



Morning Prayer
The Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Creation Season: Blessing of our Pets
October 4, 2020 9:00am

This is the last Sunday on which we join with an international interfaith community to pray in thanksgiving for the beauty and abundance of our planet. We pray for the wisdom to conserve our resources, the grace to be mindful of the harm caused by our carelessness, and the courage to change. Today, we ask God's blessing on our pets and we give thanks for the joy they bring to our lives.

Ministers of the Liturgy

The Rev. Dr. Judith Lee

Our Youth:

Allison Kee, Emily Kee, Anna Prevelige, Lauren Ruggiero,
Tessa Scrimgeour, Maddie Stochaj, Kim Stochaj, Landon Sweet

Musicians: Randolph Bloom, Mary Johnson, Jeff Lukas

When we hear the warbling of the mountain thrush in the blossoms or the voice of the frog in the water, we know that every living being has a song. [Ki no Tsurayuki]

Organ Prelude

Let Jesus Christ, be present now

Johann G. Walther

Opening Sentence

*Glorify the Lord, O beasts of the wild, * and all you flocks and herds.*

*O men and women everywhere, glorify the Lord, * praise him and highly exalt him forever.*

The Invitatory and Psalter

The holy and undivided Trinity, one God: **O come let us worship.**

The Confession

Ann Rowthorn

Renew in us this day the image of your love; renew in us in the likeness of your mercy, O God. May any refusal to forgive that lingers with us, any bitterness of soul that hardens our hearts, be softened by your graces. Renew us in the image of your love, O God, renew us in the likeness of your mercy. **Amen.**

Absolution

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

Amen.

Opening Versicle & Doxology

Let us lift up our voices in song, lift our arms in praise, and open our hearts in gratitude.

Let us greet God with our hymn of praise.

Venite [Psalm 95:1-7]

Come, let us sing to the Lord; * let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.

Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving * and raise a loud shout to him with psalms.

For the Lord is a great God, * and a great King above all gods.

In his hand are the caverns of the earth, * and the heights of the hills are his also.

The sea is his, for he made it, * and his hands have molded the dry land.

Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee, * and kneel before the Lord our Maker.

For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand. *

Oh, that today you would hearken to his voice!

Canticle [Job 12:7-10; Psalm 147.9; Psalm 148:9-10; Psalm 150:6]

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 God's hand is the life of every living thing, and the breath of every human being . . .

He gives to the animals their food, and to the young ravens when they cry . . .

Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars!

Let everything that breathes praise the Lord!

Praise the Lord!

The First Lesson: A Reading from the Book of Exodus [20:1-4, 7-9, 20]

Then God spoke all these words:

I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; you shall have no other gods before me. You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the Lord your God . . . Remember the Sabbath day, and keep it holy. . . . Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you. You shall not murder. You shall not commit adultery. You shall not steal. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor. . . . Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid; for God has come only to test you and to put the fear of him upon you so that you do not sin."

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Canticle: A Song of God's Love [1 John 4:7-11]

Beloved, let us love one another, * for love is of God.

Whoever does not love does not know God, * for God is Love.

In this the love of God was revealed among us, * that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through Jesus Christ. In this is love, not that we loved God but that God loved us * and sent his Son that sins might be forgiven. Beloved, since God loved us so much, * we ought also to love one another. For if we love one another, God abides in us, * and God's love will be perfected in us.

A Reading from the Gospel of Matthew [11:28-30]

'Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.
²⁹Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.'

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

The Song of Mary *Magnificat* Luke 1:46-55

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; *
for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.

From this day all generations will call me blessed: *

the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his Name.

He has mercy on those who fear him * in every generation.

He has shown the strength of his arm,* he has scattered the proud in their conceit.

He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, *and has lifted up the lowly.

He has filled the hungry with good things,* and the rich he has sent away empty.

He has come to the help of his servant Israel, *

for he has remembered his promise of mercy,

The promise he made to our fathers, * to Abraham and his children forever.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *

as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. **Amen.**

Musical Meditation

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into

heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

The Prayers

Hear our cry, O God. **And listen to our prayer.**

Let us pray. God be with you. **And also with you.**

The Lord's Prayer

A Litany in Thanksgiving for the Animals of the Earth *The Anglican Church of Canada*

God created us and all animals, sharing the spirit of life with us and all creatures; therefore let us praise God, saying **O God, how wonderful are the works of your hands.**

We thank you, God, for the gift of life: for the beauty and wonder of creation, and for our own life which comes from you, **O God, how wonderful are the works of your hands.**

We thank you for the richness and variety of animal life: for fish and birds, insets, reptiles and mammals, **O God, how wonderful are the works of your hands.**

We thank you for animals of the farm: cattle and goats, pigs, sheep, and chickens
O God, how wonderful are the works of your hands.

We thank you for animals of the forest: wolves and foxes, deer, wild sheep, bears and badgers, elk and mountain lions **O God, how wonderful are the works of your hands.**

We thank you for the animals who give us faithful companionship, joy when we are happy, and comfort when we are sad. **O God, how wonderful are the works of your hands.**

We thank you for animals who are our partners in daily life and work: seeing eye dogs, rescue, service and police dogs, animals that pull plows, wagons, and sleighs.

O God, how wonderful are the works of your hands.

Collect of the Day

O God, you declare your almighty power chiefly in showing mercy and pity: Grant us the fullness of your grace that we, running to obtain your promises, may become partakers of your

heavenly treasure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Prayers of the People

With all our heart and all our mind, we pray to you, O Lord.

Make us instruments of your peace.

For the peace of the world, so that a spirit of respect and patience may grow among all nations, we pray to you, O Lord. **Where there is hatred, let us sow love.**

For our enemies and those who wish us harm, and for all whom we have injured or offended, we pray to you, O Lord. **Where there is injury, let us sow pardon.**

For all who fear God and believe in you, Lord Christ, that our divisions may cease and all may be one as you and the Father are one, we pray to you, O Lord.

Where there is discord, let us sow union.

For those who do not yet believe, for those who have lost their faith, and those in despair and darkness, especially for those who are suffering from the consequences of the pandemic through economic hardship, physical illness, or emotional and spiritual conflict, that they may receive the light of the Gospel, we pray to you, O Lord. **Where there is despair, let us sow hope.**

For the mission of the church, that it may faithfully preach the gospel to the ends of the earth, we pray to you, O Lord. **Where there is darkness, let us sow light.**

For everyone who suffers in body, mind, or spirit especially victims of the coronavirus and their families and caregivers, and those we now name silently and aloud . . . that they may be comforted and healed; give them courage and hope in their troubles, we pray to you, O Lord.

Where there is sadness, let us sow joy.

For all who have died, especially Mike Obrofta and those we now name, silently or aloud, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom. *(Pause)*

Grant that we 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. **Amen**

Musical Meditation *All creatures of our God and King* Hymnal #400
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,
O praise him, O praise him, alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

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.
O praise him, O praise him, alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

A Litany for the Healing of our Country *from God's Good Earth*

Almighty God, giver of all good things: We thank you for the natural majesty and beauty of this land. They restore us, though we often destroy them. **Heal us.**

We thank you for the great resources of this nation. They make us rich, though we often exploit them. **Forgive us.**

We thank you for the men and women who have made this country strong. They are models for us, even though we often fall short of them. **Inspire us.**

We thank you for the torch of liberty which has been lit in this land. It has drawn people from every nation, though we have often hidden from its light. **Enlighten us.**

We thank you for the faith we have inherited in all its rich variety. It sustains our life, though we have been faithless again and again. **Renew us.**

Help us, O Lord, to finish the good work here begun. Strengthen our efforts to blot out ignorance and prejudice, and to abolish poverty and crime. And hasten the day when all our people, with many voices join in one united chorus. **Amen.**

A Prayer in Time of Transition

God of growth and discovery, yours is the inspiration that has changed our lives. Yours is the power that has brought us to take new risks and face new opportunities. You shape our dreams. May your Spirit guide us in our preparations to search for a new Rector: open our eyes to what is possible and what is unfinished; open our ears to words of wisdom that assure us and challenge us; open our hearts to possibilities we have not yet imagined and to what we have neglected, that we may be both bold and humble; through Jesus Christ, our Light, our Center, our Hope. **Amen.**

A Prayer for those who have died from Coronavirus

Merciful God, hear our fervent prayer for all who suffer from the coronavirus. May those who are infected receive the proper treatment and the comfort of your healing presence. May their caregivers, families and neighbors be shielded from the onslaught of the virus. Give solace to those who grieve the loss of over 205,000 loved ones. Protect and guide those who strive to find a cure, that their work may conquer the disease and restore communities to wholeness and health. Help us to rise above fear. We ask all this in the name of your Son Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

A Prayer for an End to Racism

Lord, Jesus Christ who reached across the ethnic boundaries between Samaritan, Roman and Jew who offered fresh sight to the blind and freedom to captives, help us to break down the barriers in our community and to see the reality of racism and bigotry, and free us to challenge and uproot it from ourselves, our society and our world. **Amen.**

A Prayer our Pets

Almighty God, creator of heaven and earth, you have filled your creation with life and living things, and made us stewards to care for your marvelous world. We thank you for these animals you have given into our care. We are blessed by the wonder of them, their beauty, their playfulness, their love. We ask your blessing upon them. We pray you watch over them and keep them from harm. Give us wisdom and gentleness to know how to care for them in their living and in their dying. And at the last, may we be rejoined with these creatures who teach us what it is to love unconditionally. We ask this for the love of your holy name. **Amen.**

A Prayer for Pets Who Have Died

Dear Lord, we remember before you those animals we have known and loved and lost. We grieve the loss of their gentle love, and remember them with gratitude and appreciation. Allow us the hope that they live on in some new stage of life, and keep them safe until we meet again. We ask this in the name of the one who taught us that you are aware of each sparrow's fall. **Amen.**

A Prayer for Animals by Albert Schweitzer. Hear our humble prayer, O God, for our friends the animals, especially for animals who are suffering; for any that are hunted or lost or deserted or frightened or hungry; for all that must be put to death. We entreat for them all your mercy and pity, and for those who deal with them we ask a heart of compassion and gentle hands and kindly works. Make us, ourselves, to be true friends to animals and so to share the blessings of the merciful. **Amen.**

A Prayer of St. Chrysostom

Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. **Amen.**

Blessing

May God who began the dance of creation, who marveled at the lilies of the field, who transforms chaos to order--Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier--lead us to transform our lives and the church, to reflect God's glory in creation in the name of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Dismissal:

Let us go forth rejoicing in the power of the Spirit!