

Animal Blessing Eucharist: a Celebration of Creation



October 4, 2026 9:00am
Emmanuel Episcopal Church
Coos Bay, Oregon

Prelude: *Blessed the Beasts and Children* arr. Richard Bradley

Call To Worship:

L: Welcome! We join together to worship God in the company of all our brothers and sisters in creation.

P: We gather to give thanks to God, Creator of Heaven and Earth, of all things visible and invisible.

L: We gather to acknowledge the place that animals have in our lives as companions and friends and sustainers with whom we share our days.

P: Hear the Word of God!

“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, 8b, 10a*)

Amen and Amen!

Hymn: *I Sing the Mighty power of God* #54

Opening Prayer

L: Come, let us gather together.

P: Let us join the gathering: we bring fish and birds.

L: Come, let us gather in thankfulness for all of creation.

P: Let us join the gathering: we bring turtles, dogs, and cats.

L: Come, let us praise the Lord God our Creator.

P: We know that we are loved because of all the glory, wonder, and details of God’s creation.

L: Come now, children of the earth, and let us pray:

Most High, all powerful, good and gracious Lord, to you we offer praise, glory, honor, and blessing. To you alone, do they belong, for you have made all things well and have filled them with your blessing. You have made us in your image and have called us to be stewards of creation. You

fill us with awe and wonder at the majesty and beauty of creation. Give us the courage to repent and amend our ways when we do not take care of the creation you have given to us. Send your Spirit to us, this hour, and fill us again with joy for the gift of life. Amen.

Bible Reading:

Reader: A Reading from Genesis Chapter 1

“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. And God blessed them. 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. And God saw that it was good. Then God said, ‘Let us make humankind.’ And God blessed them. God saw everything that God had made, and indeed, it was very good.”

L: The word of the Lord!

P: **Thanks be to God!**

A Version of Psalm 148:

P: **Praise the Lord!**

L: All rabbits, hamsters, and guinea pigs:

P: **Praise the Lord!**

L: All creatures of the waters, the goldfish, guppies, and swimming creatures:

P: **Praise the Lord!**

L: All of the winged ones, robins, wrens, and singing birds:

P: **Praise the Lord!**

L: All bats, squirrels, and raccoons:

P: Praise the Lord!

L: All horses, cows, wolves, and sheep:

P: Praise the Lord!

L: All lizards, snakes, cockroaches, and creeping things:

P: Praise the Lord!

L: Every animal in the sky, the sea, and the forest:

P: Praise the Lord!

Bible Reading 1:

Reader: A reading from Isaiah Chapter 55:6-13

⁶ Seek the Lord while He may be found,
Call upon Him while He is near.

⁷ Let the wicked forsake his way,
And the unrighteous man his thoughts;
Let him return to the Lord,
And He will have mercy on him;
And to our God,
For He will abundantly pardon.

⁸ “For My thoughts are not your thoughts,
Nor are your ways My ways,” says the Lord.

⁹ “For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
So are My ways higher than your ways,
And My thoughts than your thoughts.

¹⁰ “For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven,
And do not return there,
But water the earth,
And make it bring forth and bud,
That it may give seed to the sower
And bread to the eater,

¹¹ So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth;
It shall not return to Me void,
But it shall accomplish what I please,
And it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.

¹² “For you shall go out with joy,
And be led out with peace;
The mountains and the hills
Shall break forth into singing before you,
And all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

¹³ Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress tree,
And instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle tree;
And it shall be to the Lord for a name,
For an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.”

L: The Word of the Lord!

P: **Thanks be to God!**

Gradual: *Sing Praise to God who Reigns Above* #52

Bible Reading #2 Matthew 6:25-33

“Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? Which of you by worrying can add one cubit to his stature? “So why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; and yet I say to you that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. Now if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will He not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? “Therefore do not worry, saying,

‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.”

Homily

Blessing of the Animals

The priest will come to and greet each animal and introduce them to the congregation. Then the priest will offer the following blessing:

God, pour out your blessing on Name(s) of animal

By the power of your Spirit, grant *him/her* health, happiness and long life. Bless also their human guardian and strengthen their life together.

Remembrance of those who have crossed the ‘Rainbow Bridge’.

L: Let us not forget to give thanks for our animal companions who have died. *(Name them)* We give thanks for the many gifts of their friendship with us and the ways they enriched and blessed our lives.

(A moment of silence is kept)

Prayers of Intercession

+Loving God, we bring to You the prayers of your people this day. *(pause)*

We offer prayers for the people dedicating their lives to the welfare of animals and the ecosystems in which they live. For farmers and veterinarians, that they may always be guided by You to treat the animals in the care with dignity and respect. Lord, in your mercy. ***Hear our prayer.***

We pray for those who rescue animals and nurse them back to health. For foster homes, shelters and volunteers who give of themselves for the safety and health of animals. Lord, in your mercy. ***Hear our prayer.***

We pray for working animals everywhere: K-9 cop dogs, fire dogs, drug enforcement dogs, therapy animals, beasts of burden and all manner of farm animals. Bless them for their gifts of hard work that make human lives better. Lord, in your mercy. ***Hear our prayer.***

We pray for those who are working on policies and projects that bring balance between desired resources and the sustainability of life on the planet. Grant us wisdom and the will to work together. Lord, in your mercy. ***Hear our prayer.***

We pray for a conversion of heart and mind that all may see the interconnectedness of creation, and to respond in kindness and loving concern. Lord, in your mercy. ***Hear our prayer.***

Help us to be like St Francis, that our hearts may be open to the wonder of all creation and lift our thoughts of praise to You, our Creator. Lord, in your mercy. ***Hear our prayer.***

We pray for peace between all our brothers and sisters in creation as we pray the prayer that you have taught us saying:

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**

Give us this day our daily bread.

**And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass
against us.**

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

**For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

Offertory Music: *As the Deer Pants for the Water* #9

Holy Communion

(We will come to you to distribute the sacrament after the prayer of consecration)

Communion Music *I Come with Joy* #195

Blessing

L: May the Holy Spirit fill you with the knowledge of God's presence on Earth and the presence of Christ within you. Go in peace! Serving Christ and loving all God's creatures!

P: We go in peace, loving and serving Christ, loving and serving our brothers and sisters in all of creation. Thanks be to God!

Closing *How Great Thou Art* #250

Postlude *All Things Bright and Beautiful* arr. Robert Smith

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## **Server's This Sunday 10/4/26: Blessing of the Animals**

9:00am Lector: Jacob Pewitt Yancey LEM/Intercessor: Terrye Laird

Music Director/Organist: Tom Collins

Audio/Visual: Sr. Amy Linder, OP and Nancy Layne

Ushers: Brian Sullivan, Jay Davidson, Mark Jennings

Priest: Rev. Sr. Patti Hale, OPA

## Coffee Hour: Robert Cribbins and Barbara & Jim Verger

Counters: Liz Cowden, Nancylee Stewart

Altar Guild Team #2: Judy Knutson, Liz Cowden, Susan Foreman