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| Image result for st francis with animals clip art black and white free | St. Thomas’s Episcopal Church**The Blessing of the Animals****in Honor of the Feast of St. Francis****October 8, 2017 4:00 P.M.** |

*The People and Animals gather on the Plaza.*

**SALUTATION**

Celebrant:Blessed be the God of all creation.

**People: And blessed be God’s holy Name for ever and ever.**

*HEEL! The People and Animals process into the Church. When all are inside, all sing the Hymn of Praise.*

**Music during the Procession** The Elephant (from *Carnival of the Animals*)

 Camille Saint-Saëns (1835-1921)

### **HYMN OF PRAISE** *(sung by all)*Hymn 400: All creatures of our God and King

All creatures of our God and King,

lift up your voices, let us sing:

  Alleluia, alleluia!

Bright burning sun with golden beams,

pale silver moon that gently gleams,

  O praise him, O praise him,

  Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

All you with mercy in your heart,

forgiving others, take your part,

  O sing now: Alleluia!

All you that pain and sorrow bear,

praise God, and cast on him your care:

  O praise him, O praise him,

  Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Let all things their creator bless,

and worship him in humbleness,

  O praise him, Alleluia!

Praise God the Father, praise the Son,

and praise the Spirit, Three in One:

  O praise him, O praise him,

  Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Words: St. Francis of Assisi (1882-1226); tr. William H. Draper (1855-1933), alt.; Music: *Lasst uns erfreuen*, melody from *Auserlesene Catholische Geistiche Kirchengeseng*, 123; adapt. and harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

**COLLECT**

Celebrant:The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Celebrant:Let us pray.

Most high, omnipotent, good Lord: Grant your people grace to renounce gladly the vanities of this world; that, following the way of blessed Francis, 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.**

SIT! People and Animals may be seated.

### **THE PSALM** PSALM 104:10-15, 25

**You, Lord God, send the springs into the valleys; \*
they flow between the mountains.**

**All the beasts of the field drink their fill from them, \*
and the wild asses quench their thirst.**

**Beside them the birds of the air make their nests \*
and sing among the branches.**

**You water the mountains from your dwelling on high; \*
the earth is fully satisfied by the fruit of your works.**

**You make grass grow for flocks and herds \*
and plants to serve humankind;**

**That they may bring forth food from the earth, \*
and wine to gladden our hearts,**

**O Lord, how manifold are your works! \*
in wisdom you have made them all;
the earth is full of your creatures.**

### **The LESSON** MATTHEW 6:25-33

Jesus said, “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. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What will we eat?’ or ‘What will we drink?’ or ‘What will we wear?’ For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

Reader: The Word of the Lord**.**

**People: Thanks be to God.**

The Prayers of the People

*PRAY! Intercessor and* ***People***

For the beauty and wonder of God’s creation, in earth and sky and sea; **we thank you, O God.**

For the richness of the mountains, plains and rivers; **we thank you, O God.**

For all creatures that breathe, and move, and have life; **we thank you, O God.**

For the songs of birds and the loveliness of flowers and trees; **we thank you, O God.**

For the trust you have shown in giving these pets into our care; **we thank you, O God.**

That each pet here may be treasured with care; **we pray to you, O God.**

That we may love and honor all your works; **we pray to you, O God.**

That we may continue to grow in our grateful enjoyment of your abundant creation; **to the honor and glory of your name, now and forever, we pray to you, O God. Amen.**

**THE BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS**

*COME! Bring your Animal forward to receive a blessing. You may then return to SIT!*

**Music during the Blessing** The Swan (from *Carnival of the Animals*), Saint-Saëns

*After all Animals have been blessed, the presider concludes*

Almighty and everlasting God, Creator of all things and giver of all life: Let your blessing be upon these and all animals. May our relationships with them mirror your love, and may our care for them follow the example of your bountiful mercy. Strengthen us to love and care for them as we strive, like God’s servant Francis of Assisi, to imitate Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen*.***

**A Prayer for the World** *Adapted from a Prayer of St. Francis*

Where there is hatred, **may I bring love;**

where there is pain, **may I bring healing;**

where there is darkness, **may I bring light;**

where there is despair, **may I bring hope;**

where there is discord, **may I bring harmony;**

where there is strife, **may I bring peace;**

make this a better world, **and let it begin with me.**

**final Hymn** *(sung by all)* Hymn 405: All things bright and beautiful (verses 1 & 4)

*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 colors,

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.*

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,*

*all creatures great and small,*

*all things wise and wonderful,*

*the Lord God made them all.*

Words: Cecil Francis Alexander (1818-1895);

Music: *Royal Oak,* melody from *The Dancing Master,* 1686; adapt. and harm. Martin Fallas Shaw (1875-1958)

**DISMISSAL**

Celebrant:Let us bless the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**ORGAN VOLUNTARY** Nun danket alle Gott Sigfrid Karg-Elert (1877-1933)

*HEEL! Process back out to the Plaza. STAY! People and Human treats are outside.*



**Serving Today**

**Celebrants:** The Rev. Keri Aubert, the Rev. Jakki Flanagan

**Organist:** Simon Jacobs

**Lector:** Jen Fournier

**Intercessor:** Sue Richmond

**Please Donate!**

In honor of St. Francis and in gratitude for our companion animals, please consider donating to your local animal shelter. If you are in need of a pet companion, please consider adopting a rescue animal.

**Concerning the Service**

The Prayers are from The Episcopal Church St. Francis Day Eucharist (<http://www.episcopalchurch.org/sites/default/files/st_francis_day_resources.pdf>). The prayer concluding the Blessing of the Animals is from *Liturgical Materials Honoring God in Creation and Various Rites and Prayers for Animals*, The Episcopal Church Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music, November 2011.



**St. Thomas’s Episcopal Church & Day School**

**830 Whitney Avenue, New Haven, CT 06511**

 **Church Phone: (203) 777-7623** www.stthomasnewhaven.org

 **Day School Phone: (203) 776-2123**  www.stthomasday.org

 **The Rev. Keri Aubert**—Priest-in-Charge pastor@stthomasnewhaven.org

 **Simon Jacobs**—Director of Music and Organist music@stthomasnewhaven.org

 **Julie Kelly**—Administrator, Parish and Property administrator@stthomasnewhaven.org

 **Gina Panza**—Head of Day School gpanza@stthomasday.org

 **Eric Gregory Snow**—Day School Chaplain chaplain@stthomasday.org