

The Blessing of the Animals
Feast Day of St. Francis
October 4, 2019
Pilgrim Place, Claremont, California
Service created by Bear Ride
Other officiants: Susan Craig,
Mary Atwood, Mary Ann Brussat



St. Francis & the Birds Icon by Frederick Franck



Little Library Paintings by Maura Corley

Song of Gathering

(Katherine K. Davis, Tune: The Ash Grove)

Let all things now living a song of thanksgiving
To God our Creator triumphantly raise,
Who fashioned and made us, protected and
stayed us,
by guiding us on to the end of our days.
God's banners are o'er us, pure light goes before
us,
A pillar of fire shining forth in the night,
'Til shadows have vanished, all fearfulness
banished,
As forward we travel from light into light.

By law God enforces, the stars in their courses,
The sun in its orbit, obediently shine;
The hills and the mountains, the rivers and
fountains,
The deeps of the ocean proclaim God divine,
We too should be voicing our love and rejoicing,
With glad adoration a song let us raise,
Till all things now living unite in thanksgiving
To God in the highest, hosanna and praise.

Litany: A Psalm of Praise (148)

Hallelujah!

Praise God from the heavens;
praise God in the heights.

*Praise God, all you holy angels;
praise God, all the heavenly
host.*

Praise God, sun and moon;
praise God, all you shining stars.

*Praise God, heaven of heavens,
and you waters above the
heavens.*

Let them praise God's name,
who commanded, and they were
created.

*Praise God from the earth,
you sea-monsters and all
deeps...*

Wild beasts and all cattle,
creeping things and winged birds;
*Monarchs of the earth and all
peoples,
rulers and all judges of the
world;*

Young men and women,
old and young together.

*Let them praise God's name,
for God's name only is exalted,
and God's splendor is over earth
and heaven.
Hallelujah!*

**God's Delight in Creation
(Homily by Bear Ride)**

The Canticle of Creation by St. Francis

O Most High, all-powerful, good Lord God,
to you belong praise, glory, honor and all
blessing.

Be praised, my Lord, for all your creation
and especially for our Brother Sun,
who brings us the day and the light;
he is strong and shines magnificently.
We think of you when we look at him.

Be praised, my Lord, for Sister Moon,
and for the stars which you have set shining and
lovely in the heavens.

Be praised, my Lord, for our Brothers Wind and
Air and every kind of weather
by which you uphold life in all your creatures.

Be praised, my Lord, for Sister Water,
who is very useful to us, and humble and
precious and pure.

Be praised, my Lord, for Brother Fire,
through whom you give us light in the darkness:
he is bright and lively and strong.

Be praised, my Lord, for Sister Earth, our
Mother, who nourishes us and sustains us,
bringing forth fruits and vegetables of many
kinds and flowers of many colors.

Be praised, my Lord, for those who forgive for
love of you;
and for those who bear sickness and weakness
in peace and patience - you will grant them a
crown.

Be praised, my Lord, for our Sister Death,
whom we must all face.

*We praise and bless you, Lord,
and we give thanks to you,
and we will serve you in all humility.*

Prayer for the Animals

*All: Almighty and everlasting God, Creator of all
things and giver of all life, let your blessing be
upon all these animals. May our relationships
with them mirror your love, and our care for
them be an example of your bountiful mercy.*

*Grant the animals health and peace. Strengthen
us to love and care for them as we strive to
imitate the love of God and God's servant
Francis. Amen.*

Blessing the Animals (by officiants)

[Insert name], you were created by God, and
you are loved by God. May you and your human
family experience joy and companionship
together, and may you continue to be a blessing
to each other. In the name of the Creator and
Lover of us all. Amen.

Remembrance of Those Who Have Died

We remember our animal companions who are
no longer with us physically. We give thanks for
the gifts they gave us and the variety of ways
they enriched and blessed our lives. We are
confident that our Creator continues to bless
them as they are surrounded by divine love.

The Prayer of St. Francis

Leader: Creator of All, make us instruments of
your peace.

All: Where there is hatred, let us sow love;

Leader: Where there is injury, pardon;

All: Where there is doubt, faith;

Leader: Where there is despair, hope;

All: Where there is darkness, light;

Leader: Where there is sadness, joy.

Leader: O Divine Maker, Grant that we may

*All: not so much seek to be consoled as to
console;*

Leader: To be understood as to understand;

All: To be loved as to love.

Leader: For it is in giving that we receive;

All: It is in pardoning that we are pardoned;

Leader: And it is in dying that we are born to
eternal life. Amen

The Blessing from St. Clare

Leader: Live without fear:

your Creator has made you holy,
has always protected you,
and loves you as a mother.

Go now in peace to follow the good road,
and may God's blessing be with you always.
Amen.