

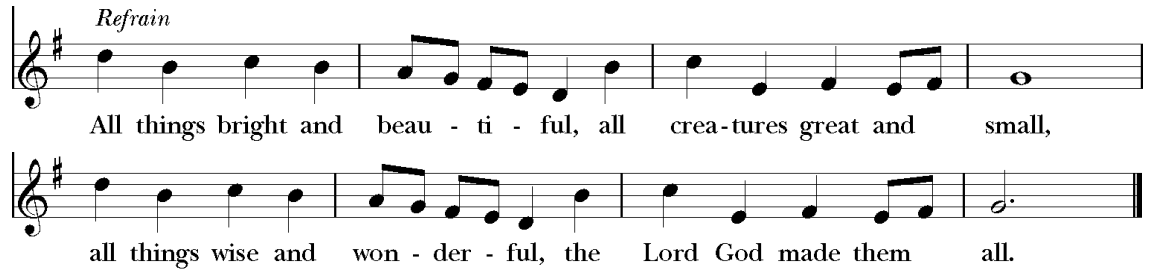


**THE BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS**  
Sunday, October 3, 2021 | 2:00 p.m.

**HYMN 405**  
Sung by all.

*All things bright and beautiful*

*Refrain*



All things bright and beau - ti - ful, all crea-tures great and small,  
all things wise and won - der - ful, the Lord God made them all.

1 Each lit - tle flower that o - pens, each lit - tle bird that sings,  
2 The pur - ple - head - ed moun-tain, the riv - er run - ning by,  
3 The cold wind in the win - ter, the pleas - ant sum - mer sun,  
4 He gave us eyes to see them, and lips that we might tell

*Repeat Refrain*

he made their glow-ing col - ors, he made their ti - ny wings.  
the sun - set, and the morn - ing that bright-ens up the sky,  
the ripe fruits in the gar - den, he made them ev - ery one.  
how great is God Al - might - y, who has made all things well.

Words: Cecil Frances Alexander (1818-1895)  
Music: *Royal Oak*, melody from *The Dancing Master*, 1686; adapt. and harm. Martin Fallas Shaw (1875-1958), desc. Richard Proulx (b. 1937)  
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## OPENING PRAYER

**Leader:** Let us pray.

**All:** **O creator of all, we ask your blessing on every creature gathered here today. Bless us all to love your creation, to revere the work of your hand, and to strive that our lives will be lived in faithful service to our neighbors. In the words of St. Francis, we pray to be instruments of your peace.**

## THE PRAYERS

**Leader:** Let us give thanks to God our Creator for all the gifts so freely bestowed upon us and for the beauty and wonder of your creation, in earth and sky and sea;

**All:** **We thank you, Lord.**

**Leader:** For the richness of the mountains, plains and rivers;

**All:** **We thank you, Lord.**

**Leader:** For all that is gracious in the lives of men and women;

**All:** **We thank you, Lord.**

*Leader:* For all creatures that breathe, and move, and have life;

*All:* **We thank you, Lord.**

*Leader:* For the songs of birds and the loveliness of flowers and trees;

*All:* **We thank you, Lord.**

*Leader:* For the trust you have shown in giving into our care these, our beloved animals;

*All:* **We thank you, Lord.**

*Leader:* That each animal here may be treasured with care;

*All:* **We pray to you, Lord.**

*Leader:* That we may love and honor all your works, O God;

*All:* **We pray to you, Lord.**

*Leader:* That we may continue to grow in our grateful enjoyment of your abundant creation;

*All:* **We pray to you, Lord. Amen.**

### **PRAYER FOR THE ANIMALS**

*All:* **O God, may these animals have good health, happy lives and always be protected and safe. Thank you for their companionship and friendship. Bless all of these animals, heal them if they become sick, and protect those who are lost and guide them to safety. Thank you for the gift of the pure love they give us. Amen.**

### **THE BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS**

*Leader:* May you be blessed in the Name of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. May you and your animals enjoy life together and find joy with the God who created you. Amen.

### **ANTHEM**

*Sung by the choir.*

*Blessed are the pure in heart*  
Henry Walford Davies

## PRAYER OF ST. FRANCIS

*All:* Lord, 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.

## FINAL BLESSING FOR ALL

*Leader:* Blessed are you, Lord God, maker of all living creatures, who called forth fish in the sea, birds in the air and animals on the land. You inspired St. Francis to call all of them his brothers and sisters. May we always praise you for all your beauty in creation. Blessed are you, Lord our God, in all your creatures! Amen.

## HYMN 416

*Sung by all.*

*For the beauty of the earth*

1 For the beau - ty of the earth, for the beau - ty of the skies,  
2 For the beau - ty of each hour of the day and of the night,  
3 For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's de - light,  
4 For the joy of hu-man love, bro-ther, sis - ter, par - ent, child,  
5 For the Church which ev - er - more lift - eth ho - ly hands a - bove,

1 for the love which from our birth o - ver and a - round us lies,  
2 hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light,  
3 for the mys - tic har - mo - ny link - ing sense to sound and sight,  
4 friends on earth, and friends a - bove, for all gen - tle thoughts and mild,  
5 of - fering up on ev - ery shore thy pure sac - ri - fice of love,

*Refrain*

Christ our God, to thee we raise this our hymn of grate-ful praise.

6 For each perfect gift of thine  
to the world so freely given,  
faith and hope and love divine,  
peace on earth and joy in heaven,

*Refrain*

Words: Folliot Sandford Pierpoint (1835-1917), alt.  
 Music: *Lucerna Laudoniae*, David Evans (1874-1948)  
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## DISMISSAL

***Leader:*** Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

***All:*** Thanks be to God.

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AT ST. JOHN'S CHURCH, we believe Christ is calling us to be a renewed church in a changing world. Empowered by the Spirit of God, we respond to Jesus' call as we deepen our bond with Christ through worship, become a community where all are accepted, and work together as laity and clergy to do God's work in the world.

ST JOHN'S WAS ORGANIZED IN 1815 to serve as a parish church for Episcopalians residing in the neighborhoods in the west end of the District of Columbia. Its cornerstone was laid on September 14, 1815, and it was consecrated on December 27, 1816. Beginning with James Madison, every person who has held the office of President of the United States has attended a service at the church. Several Presidents have been communicants. Thus, St. John's is often referred to as the "Church of the Presidents." Pew 54 is the President's Pew. The architect of the church was Benjamin Henry Latrobe, who assisted in the rebuilding of the U.S. Capitol and the White House after the War of 1812. Twenty-five of the stained glass windows in St. John's were designed and executed by artisans of the noted Lorin firm of Chartres, France.

ST JOHN'S WEBSITE [WWW.STJOHNS-DC.ORG](http://WWW.STJOHNS-DC.ORG) has up-to-date information about the Church including the Sunday service schedule and newsworthy events.

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