



Welcome! We join in worship today with all our kin of creation. We rejoice with all living things, to give thanks to God, Creator of Heaven and Earth, of all things visible and invisible. We sing with all creatures of the earth that make our lives richer because of their presence. We sing with all God's beautiful creation.

PRELUDE

Jenny Smith

WELCOME

Leader: The Lord be with you.
People: **And also with you.**
Leader: Lift up your hearts.
People: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLES (at FPC and in your homes) Kate Glose

We light these candles to remind ourselves of God's presence, not only in this place, but in all places. Amen.

CALL TO WORSHIP from Job 12:7, 8b, 10a

"But ask the animals, and they will teach you;
the birds of the air, and they will tell you;
...and the fish of the sea will declare to you.

In God's hand is the life of every living thing."

PRAYER AND SILENT LISTENING TO GOD

SONG

Open the Eyes of My Heart

Open the eyes of my heart, Lord

Open the eyes of my heart

I want to see you

I want to see you (repeat)

To see you high and lifted up

Shining in the light of your glory

Pour out your power and love

As we sing, Holy, Holy, Holy

Open the eyes of my heart, Lord

Open the eyes of my heart

I want to see you

I want to see you (repeat twice)

To see you high and lifted up

Shining in the light of your glory

Pour out your power and love

As we sing, Holy, Holy, Holy

Holy, Holy, Holy

Holy, Holy, Holy

Holy, Holy, Holy

I want to see you (repeat)

Open the eyes of my heart, Lord

Open the eyes of my heart

I want to see you

I want to see you

CONFESSION AND PARDON

Kate Glose

Trusting in the mercy of God, let us confess our sins against one another and God's magnificent creation.

Compassionate God, we too often ignore the cries and suffering of your creatures. Our lives are bound up with other species and we ask your forgiveness for the ways we mistreat your creation. Give us clean hearts and caring hands, O God. Remind us that we too are creatures, interdependent and vulnerable. Amen.

Silence, a time for personal confession.

Amen. God declares the creation good. We are among God's creatures, and humbled that God calls on us to till and keep the earth. With hope and inspiration to answer that call, we place our trust in God to show us the way, and forgives all our sins.

Thanks be to God.

CHOIR ANTHEM *I Will Give Thanks*

DISCOVERY TIME Rev. Linda Powers

THE OFFERING Pastor John

DOXOLOGY

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT A Reading from Genesis 1 Kate Glose

"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. And God blessed them...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...And God saw that it was good. Then God said, 'Let us make humankind.'...And God blessed them. God saw everything that God had made, and indeed, it was very good."

PSALM Psalm 104:24

How great are Your works, O God! You made them all with wisdom, the earth is full of Your creatures.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

REFLECTING ON THE WORD Pastor John

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS IN OUR HOMES

Each person, placing a hand on or over the animals being held, proclaims the following blessing. As the blessing is offered, the animals may be gently sprinkled with water, a sign of God's love, provision and grace.

[_____], you were created by God, you are loved by God, and you are blessed by God. May we experience joy and companionship together, and continue to be a blessing to each other. I/We love you and we thank God for you.

[_____], you belong to God, you belong to us, and we belong to you. Now and forever. Amen.

TIME OF REMEMBRANCE

OUR PRAYERS TO GOD

Prayers for God's creation are invited to be spoken out loud or silently, including, but not limited to:

- *a favorite animal or animal species*
- *a special characteristic of a particular species*
- *an animal in the world that is endangered, illegally trafficked, or threatened by pollution or climate change*

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER *(or in your preferred version)*

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

HYMN

All Things Bright and Beautiful

*All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small,
all things wise and wonderful, the Lord God made them all.*

Each little flower that opens, each little bird that sings,
God made their glowing colors; God made their tiny wings. *(refrain)*

The purple-headed mountain, the river running by,
the sunset, and the morning that brightens up the sky: *(refrain)*
The cold wind in the winter, the pleasant summer sun,
the ripe fruits in the garden, God made them every one. *(refrain)*
God gave us eyes to see them, and lips that we might tell
how great is God Almighty, who has made all things well. *(refrain)*

CHARGE

Christ calls you to be his disciples,
to serve him with love and compassion,
to serve the Earth by caring for all God's creatures.
Will you care for God's creation?

We will care for God's creation!
We will nurture God's animals!
We will praise God with them!

BLESSING

CLOSING SONG *Go Now in Peace*

Go now in peace, never be afraid.
God will go with you, each hour of every day.
Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true,
Know he will guide you in all you do.

Worship Leaders: Pastor John Chase, Rev. Linda Powers, Kate Glose,
Music Director Jane Shelly, Accompanist Jenny Smith, Grete Hansen, Choir

Credits

Art page 1: Rev. Linda Power's dog Beta and her box turtles.

Today's liturgy is adapted from "Befriend the Wolf: Blessing All God's Creation: Facilitator Guide," Catholic Climate Covenant, <https://catholicclimatecovenant.org/files/resource/attachment/FOSFblessing.pdf>; *Book of Common Worship*, "Blessing of the Animals," 2018, pp. 569-573; "Animal Blessing Service" published by the Anglican Society for the Welfare of Animals, UK by the Rev. D. Rebecca Deinsen for the Episcopal Network for Animal Welfare, USA, <http://www.enaw.org>.

Music: *Open the Eyes of My Heart*, ©1997 Paul Baloche, Integrity's Hosanna! Music

Music: *All Things Bright and Beautiful*, TEXT: Cecil Frances Alexander, 1848, alt.; MUSIC: English melody, 17th cent.; adapt. Martin Shaw, 1915; harm. *The Hymnbook*, 1955; *Music Harm.* © 1955, ren. 1983 John Ribble (admin. Westminster John Knox Press).