



SAINT MARK'S  
EPISCOPAL CATHEDRAL

# A BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

CELEBRATING CREATION  
ON THE FEAST OF  
FRANCIS & CLARE OF ASSISI (TR.)



Saturday, October 3, 2020  
4:30 PM



SAINT MARK'S  
EPISCOPAL CATHEDRAL

*Welcome to Saint Mark's Cathedral. Today we celebrate the Feasts of Francis and Clare of Assisi. Our liturgy is centered around the blessing of animals. We will offer prayers for our animal companions, both current and past, and for the earth, our island home.*

*Your animal companions are most welcome. We will offer socially-distanced individual blessings to animals at the conclusion of the service for those interested.*

*For your safety and the safety of others, please stay in the lawn circle you choose. Restroom attendants are available on the porch if you are in need of the restroom.*

*At the invitation of the Officiant, all rise as able.*

*Officiant* Light and peace be with you all.  
*Assembly* And also with you.

**COLLECT OF THE DAY**

*Officiant* Let us pray.

**B**LESSED are you, living, loving God. All creation praises you, yet you have given the earth into our hands. You made the animals as our companions, that in caring for them we might learn to live and care for all your creatures, and find in them a sign of your grace. As we fulfill this calling may we draw close to you, the giver of life, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*All* Amen.

*Please be seated for the Readings.*

**READING**

*Genesis 1:20–25*

*(from the Jewish Scriptures)*

**A**ND GOD SAID, “Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky.” So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm, and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good. God blessed them, saying, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.” And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

And God said, “Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind.” And it was so. God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind, and the cattle of every kind, and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good.

*Reader* Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.  
*Assembly* Thanks be to God.

**PSALM**

*Psalm 148:7–14 ♦ read by all in unison*

*Laudate Dominum*

SING praise from the earth, \*  
You sea-monsters and all deeps;  
Fire and hail, snow and fog, \*  
    tempestuous wind, doing God's will;  
Mountains and all hills, \*  
    fruit trees and all cedars;  
Wild beasts and all cattle, \*  
    creeping things and winged birds;  
Rulers of the earth and all peoples, \*  
    judges and all leaders of the world;  
Young men and maidens, \*  
    old and young together.  
Let them praise your Name, O God, \*  
    for your Name only is exalted;  
    your splendor is over earth and heaven.  
You have raised up strength for your people  
and praise for all your loyal servants, \*  
    the children of Israel, a people who are near you. Alleluia! ♦

**READING**

*The Summer Day*

*by Mary Oliver*

**VOLUNTARY**

Improvisation on *All things bright and beautiful*

James Falzone

**HOMILY**

Nancy Ross, Cathedral Canon

*Please stand, as able.*

**PRAYERS OF THE ASSEMBLY**

adapted from *The Canticle of the Sun*  
by Francis of Assisi

*Intercessor* Be praised, O God, through our Brother Sun, who brings the day;  
May we share your radiance.

**All Be praised, O God.**

*Intercessor* Through Sister Moon and the stars; in the heavens you have made them.  
May we see what is precious in your sight.

**All Be praised, O God.**

*Intercessor* Through Brothers Wind and Air, and all the weather,  
by which you give your creatures nourishment.  
May we comfort those whom the wind and the rain have distressed.

**All Be praised, O God.**

*Intercessor* Through Sister Water; useful, and humble, and precious, and pure.  
May we all be refreshed, our hearts filled with every need.

**All Be praised, O God.**

*Intercessor* Through Brother Fire, through whom you brighten the night.  
Set us aflame with your love for the whole world.

**All Be praised, O God.**

*Intercessor* Through our sister Mother Earth, who feeds us and rules us,  
and produces fruits, flowers and herbs.

**All Be praised, O God.**

*Intercessor* Through brothers and sisters who forgive for love of you,  
for those who endure sickness and trial,  
and for those who serve the sick, and the needy.

**All Be praised, O God.**

*Intercessor* For our brothers and sisters through time who have died,  
that we may all dwell with you in eternal life.

**All Be praised, O God.**

*Intercessor* Praise and bless my Lord, and give thanks,  
and serve him with great humility.

**All Amen.**

## A PRAYER FOR OUR ANIMAL COMPANIONS WHO HAVE DIED

*Invitation is made for those present to name those beloved animals who have died, either silently or aloud.*

*Officiant* Let us pray.

**G**RACIOUS God, our hearts are filled with the memories of those beloved animal companions who have died, especially those we name aloud or in our hearts. They enriched our lives, and we delighted in their company. We will always remember the loyalty and mischief of these animal friends, and we will always miss them. May the deaths of these creatures remind us that death comes to all of us, and it is the natural end to earthly life. May these pets who have died carry on with you forever, until we join them in eternal life.

*All* Amen.

## A BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

*Invitation is made to name those beloved animals who are our companions in life at this time, either silently or aloud.*

*Officiant* **B**LESSED are you, Lord God of the universe, for all the creatures you have made. You keep them in your care and not one is lost from your sight. They glorify you, and each in its own way speaks to us of your beauty, your challenge and your love. May we respect them and cherish them for they are your gift to us; Bless these animals here present, and every creature far and wide, that through them we may better know your will for all Creation. We ask this all in your holy Name.

*All* Amen.

**A PRAYER ATTRIBUTED TO SAINT FRANCIS**

(13<sup>th</sup> century Christian monk)

*Officiant* Gracious God,

*All* 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.

**FROM A SPEECH BY CHIEF SEATTLE IN 1854**

*Officiant* This we know, the earth does not belong to us:

*All* we belong to the earth.

*Officiant* This we know, all things are connected:

*All* like the blood which unites one family.

*Officiant* For we did not weave the web of life:

*All* we are merely a strand of it.

*Officiant* Whatever we do to the web,

*All* we do to ourselves.

## THE BLESSING OF SAINT CLARE

*Officiant* Go forth in peace,  
for you have followed the good road.  
Go forth without fear,  
for God who created you has sanctified you,  
has always protected you,  
and loves you as a mother.  
And may God's blessing be upon you:  
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

**All Amen.**

## DISMISSAL

*Officiant* Let us go forth into the world rejoicing in the power of the Spirit of  
all Creation.

**All Thanks be to God.**

*The priests will be present after the service to provide individual pet blessings to those interested. Please maintain social distancing while waiting for a blessing and during the blessing of your animal companion. All are welcome.*



# MINISTERS OF THE LITURGY

## **OFFICIANT**

The Rev. Canon Jennifer King Daugherty

## **PREACHER**

The Rev. Canon Nancy Ross

## **MUSICIANS**

James Falzone

## **READERS**

Robert Stevens

Karrie Sutkus

## **INTERCESSOR**

Rachel Baker

## **LITURGY STAFF & VOLUNTEERS**

Rebekah Gilmore, The Very Rev. Steven L. Thomason, Gregory Bloch, Christopher Brown,  
Michael Perera, Don Sutkus, Amanda Fergeson, Kylee Hodil, Grace Attiyeh,  
The Rev. Emily Austin, Kelly Moody



Cover illustration: "The Peaceable Kingdom" by Fritz Eichenberg. Illustration above: by Barry Moser.  
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## ABOUT FRANCIS & CLARE OF ASSISI

Francis of Assisi was born in 1182, the son of a prosperous merchant. His early youth was spent in harmless revelry and fruitless attempts to win military glory. Various encounters with beggars and lepers pricked the young man's conscience, and he decided to embrace a life devoted to Lady Poverty. Despite his father's intense opposition, Francis totally renounced all material values, and devoted himself to serve the poor. In 1210, Pope Innocent III confirmed the simple Rule for the Order of Friars Minor, a name Francis chose to emphasize his desire to be numbered among the "least" of God's servants. His last years were spent in much suffering of body and spirit, but his unconquerable joy never failed.

Of all the saints, Francis is the most popular and admired, but probably the least imitated; few have attained to his total identification with the poverty and suffering of Christ.

Around the time that Francis renounced his wealth and established the order of Franciscans, a young woman named Clare, also of Assisi, heard him preach a sermon that was to make a radical change in her life. The daughter of a wealthy family, and noted beauty, Clare was inspired by Francis's words with the desire to serve God and to give her life to the following of Christ's teaching. She sought out Francis, and begged that she might become a member of his order. Francis could not refuse her pleas. He placed her temporarily in a nearby Benedictine convent.

When her family learned of her actions, they tried to take her from the convent. She was adamant. She would be the bride of Christ alone. Soon after, Francis took her to a poor dwelling beside the Church of St. Damian at Assisi. Several other women joined her, and she became Mother Superior of the order, which was called the "Poor Ladies of St. Damian." Clare governed the convent for forty years. Clare herself was servant, not only to the poor, but to her nuns.

As she lay dying, seeing many weeping by her bedside, she exhorted them to love "holy poverty" and to share their possessions. She was heard to say: "Go forth in peace, for you have followed the good road. Go forth without fear, for he that created you has sanctified you, has always protected you, and loves you as a mother. Blessed be God, for having created me." ♦

# SAINT MARK'S CATHEDRAL

## WEEKLY LITURGICAL SCHEDULE

### SUNDAYS

- 11:00 AM** Holy Eucharist *livestream,*  
*livestreamed at [saintmarks.org](http://saintmarks.org)*
- 4:30 PM** Choral Evensong *livestream*  
[First Sunday of the month, October–May]  
*livestreamed at [saintmarks.org](http://saintmarks.org)*
- 9:30 PM** Compline *ancient nighttime prayers,*  
*broadcast live on KING FM 98.1*

### WEEKDAYS

*Weekday services currently meet via Zoom*

- MONDAY–FRIDAY, 6:30 PM . .** Evening Prayer  
*email Michael Seewer*  
*([mseewer@saintmarks.org](mailto:mseewer@saintmarks.org)) for Zoom link*
- THURSDAY, 7:00 AM . . . . .** Morning Prayer  
*email Sarah Elwood*  
*([selwood@uw.edu](mailto:selwood@uw.edu)) for Zoom link*

## CHORAL EVENSONG

OBSERVING THE FEAST OF  
**ST. MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS**

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4, 4:30 P.M.**

*livestreamed at [saintmarks.org](http://saintmarks.org)*



## CONCERT ON THE FLENTROP ORGAN

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2020, 7:30 PM**

*with Michael Kleinschmidt, organist*

*livestreamed at [saintmarks.org](http://saintmarks.org)*

## CATHEDRAL CONVERSATIONS

*a podcast about members of the  
Saint Mark's Cathedral community*

Available on you favorite podcast platform,  
or at [saintmarks.org/podcast](http://saintmarks.org/podcast)



## THE WISDOM SCHOOL

AT SAINT MARK'S CATHEDRAL



**2020–2021 PROGRAM YEAR OFFERINGS**

## THE WISDOM SCHOOL AT SAINT MARK'S

*Saint Mark's Wisdom School 2020–2021 season:*

### ***The Spirituality of Desire***

*begins with opening plenary on*

**JANUARY 13, 2021**

*Program is free, but registration is required.*

*Visit [saintmarks.org/wisdom](http://saintmarks.org/wisdom) for more information.*



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