Choral Introit

Cantate Domino Durham Children’s Choir
Laura Farnell

Cantate Domino! Cantate Domino! Cantate Domino!
Rejoice and sing! Let praises ring!
Cantate Domino! Cantate Domino! Cantate Domino!
Alleluia, alleluia!

Cantate omnis terra! Let all the earth sing praise.
Cantate! Let all the earth rejoice.
Let all the earth glad voices raise!
Sing and rejoice! Sing and rejoice! Alleluia!

Cantate Domino! Cantate Domino! Cantate Domino!
Rejoice and sing! Let praises ring!
Cantate Domino! Cantate Domino! Cantate Domino!
Alleluia, alleluia!
Alleluia, alleluia!

Greeting
Opening Prayer | In unison:
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.
Choral Anthem

Badgers and Hedgehogs
(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 guinea pigs and gallinules and godwits and badger 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 daddy longlegs, budgerigars and bumble bees and bandicoots and bullfrogs and badgers and hedgehogs, bless the Lord.

Scripture Lessons

Matthew 25:31, 34–40

When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, “Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.” Then the righteous will answer him, “Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?” And the king will answer them, “Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.”

John 2: 13–16

The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money-changers seated at their tables. Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables.
He told those who were selling the doves, "Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a market-place!"

Lector: This is the word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

Homily

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: Lord Jesus, you are the Good Shepherd who protects his sheep. May we learn from your self-giving love to care for creation and protect vulnerable creatures and habitats.
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: Holy Spirit, we lift to you all 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 Lord for the part we have all played in systems that exploit your creation 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!
The Blessing

O holy Father and Creator 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 honor it as a gift from you. We ask this blessing in the name of the One who was, is, and always will be, our Lord Jesus Christ, 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.*

### TODAY IN WORSHIP

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<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>PRESIDING MINISTER</strong></th>
<th>Fr. Michael Martin.......................... Director, Duke Catholic Center</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>PREACHER</strong></td>
<td>The Rev. Rondy Elliott......................... Founder of the Blessing of the Animals Service</td>
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<td><strong>LECTOR</strong></td>
<td>Mr. Bram Lovelace.............................. Member of the Congregation at Duke Chapel</td>
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<td><strong>OTHER PARTICIPANTS</strong></td>
<td>The Rev. Robin Arcus.......................... Minister, United Church of Christ</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Ms. Lynn Holmes ................................ Divinity Intern, Congregation at Duke Chapel</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Ms. Sandy Kim.................................. Divinity Intern, Duke University Chapel</td>
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<td>The Rev. Bruce Puckett........................ Assistant Dean of Duke University Chapel</td>
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<td>Ms. Phyllis Snyder............................. Children's Pastor, Congregation at Duke Chapel</td>
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<td>The Rev. Joshua Stanley...................... Education Pastor, Congregation at Duke Chapel</td>
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**MUSICIANS**

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<tr>
<th>Durham Children's Choir</th>
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<tr>
<td>Ms. Dena Byers</td>
<td>Artistic Director</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr. Jeff Whicker</td>
<td>Accompanist</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr. Rick Keena</td>
<td>Classical Guitar</td>
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**ABOUT THE CHOIR** | The Durham Children’s Choir is a community organization which seeks to provide exceptional choral education to children regardless of race, creed or socio-economic station. Founded in 2004 by Scott Hill, and under the leadership of Artistic Director Dena Byers, the Durham Children’s performs music of various cultures and genres and shares that music with the community at public and private events. They have performed internationally and nationally, most recently, in Carnegie Hall. For more information please visit www.durhamchildrenschoir.org.

**PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS** | We would like to thank the Animal Protection Society of Durham, Carolina Tiger Rescue, Green Iguana Society, and Humane Society of the US, who have joined us today for their work helping animals and educating people.