserves you bless, defend, heal, and keep you.
May you together find joy, love, and hope, this day and always. **Amen.**

The mission of Christ Church is to be a diverse, inclusive community,
which, through its lively worship of Jesus Christ and witness in His name,
serves the Christ in all persons and shines a beacon of hope throughout the heart of Detroit.

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