



Duke  
UNIVERSITY  
CHAPEL

BRIDGING FAITH & LEARNING

SERVICE OF WORSHIP

Blessing of the Animals  
Sunday, October 3, 2021, 3:00 p.m.

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Choral Introit

O God, Your Creatures Fill the Earth

arr. James Koerts

O God, your creatures fill the earth with wonder and delight,  
And every living thing has worth and beauty in your sight.  
So playful dolphins dance and swim;  
Your sheep bow down and graze.  
Your songbirds share a morning hymn  
To offer you their praise.

You made the pets we welcome in —  
They're wondrous blessings, too.  
With paws and whiskers, wings and fins,  
They offer praise to you.

O Lord, you call us to embrace  
These creatures in our care.  
May we show kindness, love and grace  
To all pets everywhere.

Your creatures live in every land;  
They fill the sky and sea.  
O Lord, you give us your command  
To love them tenderly.  
We're called to have dominion here —  
To care for them always.  
By loving creatures you hold dear,  
We offer you our praise.

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

All Things Bright and Beautiful

Philip E. Silvey

All things bright and beautiful,  
All creatures great and small,  
All things wise and wonderful, The Lord God made them all.

Each little flower that opens,  
Each little bird that sings,  
He made their glowing colours, He made their tiny wings.

All things bright and beautiful,  
All creatures great and small,  
All things wise and wonderful, The Lord God made them all.

The purple-headed mountain,  
The river running by,  
The sunset and the morning, That brightens up the sky,

He made all things well.

All things bright and beautiful,  
All creatures great and small,  
All things wise and wonderful, The Lord God made them all.

## Scripture Lessons

Genesis 1:24-27a

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

Psalm 63:1-8

**Leader:** 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

## **PRESIDING MINISTER**

The Rev. Robin Arcus ..... *Minister in the United Church of Christ*

## **PREACHER**

The Rev. Amanda Highben ..... *Campus Pastor, Duke Lutherans*

## **OTHER PARTICIPANTS**

Mr. Rondy Elliott ..... *Founder of the Blessing of the Animals at Duke Chapel*

Mr. Nathaniel Metz ..... *Pastoral Assistant, Congregation at Duke Chapel*

Ms. Phyllis Snyder ..... *Children's Pastor, Congregation at Duke Chapel*

The Rev. Breana van Velzen ..... *Community Minister, Duke Chapel*

Mr. Matt Wright ..... *Pastoral Assistant, Congregation at Duke Chapel*

## **MUSICIANS**

Durham Children's Choir ..... *Choir*

Ms. Dena Byers ..... *Artistic Director*

Mr. Jeff Whicker ..... *Accompanist*

**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. DCC enjoys local collaborations and has performed nationally and internationally, including at Carnegie Hall. This season, the Durham Children’s Choir is honored to have been selected to perform for the Southern Division Conference of the American Choral Directors Association in Raleigh. For more information, visit their website at [www.durhamchildrenschoir.org](http://www.durhamchildrenschoir.org).

**PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATION |** The Animal Protection Society of Durham (APS) is a non-profit organization that has been helping animals in our community since 1970, and has managed the Durham County Animal Shelter since 1990. APS relies on donations from caring individuals and corporations to feed, shelter and provide medical attention for nearly 5,000 stray, surrendered, abandoned, abused, and neglected animals each year.



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