



Worship with Communion 18th Sunday after Pentecost

St Francis of Assisi / Blessing of Animals

VIDEO: View & interact on any device live at 10AM on October 4

go.mysjec.com/facebook or go.mysjec.com/youtube

You can watch the videos at any time after they air live.

Welcome! We're glad that you chose to worship with us today!

Amma Diane

♪ **O God, Your Creatures Fill the Earth**

O God, your creatures fill the earth with wonder and delight,
And every living thing has worth and beauty in your sight.
So playful dolphins dance and swim; your sheep bow down and graze.
Your songbirds share a morning hymn to offer you their praise.
You made the pets we welcome in — they're wondrous blessings, too.
With paws and whiskers, wings and fins, they offer praise to you.
O Lord, you call us to embrace these creatures in our care.
May we show kindness, love and grace to all pets everywhere.
You made the creatures on each farm; you know the things they need.
May they grow healthy, safe from harm, and safe from human greed.
Just as a shepherd loves the sheep, you know their joy, their pain.
Lord, bless the animals we keep; may all farms be humane.
Your creatures live in every land; they fill the sky and sea.
O Lord, you give us your command to love them tenderly.
We're called to have dominion here — to care for them always.
By loving creatures you hold dear, we offer you our praise.

Text: Copyright © 2011 Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. All rights reserved. Tune: *ELLACOMBE, Gesangbuch der Herzogl. Hofkapelle, 1784.*

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

All And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever. **AMEN!**

St Francis of Assisi

Celebrant On October 4th, the Church celebrates the life and witness of Francis of Assisi, founder of the Franciscan and Clarissine Orders, advocate for the poor, and friend of the animals. Born in the late 12th century, Francis was the son of a wealthy merchant and his high-born wife. Despite living a life of general comfort and ease, he found himself called toward a life in pursuit of poverty. After a series of humbling interactions with the poor, Francis devoted himself to the care of the sick and poor, giving up his business interests and material possessions (much to his father's chagrin). It could not have been easy, but Francis' faith demanded that he trade in his fine clothes for sackcloth and financial security for scarcity. In the words of the prayer attributed to the saint, he found that "it is in giving that we

receive.” We may perhaps remember St Francis best for his devotion to nature and animals. He believed that the Creator is praised through all creatures and, indeed, creation itself. It is in this spirit that many Episcopal churches offer blessings of pets and other animals each year to commemorate Francis’s feast day. Typically, we would bring our pets to Worship for a blessing in person; this year, we’re doing things differently. If you have a pet, I invite you to have them nearby for the blessing we’ll do in a few moments.

Celebrant Let us give thank to God our Creator for all the gifts so freely bestowed upon us.
People **For the beauty and wonder of your creation, in earth and sky and sea: we thank you.**
Celebrant For the richness of the mountains, plains and rivers: we thank you.
People **For all that is gracious in the lives of people: we thank you.**
Celebrant For all creatures that breathe, and move, and have life: we thank you.
People **For the songs of birds and the loveliness of flowers and trees: we thank you.**
Celebrant For the trust you have shown in giving into our care these, our pets: we thank you.
People **That pets everywhere may be treasured with care: we thank you.**
Celebrant That we may love and honor all your works, O God: we thank you.
People **That we may continue to grow in our grateful enjoyment of your abundant creation:
 To the honor and glory of your name, now and forever. AMEN!**

Blessing of Animals

Celebrant At this time, please hold your pet if you are able, or simply think of your pet or other animal.
 To all of our pets and other animals, near and far: May you be blessed in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. May you and your human companions enjoy life together and find joy with the God who created you.

All **AMEN!**

Celebrant Let us pray.

All **Most high, almighty Creator, yours are the praise, the glory, the honor and all blessings! To you alone do all things belong. Be praised for giving us the animals, birds, and fish which fill your world. May we think of you and thank you when we play with and care for our pets. Be praised for making us so happy to have our pets and to have them to enjoy. We ask you, Lord, that we may be good to our pets always, so that they may be happy also. Help us always to take care of them so that they will be healthy. O God, your world is wonderful. May we all come into your even greater world of the kingdom of heaven where we shall see even more wonderful things, and where we shall live and love for ever. This we ask to your eternal praise, and to our blessing. AMEN!**

First Lesson

Condensed from Genesis 1. 1-34

Reader 1 A reading of the Creation Story.

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and a great dimness covered the face of the deep, while the Spirit of God swept over the face

of the waters. On the first day, God created light and darkness. On the second day, God created the sky above and the waters below. On the third day, God formed the land and called it Earth, and gathered the water and called it Sea. God blessed the earth with vegetation and food. On the fourth day, God separated the day from the night, creating the sun, the moon, and the stars. On the fifth day, God brought forth swarms of living creatures in the air, in the water, and on the land, and God bid them to be fruitful and multiply. On the sixth day, God created humankind in God's image, giving them dominion over the animals. God blessed them and bid them to be fruitful and multiply. On the seventh day, God saw that everything that God had made was very good and God rested and blessed the seventh day and made it sacred.

Reader 1 The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Unison Reading

Prayer of St Francis

Reader 1 Let us read in unison the Prayer of St Francis.

All **Lord, make me an instrument of your peace, where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; and where there is sadness, joy. O, God, grant that I 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.**

Gospel

Matthew 11. 25-30

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus said, "I thank you, God of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, God, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Creator, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal God. Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Sermon

Amma Diane

Nicene Creed

Celebrant Let us join in the words of the Nicene Creed.

All **We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made.**

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. AMEN!

Prayers of the People

Reader 2 Creator God, by the mercies of your son, our Lord, Jesus, compel us to TURN our hearts to his Way of Love. That we might follow Jesus together as your faithful people, we pause, listen, and respond in prayer.

All **Jesus, guide us in your Way of Love.**

Reader 2 Jesus, your life, death, resurrection, and ascension inspire the church to continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship. Guide your people to LEARN your Word, that we might see God's story unfolding in our midst.

All **Jesus, guide us in your Way of Love.**

Reader 2 Son of God, you responded to your Father in PRAYER and pleaded that we might all be one. Guide the leaders and faithful citizens of this nation to respond to God and to one another in compassion — in thought and deed, with or without words — that the people of the United States might live in unity and peace.

All **Jesus, guide us in your Way of Love.**

Reader 2 Light of the World, you taught us to WORSHIP in spirit and in truth. Lead us to join with others to acknowledge the holiness of God, that the whole world might be united in the truth of your love.

All **Jesus, guide us in your Way of Love.**

Reader 2 Lord, you came not to be served but to serve. Empower us to BLESS one another and our neighbors, that your spirit of generosity, compassion, and selfless action transform us and the people in our midst.

All **Jesus, guide us in your Way of Love.**

Reader 2 Savior, you came into our midst that we might know life. Embolden us to GO among those who are weary, burdened, sick, or imprisoned, that we might live like you, crossing the boundaries that divide rich from poor, sick from well, and sinner from saint.

All **Jesus, guide us in your Way of Love.**

Reader 2 Lamb of God, in your death you destroyed death and taught us the way to eternal life. Compel us to daily die to self and REST in your grace. May all who have died rest in peace and rise in glory.

All **Jesus, guide us in your Way of Love.**

Reader 2 We lift up the special needs and concerns of this congregation.

All **Jesus, guide us in your Way of Love.**

Reader 2 Lord Jesus Christ, who gave your life for the life of all, we commit our lives to following you. Continually guide us in your way and draw us in to live as your Beloved Community in this age and in the age to come; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

All **AMEN!**

Reader 2 We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins.

All **Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. AMEN!**

Celebrant Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.

All **AMEN!**

Passing the Peace

Celebrant The peace of Christ be always with you.

People And also with you.

Invitation to Communion

from the Iona Community, Scotland

Celebrant The table of bread and wine is now to be made ready. It is the table of company with Jesus, and all who love him. It is the table of sharing with the poor of the world, with whom Jesus identified himself. It is the table of communion with the earth, in which Christ became incarnate. So come to this table, you who have much faith and you who would like to have more; you who have been here often and you who have not been for a long time; you who have tried to follow Jesus, and you who have failed; come.

♪ All Creatures of Our God and King

All creatures of our God and King, lift up your voices, let us sing: Alleluia, alleluia!

Bright burning sun with golden beams, pale silver moon that gently gleams:

Sing praises, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Swift flowing water, pure and clear, make music for your Lord to hear: Alleluia, alleluia!
 Fire so intense and fiercely bright, you give to us both warmth and light:
 Sing praises, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Dear mother earth, you day by day unfold your blessings on our way: Alleluia, alleluia!
 All flow'rs and fruits that in you grow, let them God's glory also show:
 Sing praises, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Let all things their Creator bless, and worship God in humbleness: Alleluia, alleluia!
 Praise, God the Father, praise the Son, and praise the Spirit, Three in One:
 Sing praises, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Words: Francis of Assisi, c 1225; tr WH Draper, 1926. Tune: *LASST UNS ERFREUEN*, 1623.

Offering Our Gifts

Celebrant Gifts and offerings may be mailed to the church or sent through your bank. There are also online giving options on our web site at mysjec.com/donate. Thank you for your financial support as we've adapted our ministry and mission together these past few months.

Celebrant Inspire us to always share your love through action, O God:

People **Strengthen us to always be an inviting safe community for all.**

Great Thanksgiving

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

All **And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

All **We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Celebrant God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.

All **Glory to you for ever and ever.**

Celebrant At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.

All **By your will they were created and have their being.**

Celebrant From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the rulers of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.

All **Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.**

Celebrant Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.

All **By his blood, he reconciled us. By his wounds, we are healed.**

Celebrant And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

All **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

Celebrant And so, Father, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, and said, "Take... eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper, he took the cup of wine, gave thanks, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,

All **We celebrate his death and resurrection, as we await the day of his coming.**

Celebrant Lord God of our Fathers and Mothers: God of Abraham and Sarah, of Isaac and Rebekah, of Jacob, Leah, and Rachel; God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

All **Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.**

Celebrant Accept these prayers and praises, Father, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation.

All **AMEN!**

Celebrant And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

All **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, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. AMEN!**

Breaking Bread

Celebrant Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

All **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!**

Celebrant The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

The Celebrant gives the invitation to spiritual communion to all participating near and far.

Celebrant Let us pray.

All Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. AMEN!

Blessing

Celebrant May the blessing of God, who Creates, Redeems, and Sustains, be upon you and all you love and pray for, this day and for ever more.

All Alleluia! AMEN!

♪ **Lord, Make Us Servants of Your Peace**

Lord, make us servants of your peace: where there is hate, may we sow love; where there is hurt, may we forgive; where there is strife, may we make one.

Where all is doubt, may we sow faith; where all is gloom, may we sow hope; where all is night, may we sow light; where all is tears, may we sow joy.

Jesus, our Lord, may we not seek to be consoled, but to console, nor look to understanding hearts, but look for hearts to understand.

May we not look for love's return, but seek to love unselfishly, for in our giving we receive, and in forgiving are forgiven.

Dying, we live, and are reborn, through death's dark night to endless day:

Lord, make us servants of your peace, to wake at last in heaven's light.

Words: James Quinn, based on prayer attributed to Francis of Assisi. Tune: *DICKINSON COLLEGE*

Sending

Celebrant Go forth into the world, sharing the Good News of God's love. Alleluia, alleluia!

All Thanks be to God! Alleluia, alleluia!

St James Episcopal Church, 434 North 8th Street, Manitowoc, WI 54220

If you have any questions, concerns, or pastoral needs, please call The Rev Diane M Murray, Rector: 920.860.5152

Thank you for your support! Gifts may be mailed to the church or sent through your bank.

There are also online giving options on our web site at mysjec.com/donate.

October's special offering supports the Rector's Discretionary Fund—please label accordingly.