

Blessing of the Animals



October 19, 2025

2:00 p.m.

**The Episcopal Church
of the Epiphany
Crestview, Florida**

The Feast of St. Francis of Assisi

Blessing of the Animals and Creation

Officiant: May God, whose wonder is in all created works, be with you all.

People: And also with you.

The Collect for the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi

Most high, omnipotent, good Lord, grant your people grace to renounce gladly the vanities of this world; that, following the way of blessed Francis, we may for love of you delight in your whole creation with perfectness of joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

The Story of Creation Genesis 1:1, 20-25

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth...

And 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.

Psalm 104:25-31

(read responsively by whole verse)

25 O Lord, how manifold are your works! *
in wisdom you have made them all;
the earth is full of your creatures.

26 Yonder is the great and wide sea
with its living things too many to number, *
creatures both small and great.

27 There move the ships,
and there is that Leviathan, *
which you have made for the sport of it.

28 All of them look to you *
to give them their food in due season.

29 You give it to them; they gather it; *
you open your hand, and they are filled with good things.

30 You hide your face, and they are terrified; *
you take away their breath,
and they die and return to their dust.

31 You send forth your Spirit, and they are created; *
and so you renew the face of the earth.

Reflections on the Day by The Rev. David M. Clothier

There is no plant in the ground,

People: but tells of your beauty, O Christ.

There is no creature on the earth, there is no life in the sea,

People: but proclaims your goodness.

There is no bird on the wing, there is no star in the sky, there is nothing beneath the sun,

People: but is full of your blessing.

Lighten my understanding of your presence all around, O Christ.

People: Kindle my will to be caring for Creation.

The Blessing of the Water and of the Animals

Officiant: Lord, we remember the great blessing of your Spirit moving over the waters at creation. We ask now that you bless this water in the name of Jesus Christ, through whom all things were made, to be for us a sign of your gracious provision in this world. We thank you for all that you have given us and ask that you continue to bless us and our fellow creatures with the great gift of your love.
Amen.

The Officiant asperges the animals and those who care for them with Holy Water.

Officiant: God, we give thanks to you for the world you made and for the breath of life you breathed into it. We give thanks to you for your Word made flesh in Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. And now, for all your creatures that breathe and move and have life.

People: We thank you, Lord.

Officiant: That we may love and honor the works of your hand.

People: We pray to you, Lord.

Officiant: That we may treasure and respect the animals you have given into our care.

People: We pray to you, Lord.

Officiant: Lord God, you made us in your image, and you asked us to be good stewards of your creation. Teach us to take good care of all that you made and to see in it the work of your hands:

People: in the trees and plants of the fields,
in the air we breathe and the water we drink
in all the creatures of your kingdom,
including ourselves and our animal companions
here present,

(say aloud the name of your animal or animals)

and those whose memories we carry.

(say aloud the name of animal or animals to be remembered)

Officiant: God, help us to see your hand in all the works of your creation. *Amen.*

The celebrant moves among the congregation and blesses each animal individually.

The Great Thanksgiving

All: We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life. Amen.

A Prayer for Creation

Officiant: Holy One, you created everything that is; by your will they were created and have their being. We give you thanks and praise for the goodness of your creation, and especially on this day we bless you for the animals we know and love. Let them be for us living reminders of your gracious love for us, and let our tender care of them be the means through which they experience your love; through our Savior Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

A Prayer for Animals

Officiant: Hear our humble prayer, O God, for our friends the animals, especially for animals who are suffering, for many that are hunted or lost, or deserted or frightened or hungry; for all that must be put to death.

We entreat for them all thy mercy and pity, and for those who deal with them we ask a heart of compassion and gentle hands and kindly words.

Make us to be true friends to the animals and to share the blessing of the merciful. *Amen.*

The Blessing

Officiant: May the peace of God that passes all understanding keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God and his Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ. And the blessing of God, the Creator, the Redeemer, and the Sanctifier. *Amen.*

The Dismissal

Officiant: Go forth into the world in peace;
be of good courage;
hold fast that which is good;
render to no one evil for evil;
strengthen the fainthearted;
support the weak;
help the afflicted;
honor everyone;
love and serve the Lord,
rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit;
Alleluia, Alleluia.

People: Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Alleluia.

The Episcopal Church of the Epiphany

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Vestry

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Sheila Fahie, Sunshine Lady

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Our Mission Statement

The mission of the Episcopal Church of the Epiphany is to offer a home for all those who are seeking God's unconditional love.