



St. Matthias
Anglican Church



THE
ABBAY
CHURCH



*St. Francis Preaching to the Birds / San Francesco predica agli Uccelli (photo of detail),
Painted by Giotto di Bondone (c.1266-1337), Tempera on wood panel, Illustration is a
detail of the retable St Francis Receiving the Stigmata, our scene at bottom right corner,
Executed circa 1297 Â© Louvre Museum, Paris*

Feast of St Francis in the Season of Creation

October 4th, 2021 + 1pm

Welcome & Announcements / Land Acknowledgement

Bell x3

Opening Responses

We gather in the name of the Creator

Who is a community of love.

We gather in the name of the Redeemer

who reconciles all of creation.

We gather in the presence of the Life Giver

Who inspires new life and renews it.

Come. Let us worship the Triune God!

Poem: Saint Francis and The Birds (by Seamus Heaney)

When Francis preached love to the birds

They listened, fluttered, throttled up

Into the blue like a flock of words

Released for fun from his holy lips.

Then wheeled back, whirled about his head,

Pirouetted on brothers' capes.

Danced on the wing, for sheer joy played

And sang, like images took flight.

Which was the best poem Francis made,

His argument true, his tone light.

Let us pray,

Blessed are you, Lord God, maker of all living creatures.

You called forth fish in the sea, birds in the air and

animals on the land. You inspired St. Francis to call all of them his brothers and sisters. We ask you to bless this

pet. By the power of your love, enable it to live according

to your plan. May we always praise you for all your beauty

in creation. **Amen**

Song: I Sing the Mighty Power of God

I sing the mighty pow'r of God, that made the mountains rise,
That spread the flowing seas abroad and built the lofty skies.
I sing the wisdom that ordained the sun to rule the day.
The moon shines full at His command, and all the stars obey.

I sing the goodness of the Lord, who filled the earth with food,
Who formed the creatures through the Word,
and then pronounced them good.
Lord, how Thy wonders are displayed, where'er I turn my eye,
If I survey the ground I tread, or gaze upon the sky!

There's not a plant or flow'r below,
but makes Thy glories known,
And clouds arise, and tempests blow,
by order from Thy throne;
While all that borrows life from Thee is ever in Thy care;
And everywhere that we can be, Thou, God, art present there.

Isaac Watts / ELLACOMBE / Public domain

We Proclaim

A Reading from the Book of Job (12:7-10)

But ask the animals, and they will teach you; the birds of the air, and they will tell you; ask the plants of the earth, and they will teach you; and the fish of the sea will declare to you. Who among all these does not know that the hand of the Lord has done this? In his hand is the life of every living thing and the breath of every human being.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Psalm 148

Hallelujah! Praise the Lord from the heavens; *
praise God in the heights.

Praise the Lord all you angels; *

sing praises, all you heavenly host.

Praise the Lord, sun and moon; *
sing praises, all you shining stars.

**Praise the Lord, heaven of heavens, *
sing praises, you waters above the heavens.**

Let them praise the name of the Lord; *
who gave the command and they were created,
**who made them stand fast for ever and ever, *
who gave them a law which shall not pass away.**

Praise the Lord 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 wingèd birds;**
sovereigns of the earth and all peoples, *
princes and all rulers of the world;
**young men and young women, *
old and young together.**

Let them praise the name of the Lord, *
whose name only is exalted,
whose splendour is over earth and heaven.
The Lord has raised up strength for this people *
and praise for all loyal servants, the children of Israel, *
a people who are near to the Lord. **Hallelujah!**

Gospel Acclamation

*We invite you to rise in body or spirit as we prepare our
hearts to hear the Gospel.*

Unison
♩ = 104

I praise you, O God, with all of my heart. With all the earth I will
sing your prais-es. I prais-es.

A shorter song of praise suitable as an acclamation or a psalm refrain.

Words and music: David Robertson, after Psalm 138:1

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Gospel: Matthew 6: 25-29

The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ According to Matthew
Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ

Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these.

... This is the Gospel of Christ

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

Sermon: Rick Kool

Bell / Silence / Bell

Affirmation of Faith

Hear, O Israel,

the Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. This is the first and the great commandment. The second is like it: Love your neighbour as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these.

Blessing of the animals

Let us pray. O God, you have made us and all living things. Today we thank you for giving us these animals who bring you delight and us joy and companionship. As you take care of us, so also we ask your help that we might take care of those who trust us to look after them. Remember, loving God, the animals who have died this year...receive them into your loving care and comfort all who grieve. **Amen.**

During this next Song, we invite you to bring forward your animal companions for a blessing (or pictures or stuffies!)

"May you be blessed in the +Name of the God who created you and may you and your human companion be an example of God's love for all of creation."

Song: All God's Critters Got a Place in the Choir

Chorus:

**All God's critters got a place in the choir
Some sing low, some singer higher
Some sing out loud on the telephone wire
And some just clap their hands or paws
or anything they got now**

Listen to the bass, it's the one on the bottom
Where the bullfrog groans and the hippopotamus
Moans and groans with a big to-do
The old cow just goes moo. **Chorus**

The dogs and cats, they take up the middle
The hummingbird hums and the cricket fiddles
The donkey brays and the pony neighs
The old coyote howls. **Chorus**

Listen to the top where the little birds sing
On the melody with the high note ringing
The hoot owl hollers over everything
And the jay bird disagrees. **Chorus**

Singing in the nighttime, singing in the day
The little duck quacks and is on his way
The possum ain't got much to say
And the porcupine talks to himself. **Chorus**

It's a simple song, a living song everywhere
By the ox and the fox and the grizzly bear
The grumpy alligator and the hawk above
The sly racoon and the turtle dove. **Chorus**

Bill Staines / © 1978 by Mineral River Music

Let us pray,
Oh God, You who created them and called them good:
bless again these creatures who come to us as a blessing
fashioned of fur or feather or fin, formed of flesh that
breathes with your own breath, that you have made from
sheer delight, that you have given in dazzling variety.
Bless them who curl themselves around our hearts, who
twine themselves through our days, who companion us in
our labor, who call us to come and play.
Bless them who will never be entirely tamed and so
remind us that you love what is wild, that you rejoice in
what lives close to the earth, that your heart beats in the
heart of these creatures you have entrusted to our care.
Holy One, we come today not only holding our animal
companions in our hearts, but the prayers for those in
need, in our lives, the world and our earth. Hear the
prayers we offer now, silently or aloud...
...As you taught our brother Francis to see you in the
littlest of your creatures, shape us in your way of love that
we might safeguard all life and work for the flourishing of
all creation. In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

Confession

Resting in the knowledge of God's loving desire to refresh and renew the face of the earth, let us turn to the light and confess our sins.

Silence

Generous God, you created us and placed us here to care for all of creation. Forgive us for turning away from you and for neglecting the earth. Raise us up and make us again stewards of your creation that we may see your presence in all that surrounds us; through Christ we pray. Amen. - PWRDF season of creation

Absolution

Offertory Song: Instrument of Peace

Lord make me an instrument of peace
An instrument of peace,
Where there is hatred, let me sow love
Where there is darkness, let me sow light
For in the giving we shall receive
And in the dying were given life
Lord make me an instrument of peace

Where there is sorrow let me sow hope
Where there is doubt , let me sow faith
Where there is injury your pardon give
Your consolation to those in pain.
Lord make me an instrument of peace, an instrument of peace - Amen.

Wardell/Vice/Palmer/Fox/Sach - 2020 Porter's Gate / CCLI (Various Publisher - Integrity, etc)

Prayer Over The Gifts

Creator, you bless us with many good gifts returned to you from your creation. Feed us with the Bread of Life, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you

And also with you

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to God

Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God of all of Creation

It is right to give God thanks and praise

We praise and bless you, holy and gracious God, source of life abundant. From before time you made ready creation. Your Spirit moved over the deep and brought all things into being: sun, moon, and stars; creatures of the earth, air, and water;

You made us in your image and taught us to walk in your ways. But we rebelled against you, and wandered far away; and yet, as a mother cares for her children, you would not forget us. Time and again you called us to live in the fullness of your love. And so this day we join with the company of heaven and all your creation as we say

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.

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love you have made known to us in creation; in calling Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus your Son. He was baptized in the Jordan, tested in the wilderness, traveled in fishing boats and told parables of farmers and seeds, labour and wages, yeast and bread.

On the night before he died, Jesus took bread, food of the poor, the work of field and hearth and he gave thanks, broke it and gave it to his friends saying: Take and eat, this is my body, given for you, do this to remember me.

After supper he took the cup of wine, fruit of the land, gave thanks and gave it to his companions saying: This is my blood, which is shed for you. When you do this, do it in memory of me.

Remembering Jesus' life, death and resurrection and awaiting his coming kingdom, we offer you this bread and this cup. Send your Spirit on these gifts, that they may become the body and blood of your son. Fill us with the courage and love of Jesus that we may strive for justice and peace, respect the dignity of every human being, and safeguard the integrity of creation. In the fullness of time bring us with Francis and all your saints, to feast at the banquet prepared from the foundation of the world. Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever. **Amen**

As beloved children of a loving parent we pray as Jesus taught us...

Our Father *(in a language or paraphrase of your choice)*

Silence.

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

We, being many, are one body, for we all share in the one bread.

These are the gifts of God for the people of God given for the life of the world.

Thanks be to God!

All are welcome to receive at Christ's table, the bread is gluten free.

Communion Song: His Eye is On the Sparrow

Why should I feel discouraged? Why should the shadows come?
Why should my heart be lonely and long for heaven and home,
When Jesus is my portion? A constant friend is He:
His eye is on the sparrow and I know He watches me;
His eye is on the sparrow and I know He watches me.

***Refrain: I sing because I'm happy, I sing because I'm free
for His eye is on the sparrow and I know He watches me.***

"Let not your heart be troubled," his tender word I hear,
And resting on his goodness, I lose my doubts and fears;
Though by the path he leadeth, but one step I may see;
His eye is on the sparrow, and I know he watches me;
His eye is on the sparrow, and I know he watches me. ***Refrain***

Whenever I am tempted, whenever clouds arise;
When songs give place to sighing, when hope within me dies,
I draw the closer to him, from care he sets me free;
His eye is on the sparrow, and I know he watches me;
His eye is on the sparrow, and I know he watches me. ***Refrain***

Civila Martin / Charles H. Gabriel/ 1905 / Public domain

Prayer after Communion

Oh God, we thank you that you have fed us with your life
given for the whole world. May this meal nourish us in our
care for creation. May we be joyful and generous in our
service and live with eyes open to wonder and awake to
your presence in your creation. Through Christ our lord,
Amen.

Blessing

Taken from the Earlier Rule of Saint Francis of Assisi

Closing Song: 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,
soft silver moon that gently gleams,

Refrain: O praise Him! O praise Him!

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Great rushing winds who are so strong,
you clouds above that sail along, O praise Him! Alleluia!
Fair rising morn, with praise rejoice;
stars nightly shining, find a voice! **Refrain**

Swift flowing water, pure and clear,
make music for your Lord to hear, Alleluia! Alleluia!
Fire so intense and fiercely bright,
who gives to us both warmth and light, **Refrain**

Dear mother earth, who day by day
unfolds your blessings on our way, O praise Him! Alleluia!
All flowers and fruits that in you grow,
Let them His glory also show. **Refrain**

Let all things their Creator bless,
and worship Him in humbleness, O praise Him! Alleluia!
Praise God the Father, praise the Son,
And praise the Spirit, Three in One! **Refrain**

St. Francis of Assisi 1225 / para. William H. Draper / LASST UNS ERFREUEN / Public domain

Sending

Live without fear: your Creator has made you holy, has
always protected you, and loves you as a mother. Go in
peace to follow the good road*.

Thanks be to God. Amen! *St Clare of Assisi



Thank-you for worshipping with us today!
Next week we celebrate Harvest Thanksgiving
St Matthias 10am & AbbeyChurch 4pm