
DUKE UNIVERSITY CHAPEL
A Service of Worship for the Blessing of Animals



Sunday, October 14, 2012
three thirty in the afternoon

PRELUDE

PROCESSIONAL

INTROIT

Durham Children's Choir
Music by Larry Schultz

We Thank You, God, for Animal Friends

Come now and join in the celebration!

Sing and give thanks for God's good creation.

All living creatures, large and small,

Are gifts from the Spirit, Maker of all!

We thank you, God, for animal friends.

They cause us to marvel, laugh and grin.

They cuddle close when we are sad.

They jump for joy when we are glad.

We thank you, God, for animal friends.

They guide and protect us and defend.

They sense and warn when danger's near.

They help us see; they help us hear.

Bless all animals everywhere,

In our homes and flying through air,

In the fields and rivers on earth.

Thank you, God, for giving them birth;

The kittens and puppies, the goldfish and guppies,

The roosters and hens, the sparrows and wrens,

The parrots and colts, hamsters and goats,

The spaniels and beagles, penguins and eagles!

We thank you God, and promise to care for animals everywhere!

Text by Jann Aldredge-Clanton

GREETING

OPENING PRAYER

Lord, make us instruments of your peace,
where there is hatred, let us sow love; where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy;
O Divine Master,
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.

—adapted from *St. Francis of Assisi*

ANTHEMS

Durham Children's Choir

Hands for the World, A Medley of Two Spirituals arr. Ken Berg
He's Got the Whole World in His Hands
The Lord Has Got His Hands on Me

He's got the whole world in His hands;
He's got the birds and the bees in His hands;
He's got the beast of the field in His hands.
He's got the tiny little baby in His hands;
He's got the whole world in His hands.

Oh, I know the Lord has laid his hand on me!
Now, Jonah was a prophet who was given a job to do,
But he turned his back on God and only did what he wanted to!

So the Lord got his attention with a whale of a stormy night,
and ol' Jonah preached repentance which would save all the Ninevites!
I know the Lord has laid His hand on me.

Like ol' Jonah, there are times when we all do what we want to do,
And the Lord may have to lead us through a serious storm or two.
When we learn to trust the Lord and live in faithfulness every day.
Like ol' Jonah we will come to know the One with the better way!
I know the Lord has laid his hand on me!

He's got the whole world in His hands!

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Psalm 8

*O Lord, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth!
You have set your glory above the heavens.*

*Out of the mouths of babes and infants
you have founded a bulwark because of your foes,
to silence the enemy and the avenger.*

*When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars that you have established;*

*what are human beings that you are mindful of them,
mortals that you care for them?
Yet you have made them a little lower than God,
and crowned them with glory and honor.
You have given them dominion over the works of your hands;
you have put all things under their feet,
all sheep and oxen,
and also the beasts of the field,
the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea,
whatever passes along the paths of the seas.
O Lord, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth!*

Matthew 6:25-33

‘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. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? Therefore do not worry, saying, “What will we eat?” or “What will we drink?” or “What will we wear?” For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

Lector: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

HOMILY—Where Is the Glory?

LITANY ON BEHALF OF GOD’S CREATURES (*read responsively*)

Leader: Gracious God, you created the earth and all that is in it and proclaimed it good. We confess that all this belongs to you and that at times we have harmed your creation. Forgive us, we pray, and help us to be champions of all those who suffer, so that we may be channels of your goodness.

People: Hear us, O Lord!

Leader: We give you thanks, O God, for the life and witness of the prophets who remind us of your true purpose and for those special people who minister with tenderness to all living beings.

People: Hear us, O Lord!

Leader: We give you thanks, O God, for animals who live in our homes, on farms, in the wild, and in havens of refuge. Make us ever aware of our stewardship of creation, and help us to be faithful in caring for all you have created.

People: Hear us, O Lord!

Leader: We pray today for animals who are mistreated in any way... for those who are tortured, deserted, abused, exploited and used for unnecessary experimentation, and for any whose lives are spent in extreme confinement. Help us to stop abuse in any form. Open our mouths to the defense of the defenseless, and above all, open our lives to your ways.

People: Hear us, O Lord!

Leader: We ask forgiveness for the part we have all played in systems that employ violence and promote hardness of heart.

People: Hear us, O Lord!

Leader: We remember before you our companion animals who have died. We remember at this time also, those animals who are lost or separated from their owners.

People: Hear us, O Lord!

BRIEF TIME OF SHARING

People are invited to share their animal stories briefly.

THE BLESSING

O sweet maker of all, we ask your blessing on every creature gathered here today, the large and the small. May they live peacefully in praise of you. Bless us all to love your creation, and revere its sacredness. We ask this blessing in the name of the one who was, is, and always will be, our Creator, to whom every creature belongs. Amen.

*Animals will be blessed individually. The worship leaders will come to you.
You may depart in peace after your animal companions have been blessed.*

A PRAYER FOR ANIMALS

Hear our humble prayer, O God, for our friends the animals, especially for animals who are suffering; for any that are hunted or lost, deserted, frightened, or hungry; and for all that will 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, gentle hands, and kindly words. Make us, ourselves, to be true friends to animals, and so to share the blessings of the merciful.

—Albert Schweitzer

THE HISTORY OF BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS AT DUKE CHAPEL

In 1989, Duke Divinity student DeRonda (Rondy) Elliott proposed the idea for the service based on her belief that people of faith should acknowledge the blessings we receive from the animals of the earth and also be advocates for their well-being. Each year since then we have welcomed a grand menagerie to the lawn of Duke Chapel along with their owners and friends on the Sunday in October closest to the Feast Day of St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of animals. Several of the worship leaders are wearing pins brought from the Basilica in Assisi, Italy. Many animal protection and advocacy groups have also participated in the service and educated us about the needs of animals in our community. Through the years we have blessed many wonderful creatures of all shapes, sizes, and species. Rondy also crafted the original framework for the Litany on Behalf of God's Creatures, which has had some revision over the years, but largely remains intact. Today we remember those who have died, giving thanks for their lives and for all our finned, feathered, furry and fur-less friends.

ABOUT THE DURHAM CHILDREN'S CHOIR

The Durham Children's Choir is a community organization made up of outstanding young singers from elementary and middle schools, public and private, and home-schooled children, in the Durham and neighboring communities. Their mission is to learn a wide variety of high quality choral music, both sacred and secular, and to share that music with the community through public performances. The choir was founded in 2004 by Scott Hill, retired DPS choral director, with generous support from the Durham Arts Council, Duke University Chapel Music, Durham Public Schools, the BIN Charitable Foundation and supporters from the community.

The service today has been coordinated and supported by Duke Chapel and the Congregation at Duke Chapel Endowment. We would like to thank Rick's Reptile Rescue and the Triangle Vegetarian Society who are joining us today and for their work to help animals and to educate people.

Durham Animal Protection Society
Triangle Vegetarian Society
Rick's Reptile Rescue and Sanctuary
Durham Co. Sheriff's Office Animal Services



MINISTRY OF WORSHIP

Presiding Minister	The Rev. Meghan Feldmeyer <i>Director of Worship, Duke Chapel</i>
Preacher	Fr. Michael Martin, OFM Conv. <i>Director of Catholic Campus Ministry</i>
Lector`	Mr. Jeff Nelson <i>Divinity '13, Chapel Worship Intern</i>
Other Participants	The Rev. Bruce Puckett <i>Director of Community Ministry, Interim Pastor to the Congregation</i> The Rev. Brad Troxell <i>Interim Associate Pastor to the Congregation at Duke Chapel</i> The Rev. Robin Arcus <i>United Church of Christ minister, co-founder of Chapel Blessing of Animals</i>
Musician	Mr. Rick Keena <i>Member of the Congregation at Duke Chapel</i>
Choir	Durham Children's Choir Ms. Scott Hill, conductor Ms. Vangie Poe, accompanist
Ushers	Youth of Duke Chapel Congregation

STAFF OF DUKE UNIVERSITY CHAPEL

The Rev. Dr. Luke Powery	<i>Dean of the Chapel</i>
Ministry	
Dr. Christy Lohr Sapp	<i>Associate Dean for Religious Life</i>
The Rev. Meghan Feldmeyer	<i>Director of Worship</i>
Dr. Adam Hollowell	<i>Director of Student Ministry</i>
The Rev. Bruce Puckett	<i>Director of Community Ministry</i>
Ms. Kennetra Irby	<i>Interim Black Campus Minister</i>
Ms. Gerly Ace	<i>Staff Assistant for Student Ministry</i>
Music	
Dr. Rodney Wynkoop	<i>Director of Chapel Music</i>
Dr. Robert Parkins	<i>University Organist</i>
Dr. David Arcus	<i>Chapel Organist and Associate University Organist</i>
Dr. Brian Schmidt	<i>Assistant Conductor and Administrative Coordinator of Chapel Music</i>
Mr. John Santoian	<i>Curator of Organs and Harpsichords</i>
Mr. J. Samuel Hammond	<i>University Carillonneur</i>
Mr. Michael Lyle	<i>Staff Assistant for Chapel Music</i>
Administration	
Ms. Beth Gettys Sturkey	<i>Director of Development</i>
Ms. Lucy Worth	<i>Special Assistant to the Dean for Finance and Projects</i>
Ms. Adrienne Koch	<i>Special Assistant for Communications</i>
Ms. Sara Blaine	<i>Chapel Events and Wedding Coordinator</i>
Ms. Kelsey Hallatt	<i>Chapel Communications Specialist</i>
Ms. Lisa Moore	<i>Accounting Specialist and Office Coordinator</i>
Mr. Oscar Dantzler and Mr. Razz Za Rayakob	<i>Housekeepers</i>
Staff of the Congregation at Duke University Chapel	
The Rev. Bruce Puckett	<i>Interim Pastor</i>
The Rev. Brad Troxell	<i>Interim Associate Pastor</i>
Ms. Phyllis Snyder	<i>Children's Pastor</i>
Ms. Mary Ann Manconi	<i>Administrative Assistant</i>