

Festival of St Francis of Assisi Pet's Service



Hymn: "Morning Has Broken"

Together in Song 156

Morning has broken like the first morning,
Blackbird has spoken like the first bird.
Praise for the singing,
Praise for the morning,
Praise for them springing fresh from the word.

Sweet the rain's new fall, sunlit from heaven,
Like the first dewfall on the first grass.
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden,
Sprung from completeness where his feet pass.

Mine is the sunlight,
Mine is the morning,
Born of the one light Eden saw play.
Praise with elation, praise ev'ry morning,
God's recreation of the new day.

Call to Worship

God is the Creator,
with an imagination gathered into a universe of wonder.
In every living thing is a glimpse of God,
In every sound and song is a note of God,
in every touching warmth between us
is a mystery of the love of God.

Let us worship God!

Prayer Of Thanksgiving

Creator God, you have made a beautiful world of wonder and surprise;

We give you thanks and praise.

Creator God, you have gifted us with the blessing of animals, those in the wild,
those on farms and those in our homes;

We give you thanks and praise.

Creator God, you bring into being creatures we could never imagine for
ourselves, life we cannot see without the aid of microscopes, animals we can
only see in pictures from remote regions of this planet earth;

We give you thanks and praise.

We thank you for abundant life, for the birds we hear in the morning, for the
drone of the bees when we are outside, for the tapestry of life you weave;

We give you thanks and praise.

We thank you today especially for the gift of our animal companions, for the joy
they bring us, for the unconditional love and forgiveness which teaches us about
you, for the benefits they bring to our health and spiritual well-being;

We give you thanks and praise.

and we join with all creation in singing your praise;

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

The many-coloured corals,
the creatures of the sea,
of bushland, field or desert,
on farms, or roaming free,
All things bright and beautiful ...

He gave us eyes to see them,
and lips that we might tell
how great is God Almighty
who has made all things well.
All things bright and beautiful ...

SENDING OUT OF GOD'S PEOPLE

Let us pray:

**God our creator,
help us to love all creatures as our kin,
all animals as partners on earth,
all birds as messengers of praise,
all minute beings as expressions
of your mysterious design,
and all frogs as voices of hope. Amen.**

(Prayer by Norm Habel)

Blessing

May you go into the world in peace,
love one another and cherish your animal companions.
and the blessing of God almighty,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
be upon you and all whom you love,
today and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING OUT OF GOD'S PEOPLE Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ. Amen.

We who are many are one body,
for we all share in the one bread.

The gifts of God for the people of God

**Jesus Christ is holy
 Jesus Christ is Lord
 to the glory of God the Father.**

The priest & other communicants receive Holy Communion or a blessing.

SENDING OUT OF GOD'S PEOPLE Post Communion Prayer

We thank you, God of all loveliness, for the beauty of the earth and sky and sea; for the richness of mountains, deserts and rivers; for the songs of birds, and the love & companionship of pets, we praise you for these good gifts, and pray that we may guard our heritage, to the honour and glory of your name. **Amen.**

Most loving God

**You send us into the world you love,
 Give us grace to go thankfully and with courage
 In the power of your Spirit.**

Notices

Hymn: "All Things Bright and Beautiful"

Together in Song 135

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

The wildflowers in their beauty,
 the mountain ranges tall,
 the billabongs and rivers,
 and friendly birds that call,

All things bright and beautiful ...

The cold wind in the winter,
 the bright, life-giving sun,
 the ripe fruits in the garden -
 he made them, every one.

All things bright and beautiful ...

The coloured walls of gorges,
 the gum trees green and tall,
 the flowering jacarandas,
 the sparkling waterfall,

All things bright and beautiful ...

But ask the animals and they will teach you; the birds of the air and they will tell you; ... and the fish of the sea will declare to you, in his hand is the life of every living thing. *Job 12.7-8,10*

Let us pray

**Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open,
 all desires known, and from no secrets are hidden:
 cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration
 of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you,
 and worthily magnify your holy name,
 through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.' Jesus said: 'This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: you shall love your neighbour as yourself.'

Introduction to Confession

We are surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses.
 Let us then run the race, laying aside every weight
 and bringing our sins to the Lord in penitence and faith.

Confession

**Merciful God, our maker and our judge,
 we have sinned against you
 in thought, word, and deed,
 and in what we have failed to do:
 we have not loved you with our whole heart;
 we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves;
 we repent, and are sorry for all our sins.
 Father, forgive us.
 Strengthen us to love and obey you in newness of life;
 through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Kyrie

**Lord, have mercy
 Christ, have mercy
 Lord, have mercy**

Silence

Absolution

Almighty God,
 who has promised forgiveness to all who turn to him in faith:
 pardon you and set you free from all your sins,
 strengthen you in all goodness and keep you in eternal life,
 through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us join together in the hymn of praise;

*Hymn of Praise: Gloria
(Sung to TIS 152)*

**Glory be to God in heaven,
peace to those who love you well;
on the earth let all your people
speak your grace, your wonders tell:
Lord, we praise you for your glory,
mighty Father, heaven's king;
hear our joyful adoration
and accept the thanks we bring.
Only Son of God the Father,
Lamb who takes our sin away,
now with God in triumph seated -
for your mercy, Lord, we pray:
Jesus Christ, most high and holy,
Saviour, you are God alone
in the glory of the Father with the Spirit: Three-in-One!**

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME Collect

Let us pray

Most gracious loving Lord, grant your people the grace to gladly renounce the vanities of this world; that, we may for love of you, delight in your whole creation with perfect joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

**God, our Creator, help us to love all creatures as kin,
all you have created as partners on Earth,
and all your creatures as expressions
of your mysterious design. Amen.**

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

**A READING FROM THE BOOK OF GENESIS (Pew Bible page 1)
CHAPTER 1: BEGINNING AT THE 20TH VERSE:**

And God said, "Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky." So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm, and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good. God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth." And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day. And God said, "Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind." And it was so. God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind, and the cattle of every kind, and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good. Then God said, "Let us make humankind in our image, according to our

Merciful God, we thank you for these gifts of your creation, this bread and wine, and we pray that by your Word and Holy Spirit, we who eat and drink them may be partakers of Christ's body and blood. On the night he was betrayed Jesus took bread; and when he had given you thanks he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, 'Take eat, This is my body given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.' After supper, he took the cup, and again giving you thanks he gave it to his disciples saying, 'Drink from this, all of you. This is my blood of the new covenant shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.'

Memorial Acclamation

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING Blessing and Honour

Therefore we do as our Saviour has commanded: proclaiming his offering of himself made once for all upon the cross, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension, and looking for his coming again, we celebrate, with this bread and this cup, his one perfect and sufficient sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Renew us by your Holy Spirit, unite us in the body of your Son, and bring us with all your people into the joy of your eternal kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord, with whom and in whom, in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, we worship you, Father, in songs of never ending praise:

**Blessing and honour and glory and power
are yours for ever and ever. Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are confident to pray,

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

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.

*Text: Copyright 2011 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. All rights reserved.
Used with permission of Carolyn Winfrey Gillette- bcgillette@comcast.net*

Prayer of the Gifts

Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation.
Through your goodness we have these gifts to share.
Accept and use our offerings for your glory
and for the service of your kingdom.
Blessed be God for ever.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Thanksgiving Prayer 1

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

All glory and honour be yours always and everywhere,
mighty Creator, ever-living God.
We give you thanks and praise for your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ, who by the power of your Spirit
was born of Mary and lived as one of us.
By his death on the cross and rising to new life,
he offered the one true sacrifice for sin
and obtained an eternal deliverance for his people.

Therefore with angels and archangels,
and the whole company of heaven,
we proclaim your great and glorious name,
forever praising you and saying:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.” So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.’

HEAR THE WORD OF THE LORD

THANKS BE TO GOD

PSALM 104.1, 10-15, 24

**Bless the Lord, O my soul.
O Lord my God, you are very great.
You are clothed with honour and majesty,
You make springs gush forth in the valleys;
they flow between the hills,
giving drink to every wild animal;
the wild asses quench their thirst.
By the streams the birds of the air have their habitation;
they sing among the branches.
From your lofty abode you water the mountains;
the earth is satisfied with the fruit of your work.
You cause the grass to grow for the cattle,
and plants for people to use,
to bring forth food from the earth,
and wine to gladden the human heart,
oil to make the face shine,
and bread to strengthen the human heart.
O Lord, how manifold are your works!
In wisdom you have made them all;
the earth is full of your creatures.**

**A READING FROM THE LETTER OF PAUL TO THE PHILIPPIANS
CHAPTER 4: BEGINNING AT THE 4TH VERSE: (Pew Bible page 955)**

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

HEAR THE WORD OF THE LORD

THANKS BE TO GOD

Hymn: "For the Beauty of the Earth"

Together in Song 137

For the beauty of the earth,
for the beauty of the skies,
for the love which from our birth
over and around us lies,
*Christ, our God, to you we raise
this our sacrifice of praise.*

For the beauty of each hour
of the day and of the night,
hill and vale, and tree and flower,
sun and moon and stars of light,
*Christ, our God, to you we raise
this our sacrifice of praise.*

For the joy of human love,
brother, sister, parent, child,
friends on earth and friends above,
for all gentle thoughts and mild,
*Christ, our God, to you we raise
this our sacrifice of praise.*

For each perfect gift divine
to our race so freely given,
graces all of your design,
flowers of earth and buds of heaven,
*Christ, our God, to you we raise
this our sacrifice of praise.*

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

**THE GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO MATTHEW
CHAPTER 6: BEGINNING AT THE 25TH VERSE: (Pew Bible page 787)**

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

"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.

FOR THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD PRAISE TO YOU LORD JESUS CHRIST

Following the reading

SERMON

After the sermon, the pets will be blessed.

Intercessions

Let us pray for the world, the church and for creation:

*The response to the bidding, 'For your love and goodness'
is 'we give you thanks, O God'.*

The prayers will conclude with;

Almighty God, you have promised to hear our prayers,
**Grant that what we have asked in faith
we may by your grace receive,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The Greeting of Peace

We are the body of Christ. **His Spirit is with us.**

The peace of the Lord be always with you. **And also with you.**

Offertory Hymn: "O God, Your Creatures Fill the Earth" (Tune TIS 361)

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.

You made the creatures on each farm;
you know the things they need.
May they grow healthy, safe from harm,
and safe from human greed.
Just as a shepherd loves the sheep,
you know their joy, their pain.
Lord, bless the animals we keep;
may all farms be humane.