

The Holy Eucharist

with the Blessing of the Animals



The Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

The Cathedral Church of Saint George

October 5, 2025 • 10:30 a.m.

We acknowledge that in Kingston we are situated on traditional territory of the Anishinaabe, Haudenosaunee, and Huron Wendat peoples. We seek a new relationship with the original peoples of this land, one rooted in and based upon honour and deep respect.

WELCOME TO ST GEORGE'S CATHEDRAL

Welcome to worship at St George's Cathedral. Wherever you are on your spiritual journey, you are welcome here! Sunday School is offered for children. Leaders may direct them to the Library at the conclusion of the Gathering Hymn. Please join us for refreshments and fellowship following the service. We are thrilled you are here!

THE FEAST OF ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

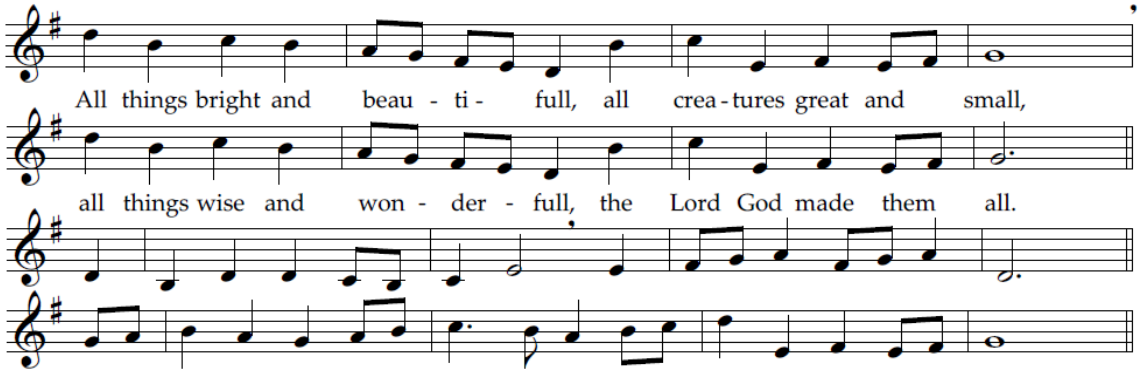
St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of animals and the environment, reminds us of our sacred duty to care for all of God's creation, exemplifying compassion for every living creature and a deep connection with the natural world. As stewards of the earth, we are called to be mindful of how we treat both the environment and the creatures that share it with us. Today's liturgy includes the Blessing of the Animals, celebrating St. Francis's vision and recognizing the sacred bond between humans and all living beings, while reminding us of our ongoing responsibility to care for the earth and all of its creation.

The Flowers on the High Altar are given to the Glory of God in loving memory of Faith and Gabriel and in thanksgiving for Gretel from Aveleigh Kyle

The Gathering of the Community

The people's responses are in **bold**.

Gathering Hymn | Sung by all, standing as able.



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

4 The tall trees in the greenwood,
the meadows where we play,
the rushes by the water
we gather every day:

Each little flower that opens,
each little bird that sings,
he made their glowing colours,
he made their tiny wings:

5 He gave us eyes to see them,
and lips that we might tell
how great is God almighty,
who has made all things well:

2 The purple-headed mountain,
the river running by,
the sunset, and the morning
that brightens up the sky:

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

3 The cold wind in the winter,
the pleasant summer sun,
the ripe fruits in the garden,
he made them every one:

The people remain standing as able for the Land Acknowledgment, and are seated for the Notices.

Welcome & Land Acknowledgment

The people stand as able at the invitation of the Celebrant.

The Opening Acclamation

Celebrant The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Almighty God,

People to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hidden. Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Kyrie Eleison | Sung by the choir in Greek.

Lord have mercy,
Christ have mercy,
Lord have mercy.

Gloria in Excelsis | Sung by all.



1. Glo - ry to God in the high-est, and peace to his peo - ple on earth.

2. Lord God, hea-ven-ly King, al-might-y God and Fa-ther, we wor-ship you,

we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry. 3. Lord Je - sus Christ,

on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,

4. you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us;

5. you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther; re - ceive our prayer.

6. For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,

7. you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spi - rit,

in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant

Almighty God, who by your grace surrounds us with so great a cloud of witnesses, may we, encouraged by the example of your servant Francis, persevere and run the race you set before us, until at last, through your mercy, we with him attain to your eternal joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the author and perfecter of our faith, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

People

Amen

The people are seated.

The Proclamation of *the* Word

The First Lesson | Ezekiel 34:11-16

For thus says the Lord GOD: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. As shepherds seek out their flocks when they are among their scattered sheep, so I will seek out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land; and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and

in all the inhabited parts of the land. I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord GOD. I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice.

Reader

The word of the Lord.

People

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 148:7-14 | Chanted by the choir.

Praise the Lord upon earth : ye dragons, and all deeps;

8 Fire and hail, snow and vapours : wind and storm, fulfilling his word;

9 Mountains and all hills : fruitful trees and all cedars;

10 Beasts and all cattle : worms and feathered fowls;

11 Kings of the earth and all people : princes and all judges of the world;

12 Young men and maidens, old men and children, praise the Name of the Lord : for his Name only is excellent, and his praise above heaven and earth.

13 He shall exalt the horn of his people; all his saints shall praise him : even the children of Israel, even the people that serveth him.

The Second Lesson | Galatians 6:14-18

May I never boast of anything except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. For neither circumcision nor uncircumcision is anything; but a new creation is everything! As for those who will follow this rule—peace be upon them, and mercy, and upon the Israel of God. From now on, let no one make trouble for me; for I carry the marks of Jesus branded on my body. May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brothers and sisters. Amen.

Reader

The word of the Lord.

People

Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn | Sung by all, standing as able



For the beauty of the earth,
for the beauty of the skies,
for the love which from our birth
over and around us lies,
*Lord of all, to thee we raise
this our sacrifice of praise.*

2 For the beauty of each hour
of the day and of the night,
hill and vale and tree and flower,
sun and moon and stars of light:

3 For the joy of human love,
brother, sister, parent, child,
friends on earth, and friends above,
pleasures pure and undefiled:

4 For each perfect gift of thine,
to our race so freely given,
graces human and divine,
flowers of earth and buds of heaven:

5 For thy church which evermore
lifteth holy hands above,
offering up on every shore
her pure sacrifice of love,
*Lord of all, to thee we raise
this our sacrifice of praise.*

Dix
Conrad Kocher 1786-1872

Folliott Sandford Pierpoint 1863-1917

The Holy Gospel | Matthew 11:25-30

Gospeller The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

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

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

At that time Jesus said, 'I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father; 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 him.

‘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.’

Gospeller
People

The Gospel of Christ.
Praise be to thee, O Christ.

The people are seated at the invitation of the preacher.

The Sermon Sarah Earl

Silence may be kept. The people stand as able.

The Nicene Creed

Celebrant

Let us confess our faith, as we say,

People

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. With the Father and the Son he is worshipped 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.

The people may adopt a posture of prayer, as they wish.

The Prayers of the People

Confession & Absolution

Celebrant Dear friends in Christ, God is steadfast in love and infinite in mercy; he welcomes sinners and invites them to his table. Let us confess our sins, confident in God's forgiveness.

Celebrant Most merciful God,
People 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 neighbours 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 upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

People Amen.

The people stand as able

The Blessing of *the* Animals

A Blessing for a Beloved Animal | Source: Bob Hostetler

Celebrant Blessed are you, Lord our God, who made every living thing with which the waters teem, and every winged bird, the livestock, the creatures that move along the ground, and the wild animals, and called it all "good." We thank you for these our pets whose lives come from you, and for the love and joy their lives share with ours. Let our care of them be a reflection of your abundant grace, poured into all of creation. Blessed are you, Lord our God, in all your creatures!

People Amen.

All are invited to come forward with their pets (or a picture) to have them blessed, and to receive a certificate. Please let the clergyperson know your pet's name.

The Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

The people greet one another with a sign of God's peace.

An offering is received to support the mission and ministry of the Cathedral. All are invited to make a gift as the plate is passed, or by visiting www.stgeorgescathedral.ca/donate to give securely online.

The Holy Communion

Offertory Hymn | Sung by all, standing as able.



This is my Father's world,
And to my listening ears
All nature sings, and round me rings
The music of the spheres.
This is my Father's world:
I rest me in the thought
Of rocks and trees, of skies and seas--
His hand the wonders wrought.

3 This is my Father's world:
O let me ne'er forget
That though the wrong seems oft so strong,
God is the Ruler yet.
This is my Father's world:
Why should my heart be sad?
The Lord is King: let the heavens ring!
God reigns; let earth be glad!

2 This is my Father's world:
The birds their carols raise,
The morning light, the lily white,
Declare their Maker's praise.
This is my Father's world:
He shines in all that's fair;
In the rustling grass I hear Him pass,
He speaks to me everywhere.

Terra Beata
arr. Franklin L. Sheppard 1852-1930

Maltbie D. Babcock 1858-1901

Prayer Over the Gifts

Celebrant

Eternal God, we give you thanks for the triumph of Christ in the life of your servant Francis of Assisi. Accept our offering this day, and give us grace to run our course with faith, that we may come to your eternal kingdom. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

The Great Thanksgiving

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Celebrant We thank and praise you almighty Father. In wisdom you guide the course of the world and cherish us with tender care. We thank you that we can come together around this table in the name of Jesus your Son, the first born of creation. In him all things, visible and invisible, were created and hold together. We thank you that you have sent your Holy Spirit to make us a new community of faith to serve you within your creation. And now we give you thanks because today you have gathered us together at this eucharistic feast, so that we may be renewed in love, joy and peace. And so with the wonders of creation and the songs of praise of all your creatures both in heaven and on earth we join in one great act of awe and adoration:

People **Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts, heaven and earth are full of thy glory. Glory be to thee, O Lord most high. Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord: Hosanna in the highest.**

The people are seated as the celebrant continues:

God of all creation, send your Spirit upon the goodness of the earth, and upon these gifts of bread and wine, that in them we may recognize and receive the fullness of the Risen Christ: bread broken and wine poured, Body given and Blood shed.

On the night before he offered himself, Jesus recalled with his disciples the wonder of your creation and the covenant you made with your chosen people. Then he took bread, gave you thanks, blessed it and broke it, saying: 'Take this all of you and eat it. This is my Body, which will be given up for you.'

In the same way he took the cup and giving you thanks and praise, he gave the cup to his disciples and said: 'Take this all of you and drink from it, this is the cup of my Blood, the Blood of the new and everlasting covenant. It will be shed for you and for all so that sins may be forgiven. Do this in memory of me.'

So we proclaim the mystery of faith

People **Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.**

Celebrant

As we remember the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, we celebrate the goodness of the earth, our companionship in this world and the sharing of all skills and arts that enrich our lives. We share the cup of our humanity matured over the unnumbered centuries of the struggle that has gone into making this world; our living and dying, fears and hopes, futility and fidelity.

Together with those who have drawn sustenance from this soil, those with whom we share it, and those to whom we pass it on, we share this bread and raise this cup in fulfillment of the Lord's command: through him with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honour is yours, Almighty Father, forever and ever.

People

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Celebrant

And now, as our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray

People

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

The Breaking of the Bread

Celebrant

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

People

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

The Communion

Celebrant

The gifts of God for the People of God.

People

Thanks be to God.

Agnus Dei

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world: have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world: have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world: grant us thy peace

All baptized Christians are welcome to receive communion in this Church. Please move to the rail at the direction of the ushers. You may receive the bread in open and outstretched hands, responding: "Amen." Gluten-free wafers are available; please make your need known to the minister. If you prefer not to receive wine from the common cup, you may simply touch the base of the chalice, again responding: "Amen." Should you wish to receive a blessing, please indicate that to the priest by crossing your arms over your chest.

The Prayer after Communion

Celebrant God of glory, we give thanks for your likeness in your servant Francis. May we who share at this table be transformed by your love and display the joy of your kingdom, where Jesus is Lord, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The people stand as able.

Celebrant Glory to God,

People whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine. Glory to God from generation to generation, in the church and in Christ Jesus, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Blessing

Celebrant Life is short, and we do not have much time to gladden the hearts of those who journey with us. And so make haste to love, and be swift to be kind; And may the God who travels with us, the God of pilgrimage, the God of Hope, bless, care and keep you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and always. **Amen.**

The Dismissal

Celebrant Go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Closing Hymn | Sung by all, standing as able.



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.

2 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.

Ellacombe
Gesangbuch der Herzogl. Hofkapelle, Württemberg, 1784

3 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.

4 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 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette.
All rights reserved. Used with permission

Postlude

The postlude concludes our worship service, sending us forth into the week ahead. You may choose to remain seated for the duration or depart following the closing hymn.

LEADING THE SERVICE

PREACHER Sarah Earl
PRESIDER The Rev. Canon Peter Case
DEACON The Rev. Dr. Reagan Gale
MUSICIANS Brad Barbeau
The Cathedral Choir

ASSISTING WITH THE SERVICE

READER	Phil Rogers	INTERCESSOR	Eleanor Rogers
SERVER	Derek Falkner	VERGER	Nancy Legacy
LAY MINISTERS	Gerald Courage & Eric Friesen	SIDESPEOPLE	Geoff & Graham Hinch
LIVESTREAM	Derek Falkner & Peter McCubbin		

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER:

The Eucharistic Canons of the Anglican Communion
The Anglican Church in Southern Africa Second Creation Prayer

SERVICE MUSIC: *New Plainsong*, David Hurd

All are invited to a service of Choral Evensong this afternoon at 4:00 at St Mary Magdalene Church in Picton. The Cathedral Choir will sing under the direction of Brad Barbeau, and Bishop William Cliff will be the officiant.

This Week's Service Schedule

Midweek Eucharist | Wednesday, 12:15pm
Choral Evensong | Wednesday, 7:00pm (*livestreamed*)
Coventry Litany of Reconciliation | Friday, 12:00pm

Harvest Thanksgiving | Sunday, October 12

8am Said Eucharist | 10:30am Choral Eucharist

The Venerable Bob Hales, *preacher*

The Very Rev. Douglas Michael, *presider*

Dt 26:1-11; Psalm 100; Phil 4:4-9; John 6:25-35

Support the Cathedral

The work of this Cathedral is made possible entirely through the support of individuals like you. If you are able, please consider donating as the plate is passed, by visiting www.stgeorgescathedral.ca, or by using the debit/credit card 'tap' machine in the narthex. Thank you for your generosity.

The Cathedral Church of St George

270 King Street East at Johnson Street

P.O. Box 475, Kingston, ON K7L 4W5

Phone: 613-548-4617 Email: office@stgeorgescathedral.ca

Web: www.stgeorgescathedral.ca Facebook: [@stgeorgeskingston](https://www.facebook.com/stgeorgeskingston)

