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



Sunday, October 6, 2013
three o'clock in the afternoon

PRELUDE

PROCESSIONAL

INTROIT

Durham Children's Choir
Andrew Carter

Badgers and Hedgehogs
from from *Bless the Lord*.

O ye badgers and hedgehogs, bless the Lord.
O ye badgers and squirrels and hedgehogs, bless the Lord.
O ye badgers and squirrels and ferrets and foxes and hedgehogs, bless the Lord. O ye parakeets and pelicans and porcupines and penguins, guillemots and guineapigs and gallinules and godwits and badgers and hedgehogs, bless the Lord. O ye weasels and warthogs and wallabies and wombats, chipmunks and chuckawallas and kookaburras and caterpillars and badgers and hedgehogs, bless the Lord. O ye dromedaries and ye dragonflies and diddy little daddylonglegs, budgerigars and bumblebees and bandicoots and bullfrogs and badgers and hedgehogs, bless the Lord.

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

All Thy Gifts of Love

David L. Brunner

For food in a world where many walk in hunger,
For peace in a world where many walk in fear,

For friends in a world where many walk alone, we give you thanks, O God

For creatures of earth, that comfort and console us,
For fish of the sea and birds of the air,
For animal-kind, where many walk alone, we give you thanks, O God.*

For health in a world where many walk in sickness,
For joy in a world where many walk in grief,
For love in a world where many walk in anger,
Light in a world where many walk in darkness,
For these and all the many things unspoken.

For gifts unknown or, as of yet, unseen.

For these and all Thy gifts of love, we give Thee thanks, O God.

**This new verse for All Thy Gifts of Love was written by DCC singer Claire Wagner and added for this occasion with permission of the composer.*

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Psalms 104:24-30

O Lord, how manifold are your works!

*In wisdom you have made them all;
the earth is full of your creatures.*

*Yonder is the sea, great and wide,
creeping things innumerable are there,
living things both small and great.*

*There go the ships,
and Leviathan that you formed to sport in it.*

*These all look to you
to give them their food in due season;
when you give to them, they gather it up;
when you open your hand, they are filled with good things.*

*When you hide your face, they are dismayed;
when you take away their breath, they die
and return to their dust.*

*When you send forth your spirit, they are created;
and you renew the face of the ground.*

Selections from Isaiah 11:1-9

*A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.*

*The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.*

*His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.
He shall not judge by what his eyes see,
or decide by what his ears hear;
but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;
The wolf shall live with the lamb,
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,
and a little child shall lead them.
The cow and the bear shall graze,
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.
The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.
They will not hurt or destroy
on all my holy mountain;
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord
as the waters cover the sea.*

Lector: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

HOMILY—The Once and Final Goodness of Creation

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. All this belongs to you, and yet we harm 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.

Animal Protection Society of Durham
Durham County Animal Control
The Green Iguana Society
Rob Gierka, "The Pet Chaplain"
Triangle Vegetarian Society



MINISTRY OF WORSHIP

Presiding Minister	Dr. Christy Lohr Sapp <i>Associate Dean for Religious Life, Duke Chapel</i>
Preacher	The Rev. McKennon Shea <i>Director of Admissions, Duke Divinity School</i>
Lector`	Mr. Paul Wynkoop <i>Member of the Congregation at Duke Chapel Youth Group</i>
Other Participants	The Rev. Dr. Carol Gregg <i>Pastor to the Congregation at Duke Chapel</i> Fr. Michael Martin, OFM Conv. <i>Director of Catholic Campus Ministry</i> The Rev. Bruce Puckett <i>Director of Community Ministry</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> Ms. Rondy Elliott <i>Founder of Blessing of the Animals Service</i>
Musician	Mr. Rick Keena <i>Member of the Congregation at Duke Chapel</i>
Choir	Durham Children's Choir <i>Ms. Scott Hill, Founder/Conductor</i> <i>Ms. Dena Byers, Associate Conductor</i> <i>Ms. Vangie Poe, Accompanist</i>

STAFF OF DUKE UNIVERSITY CHAPEL

The Rev. Dr. Luke Powery	<i>Dean of the Chapel</i>
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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 Santoianni	<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. Joni Harris	<i>Assistant to the Dean</i>
Ms. Adrienne Koch	<i>Communications Specialist</i>
Ms. Sara Blaine	<i>Chapel Events and Wedding Coordinator</i>
Ms. Lisa Moore	<i>Accounting Specialist and Office Coordinator</i>
Mr. Daniel Reeves	<i>Visitor Relations Specialist</i>
Ms. Lucy Hart Peaden Taylor	<i>Staff Assistant for Development</i>
Mr. Oscar Dantzler and Ms. Beverly Jordan	<i>Housekeepers</i>

Staff of the Congregation at Duke University Chapel

The Rev. Dr. Carol Gregg	<i>Pastor</i>
The Rev. Brad Troxell	<i>Associate Pastor</i>
Ms. Phyllis Snyder	<i>Children's Pastor</i>
Ms. Mary Ann Manconi	<i>Administrative Assistant</i>