

Blessing of the Animals



**Feast Day of St. Francis of Assisi and World Communion Sunday
October 4, 2020, 11 am worship**

Click the link below to interact live on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/HomerUnitedMethodistChurchAlaska/>

OR

Watch the video here: <https://youtu.be/36ujPU-Cofk>

Centering

- Print out or pull up your Worship Guide
- Gather your communion elements – bread and juice
- Call your pet over to join you for a special blessing
- Light a candle as a reminder of the light of Christ that connects us all
- Breathe deeply and remember that you are on holy ground

Opening Song

For the Beauty of the Earth

Ola Mullikin

WORDS: Folliot S. Pierpoint, 1864

MUSIC: Conrad Kocher, 1838; arr. by W.H. Monk, 1861

CCLI Song #43200

CCLI # 11365960

Opening Prayer

Psalm 148

responsive

¹ Praise the Lord!

Praise the Lord from the heavens;
praise him in the heights!

² Praise him, all his angels;
praise him, all his host!

³ **Praise him, sun and moon;
praise him, all you shining stars!**

⁴ **Praise him, you highest heavens,
and you waters above the heavens!**

⁵ Let them praise the name of the Lord,
for he commanded and they were created.

⁶ He established them for ever and ever;
he fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.*

⁷ **Praise the Lord from the earth,
you sea monsters and all deeps,
⁸ fire and hail, snow and frost,
stormy wind fulfilling his command!**

⁹ Mountains and all hills,
fruit trees and all cedars!
¹⁰ Wild animals and all cattle,
creeping things and flying birds!

¹¹ **Kings of the earth and all peoples,
princes and all rulers of the earth!
¹² Young men and women alike,
old and young together!**

¹³ Let them praise the name of the Lord,
for his name alone is exalted;
his glory is above earth and heaven.
¹⁴ He has raised up a horn for his people,
praise for all his faithful,
for the people of Israel who are close to him.
Praise the Lord!

Introduction to Today's Worship

We have the joy of two special celebrations in one day! Today is the Feast Day of St. Francis of Assisi, and this is often celebrated by holding a blessing of the animals, which we will do virtually. This is also World Communion Sunday, one of our denomination's special Sundays in which we raise funds for scholarships around the world.

Message

All Creation Sings

Pastor Lisa

Blessing of the Animals

We will remember our beloved animal friends who have passed on, and then we will bless those who companion us still.

Song of Response

All Creatures of Our God and King

Ola Mullikin

WORDS: Francis of Assisi, ca. 1225; trans. by William H. Draper, 1925, adapt. 1987
MUSIC: *Geistliche Kirchengesänge*, 1623; harm. by Ralph Vaughn Williams, 1906
CCLI Song #1503 CCLI # 11365960

Holy Communion

*Take a moment to prepare your communion elements. Something like bread,
something like juice.*

Therefore, let us confess our sin before God and one another...

Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart. We have failed to be an obedient church. We have not done your will, we have broken your law, we have rebelled against your love, we have not loved our neighbors, and we have not heard the cry of the needy. Forgive us, we pray. Free us for joyful obedience, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

All pray in silence.

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven! Glory to God. Amen.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

As we proclaim the mystery of faith ...

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Lord's Prayer

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,

Yaella and Tevi Bowman

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

Receiving the Elements

The body and blood of Christ, given for you. Amen.

Offering Our Gifts

The World Communion Sunday offering provides scholarships to a diverse mix of national and international ethnic young adults to make a global impact for Christ. Half of the offering benefits World Communion Scholarships for graduate students from the U.S. and other countries; the remainder assists Ethnic Scholarships for U.S. and international undergraduates studying in the U.S. and Ethnic In-Service Training.

Give online: <https://www.homerumcalaska.org/Donate.html>

Give by check: Homer UMC, 770 East End Road, Homer, AK, 99603

Words of Hope

“And the Table Will Be Wide”

Jan Richardson

And the table
will be wide.
And the welcome
will be wide.
And the arms
will open wide
to gather us in.

And our hearts
will open wide
to receive.
And we will come
as children who trust
there is enough.
And we will come
unhindered and free.

And our aching
will be met
with bread.
And our sorrow
will be met
with wine.
And we will open our hands
to the feast
without shame.
And we will turn
toward each other

without fear.
And we will give up
our appetite
for despair.
And we will taste
and know
of delight.

And we will become bread
for a hungry world.
And we will become drink
for those who thirst.
And the blessed
will become the blessing.
And everywhere
will be the feast.

Closing Hymn

WORDS and MUSIC: Scott Wesley Brown and David Hampton

We Are the Body of Christ

CCLI Song #2220206

Ola Mullikin

CCLI # 11365960