



***St. John's Episcopal Church
The Feast of St. Francis
October 5, 2025 ~ 10am***

Celebrant & Preacher: The Rev. Marc Eames

Liturgy of the Word

Prelude: *God Bless the Animals*, music by Craig Cassils, words by Clark Saunders. Janet Aldrich, Soprano Soloist

Processional Hymn #400 *All Creatures of Our God and King* (vs. 1 - 5)

** The congregation stands as able.*

Opening Acclamation:

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

People: And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. Amen.

Collect for Purity: Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known and from you no secrets are hid: 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.

Gloria: ** The congregation stands as able.*

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Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth. Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father, receive our prayer. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

The Collect of the Day: 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 congregation may be seated*

The First Lesson Job 39:1-18: **Lector: A reading from the book of Job.**

Do you know when the mountain goats give birth? Do you observe the calving of the deer? Can you number the months that they fulfil, and do you know the time when they give birth, when they crouch to give birth to their offspring, and are delivered of their young? Their young ones become strong, they grow up in the open; they go forth, and do not return to them. "Who has let the wild ass go free? Who has loosed the bonds of the swift ass, to which I have given the steppe for its home, the salt land for its dwelling-place? It scorns the tumult of the city; it does not hear the shouts of the driver. It ranges the mountains as its pasture, and it searches after every green thing. "Is the wild ox willing to serve you? Will it spend the night at your crib? Can you tie it in the furrow with ropes, or will it harrow the valleys after you? Will you depend on it because its strength is great, and will you hand over your labour to it? Do you have faith in it that it will return, and bring your grain to your threshing-floor? "The ostrich's wings flap wildly, though its pinions lack plumage. For it leaves its eggs to the earth, and lets them be warmed on the ground, forgetting that a foot may crush them, and that a wild animal may trample them. It deals cruelly with its young, as if they were not its own; though its labour should be in vain, yet it has no fear; because God has made it forget wisdom, and given it no share in understanding. When it spreads its plumes aloft, it laughs at the horse and its rider.

Lector: The word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 121 *Levavi oculos*

- 1 I lift up my eyes to the
hills; *
from where is my
help to come?
- 2 My help comes from
the LORD, *
the maker of heaven
and earth.
- 3 He will not let your foot
be moved *
and he who watches
over you will not fall
asleep.
- 4 Behold, he who keeps
watch over Israel *
shall neither slumber
nor sleep;
- 5 The LORD himself
watches over you; *

the LORD is your
shade at your right
hand,

- 6 So that the sun shall not
strike you by day, *
nor the moon by
night.
- 7 The LORD shall preserve
you from all evil; *
it is he who shall
keep you safe.
- 8 The LORD shall watch
over your going out
and your coming in,
*
from this time forth
for evermore.

The Second Lesson Acts 4:32-35,5:1-11:

Lector: Lector: A reading from the book of Acts. The whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need. But a man named Ananias, with the consent of his wife Sapphira, sold a piece of property; with his wife's knowledge, he kept back some of the proceeds, and brought only a part and laid it at the apostles' feet. "Ananias," Peter asked, "why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back part of the proceeds of the land? While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, were not the proceeds at your disposal? How is it that you have contrived this deed in your heart? You did not lie to us but to God!" Now when Ananias heard these words, he fell down and died. And great fear seized all who heard of it. The young men came and wrapped up his body, then carried him out and buried him. After an interval of about three hours his wife came in, not knowing what had happened. Peter said to her, "Tell me whether you and your husband sold the land for such and such a price." And she said, "Yes, that was the price." Then Peter said to her, "How is it that you have agreed together to put the Spirit of the Lord to the test? Look, the feet of those who have buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out." Immediately she fell down at his feet and died. When the young men came in they found her dead, so they carried her out and buried her beside her husband. And great fear seized the whole church and all who heard of these things.

Lector: The word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn #389 *Let Us, Wit a Gladsome Mind (vs. 1-6)*

** The congregation will stand as able and turn towards the Gospel book.*

Deacon: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. Luke.

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

The Gospel: Luke 12:13-21: Someone in the crowd said to Jesus, “Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me.” But he said to him, “Friend, who set me to be a judge or arbitrator over you?” And he said to them, “Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of possessions.” Then he told them a parable: “The land of a rich man produced abundantly. And he thought to himself, ‘What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?’ Then he said, ‘I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, ‘Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.’ But God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?’ So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich toward God.”

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Homily: Rev. Marc Eames

Blessing of the Animals:

Deacon: Let us pray. Blessed are You, Lord our God, Maker of all the universe: You have made the sun and moon and stars, the earth and all who live in it. All glory and praise are Yours, O Lord our God! Bless the people of this community and teach us to live together in harmony. Grant us the responsibility to care for this space. Help us to use it for our enjoyment and recreation and never forget the blessing and beauty of plants and trees. All praise and glory are Yours, God our Father, for ever and ever. Amen.

Priest: Almighty and everlasting God, Creator of all things and giver of all life, let your blessing be upon all these animals. May our relationships with them mirror your love, and our care for them be an example of your bountiful mercy. Grant the animals health and peace. Strengthen us to love and care for them as we strive to imitate the love of Jesus Christ our Lord and God's servant Francis. Amen.

Blessing of Animals

The Priest will then bless the individual animals.

Intercessor: Lord, make us instruments of your peace.

All: Where there is hatred, let us sow love;

Intercessor: Where there is injury, pardon;

All: Where there is doubt, faith;

Intercessor: Where there is despair, hope;

All: Where there is darkness, light;

Intercessor: Where there is sadness, joy. O Divine Master, Grant that we may

All: not so much seek to be consoled as to console;

Intercessor: To be understood as to understand;

All: To be loved as to love.

Intercessor: For it is in giving that we receive;

All: It is in pardoning that we are pardoned;

Intercessor: And it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen

I now invite you to say aloud those whom we are praying for today. (Pause)

Deacon: Almighty God, we remember before you today your faithful servants. We remember ***Francis Hunter***, in whose name the altar flowers have been given, we pray that, having opened to them the gates of larger life, you will receive them more and more into your joyful service, that, with all who have faithfully served you in the past, they may share in the eternal victory of Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Confession:

Deacon: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

People: 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.

The Absolution

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The Peace

The Offertory

** The congregation may be seated for the offertory.*

Holy Eucharist

Choral Offertory Anthem: *Harvest Song*, by Austin Lovelace

Doxology

Hymn #380 vs. 3

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host: praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.*

** The congregation will stand as able.*

The Great Thanksgiving:

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give thanks and praise.

Eucharistic Prayer B

p.367

Sanctus & Benedictus

S-129

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.

** After the conclusion of the Sanctus, the congregation may kneel or stand.*

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

Fraction Anthem

Agnus Dei

S-161

Lamb of God, you take away the sins on the world: have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: grant us peace.

The Communion invitation

**The congregation may be seated.*

[All baptized Christians are welcome to receive Holy Communion when you will be offered a wafer and wine. Gluten-free wafers are available - just ask the priest. If you prefer to receive a blessing only, simply cross your arms over your chest.]

Communion Music: *The Swan*, by Saint-Saens

The Beaver, by Samuel Zhang

The Jumpy Frog, by Samuel Zhang

The Little Turtle Who was Fond of Apples, by Samuel Zhang

Prayer for Eucharistic Visitors: *(if applicable)*

Celebrant: In the name of this congregation, I send you forth bearing these holy gifts, that those to whom you go may share with us in the communion of Christ's Body and Blood.

People: We who are many are one, because we all share one bread, one cup.

Post Communion Prayer of Thanksgiving:

**The congregation may stand or kneel.*

Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and forever. Amen.

Blessing

Recessional Hymn *O God, Your Creatures Fill the Earth (insert)*
words by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette

** The Congregation will stand as able.*

Dismissal

Postlude: *The Squirrel's Chatter*, by E.R. Kroeger

**The congregation may sit.*

**The congregation has been dismissed and may depart but is invited to listen to the postlude.*

Altar Servers in the 10:00 am Eucharists:

Celebrant & Preacher: The Rev. Marc Eames

Deacon: The Rev. Deacon Scott J. Stevens

Lector, Intercessor & MOC: Joy Dorin & Letty Naigles

Ushers: Skip Sutcliffe and Donna Lund

Acolyte(s): Maggie

Altar Guild: Sue Douglass, Marsha Francis, Margaret Mullen

Two restrooms and a baby-changing area are in the undercroft (basement) of the church, which can be reached by the stairs in the church entryway. Two handicap restrooms are located on the upper level of the church office building next door to the church.

Rector: The Rev. Marc G. Eames
Deacon: The Rev. Deacon Scott J. Stevens
Director of Music: Zoe Vandermeer
Parish Administrator: Christina Morin
Sexton: Ray Brookes
Verger: Dwight Feenstra
Retired Clergy: The Rev. Bennett A. Brockman, Ph.D.,
The Rev. Bill Byers
The Rev. Deacon Karen Fedorchak
Email: cmorin@stjohnsvernont.org
Phone: (860) 872-0517
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2025 Vestry

Sr. Warden: Skip Sutcliffe

Jr. Warden: Bill Francis

Clerk: Loretta Symons

Treasurer: Kevin Fenner

Assistant Treasurer: Gene Marinelli

Vestry Members

Elaine Anderson, Meghan Birdseye, Mary Davis, Jim Hutton,
Betsy Ibsen, Joanne Palica, Bruce Perry, Polly Schaefer, Sarah Tierinni