



CELEBRATION OF THE FEAST OF ST. FRANCIS

October 4, 2020

St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church celebrates God's diverse creation and strives to build an inclusive community that welcomes everyone, no matter age, gender, sexual identity, culture, ethnicity, economic status, or ability.

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

Priest Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

Priest Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: 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 Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Gloria

The Collect of the Day *The people stand or kneel.*

Priest The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Priest Let us pray.

O God, who has made all the earth and every creature that dwells therein: Help us, we pray, to treat with compassion the living creatures entrusted to our care, that they may not suffer from neglect nor become the victims of any cruelty; and grant that in caring for them we, like St. Francis, may find a deeper understanding of your love for all creation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Psalm 148:7–14 *Laudate Dominum*

- 7 Praise the Lord from the earth, *
you sea-monsters and all deeps;
- 8 Fire and hail, snow and fog, *
tempestuous wind, doing his will;
- 9 Mountains and all hills, *
fruit trees and all cedars;
- 10 Wild beasts and all cattle, *
creeping things and winged birds;
- 11 Kings of the earth and all peoples, *
princes and all rulers of the world;
- 12 Young men and maidens, *
old and young together.
- 13 Let them praise the Name of the Lord, *
for his Name only is exalted,
his splendor is over earth and heaven.
- 14 He has raised up strength for his people
and praise for all his loyal servants, *
the children of Israel, a people who are near him.
Hallelujah!

Jeremiah 22:13–16

Woe to him who builds his house by unrighteousness,
and his upper rooms by injustice; who makes his neighbors work for nothing,
and does not give them their wages; who says, “I will build myself a spacious
house with large upper rooms”, and who cuts out windows for it, paneling it
with cedar, and painting it with vermilion.

Are you a king because you compete in cedar? Did not your father eat and drink
and do justice and righteousness? Then it was well with him. He judged the cause
of the poor and needy; then it was well. Is not this to know me? says the Lord.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Gradual Hymn

Matthew 11:25-30

Jesus bids all to come and find that the yoke of his teaching is easy to bear. The disclosure of the divine will comes as God's gracious gift, not through human knowledge. Especially intimate is the relationship between the Lord of all life and Jesus—that of Father and Son. Although he is the Son, Jesus is humble of heart and gentle.

Priest The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

At that time Jesus said, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

"Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

Priest The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Homily

The Rev. Marcia M. Lockwood

Prayer of St. Francis

People **L**ord, make us instruments of your peace.

Where there is hatred, let us sow love; where there is injury, pardon;
where there is discord, union; where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light;
where there is sadness, joy.

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.

The Prayers of the People *The people stand or kneel. The pets sit. Stay.*

Leader **L**et us thank God for this world and for all of God's Creation.

People **M**ost High, omnipotent, good Lord, to You be ceaseless praise
outpoured, and blessing without measure. Let every creature give
thanks to You serving well and faithfully and true.

Leader For the stars of the heavens, the sun and the moon,

People **W**e give You thanks, good Lord!

Leader For rain that brings life, and clouds on high, for the crash of the ocean,
and the wind's long sigh,

People **W**e give You thanks, good Lord!

Leader For corn and grain and the harvest of fields, for fruits and vegetables
and all the earth's bounty,

People **W**e give You thanks, good Lord!

Leader Bless, O Lord, the animals we love!

Dog Lovers **B**less the dogs we bring before You,
who love to run fast and jump high,
who chase after balls and come when we call!
Bless cockers and poodles and shepherds and schnauzers,
dachshunds and setters and bulldogs and bowsers.
Bless those of every kind and pedigree,
and bless all mutts with unknown family tree.
Keep them safe and healthy, happy and sound,
these dogs of ours to whom we're bound!

Leader For all our dogs, we give You thanks, good Lord!

Cat Lovers **Bless all our cats, wise creatures of worth,
 who purr in our homes and prowl on the earth.
Bless these our kitties so soft in their stirring,
 who snuggle our legs and serenade us with purring.
Bless barn cats and Tom cats and blue Himalayans;
Bless Maltese and Siamese and common house kitties.
Keep them safe from all danger wherever they roam,
 and with Your sure guidance, bring them back home!**

Leader For all our cats, we give You thanks, good Lord!

Pet Lovers **Bless our fish in their swimming, our birds on the perch,
 our hamsters and rats and guinea pigs small,
 our ferrets and rabbits, dear Lord bless them all!
Bless donkeys so humble and horses so high,
Bless our sheep and our goats and pigs in the sty,
 slithering snakes, chameleons and lizards,
 mice in their cages and ducks with gizzards;
Bless them all, O God!**

Leader For all our animals, we give You thanks, good Lord!
Bless those dogs which lead the blind and help the police,
 for pups that rescue from harm and ride with our fireman.
Bless those animals who visit the sick and live with solitary.
Bless those animals whom we love but see no more, remembering
 before You all our pets who have died.
Bless those creatures who have gone extinct, and give us a reverence for
 Your creation that we might be mindful of all species given into our care.

People **Bless all Your creatures Lord, that we may love them and show
 them Your grace and goodness after the example of St. Francis,
 and through Christ who first loved us. Amen!**

The Blessing of the Animals

Priest **Almighty and everlasting God, Creator of all things and giver of all life,
let your blessing be upon these animals. May our relationship with them
mirror your love, and our care for them be an example of your bountiful mercy.
Grant these animals health and peace. Strengthen us to love and care for them
as we strive to imitate the love of Jesus Christ and God's servant Francis. Amen.**

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Priest The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer A

Priest The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Priest Lift up your hearts.

People We lift them to the Lord.

Priest Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Priest It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Because you are greatly glorified in the assembly of your saints. All your creatures praise you, and your faithful servants bless you, confessing before the rulers of this world the great Name of your only Son.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

**People 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.**

The people stand or kneel.

Priest Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all. He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

People Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Priest We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom. All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

People **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.**

The Breaking of the Bread

Priest Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!**

Priest Let us pray.

People **E**tternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us spiritually as we have come together this day. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Priest The peace of God which passes all understanding keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you forever. Amen.

Priest Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.