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SEPTEMBER 27, 2009



Love all Creation  
The whole of it and every grain of sand  
Love every leaf  
Every ray of God's light  
Love the animals  
Love the plants  
Love everything  
If you love everything  
You will perceive  
The divine mystery in things  
And once you have perceived it  
You will begin to comprehend it ceaselessly  
More and more every day  
And you will at last come to love the whole world  
With an abiding universal love

*Fyodor Dostoyevsky*

## Celebration of the Feast of St. Francis

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EGLINTON ST. GEORGE'S UNITED CHURCH  
35 Lytton Boulevard, Toronto, Ontario  
September 27, 2009 10:30 a.m.

## CELEBRATION OF THE FEAST OF ST. FRANCIS

On or about October 4, the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, the *Blessing of the Animals* invites congregational members to bring their pets to church to receive a blessing. These services call to mind our connection with all God's creatures, and God's blessings on all Earth's beings.

*The congregation is invited to join in responses which are bold.*

### OPENING DOORS

PRELUDE      Pastorale      *Darius Milhaud*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

LITANY OF PRAISE (*The congregation stands as able.*)

All dogs and dingoes, large and small:

**Praise your Maker!**

All rabbits, hamsters and guinea pigs:

**Praise your Maker!**

All goldfish, guppies and swimming creatures:

**Praise your Maker!**

All robins, ravens and singing birds:

**Praise your Maker!**

All bears, wolves and prowling things:

**Praise your Maker!**

All cats and rats and elephants:

**Praise your Maker!**

All horses and cows, sheep and goats and grazing ones:

**Praise your Maker!**

All lizards, snakes, and crawling creatures:

**Praise your Maker!**

Every living thing in the sky and sea, field and forest:

**Praise your Maker!**

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The flowers this morning are given in loving memory  
of Elizabeth Cowper-Smith by her family.

This morning we welcome our neighbourhood veterinarian, **Dr. Michael Belovich** (as seen on CP24's *Animal House Calls*). His **Yonge Street Animal Hospital** is located just north of us at 2722 Yonge Street. It was established at its current location in 1937 and has been owned by Dr. Belovich for more than a decade. We are pleased that he is able to be here with us this morning.

We also welcome the Petting Zoo from **A&A Farm Yard Friends of Schomberg** to our front lawn today. Children are invited to see Stephanie Oke by the pens for a small container of pellets to feed the animals.

### Story of St. Francis of Assisi

Francis was born in the year 1182 in the town of Assisi in Italy. As a boy he was merry and soft-hearted with many friends. Francis was humble. He loved God's creatures. After a brief illness, he decided his calling was to care for the poor. Francis lived in a cave in the mountains of Assisi and spent his time in prayer and meditation for two years. He loved birds and beasts. He loved the depressed and the outcasts. He treated the birds, the beasts and all beings as brothers and sisters. Francis went from village to village preaching the love of God. He invited people to join him in his life of service if they were willing. He founded the Franciscan Order. They distributed all their wealth to the poor. Francis and his followers went all over Italy preaching, teaching, healing and blessing wherever they went. The gospel of kindness and love of Francis soon spread all over Europe and earned for him the name of St. Francis. He died in 1228.

### Upcoming Worship

**October 4**      World Communion Sunday  
**October 11**      Thanksgiving Sunday  
**October 18**      Baptism

And in words that Jesus taught us to say, we pray together:

THE LORD’S PRAYER

**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.  
Lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

OFFERING OF OUR LIFE AND WORK

ANTHEM Alleluias *Paul Halley*

*Hail, mother, mother earth. Hail holy earth, holy mother. Alleluia!*

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**OPENING DOORS**

HYMN 242 Let all things now living *The Ash Grove*

BLESSING AND SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE Psalm 19 (“The heavens declare the glory of God”) *Benedetto Marcello*

*Participating in worship leadership this morning: Doug McWhirter (coordinating greeter); Joan Bowden, Arlene Duncan, Donnie Farley, Gene Farley, Pia Suichies (greeters); Connie Capes-Leslie and Deborah Hart (liturgists); Ron Dizzy (reader); Cheryl Thornton (storyteller); Connie Capes-Leslie, Deborah Hart, Doug Reid, Cheryl Thornton (blessing of the animals); George Leslie (sound); Daniel Hughes (bass); Myles Cranford (drums); Peter Merrick and the Choir.*

PROCESSIONAL HYMN 217 All creatures of our God and King *Lasst Uns Erfreuen*  
(omit v. 4)

OPENING PRAYER

God be with you.  
**And also with you.**  
Let us pray: *(The congregation remains standing.)*  
**Creator God, you have made us and all living things  
and have made each of us to bless your name.  
Help us to love all creatures as partners on earth,  
all birds as messengers of praise,  
and even the tiniest beings  
as expressions of your wonderful and mysterious design.  
Forgive us when we have failed to care  
for creation and hurt its creatures.  
Forgive us when our desire for more  
has robbed your creatures of their homes.  
Call us once again to be servants of your will  
and agents of your love in all the world. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

RESPONSE Behold, I make all things new

Musical notation for the opening of the hymn. It consists of two staves: Higher Voices (treble clef) and Lower Voices (bass clef). The key signature has one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is common time (C). The lyrics are: "Be - hold, be - hold, I".

Musical notation for the continuation of the hymn. It consists of two staves: Higher Voices (treble clef) and Lower Voices (bass clef). The lyrics are: "make all things new, be - gin-ning with you, and start-ing from to -".

day. Be - hold, be - hold, I make all things new, my  
 day. Be - hold, — be - hold, I make all things new, my  
 prom - ise is true, for I am Christ the way.  
 prom - ise is true, for — I am Christ the way.

Music: John Bell

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THE PEACE OF CHRIST

The peace of Christ be with you always.  
**And also with you.**

*(The congregation is invited to share the Peace with a neighbour.)*

OPENING MINDS

FIRST READING Job 38-40 *(selected verses)*

*from The Message*

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

CANTICLE A Song of Creation

*Peter Merrick*

**Response**

Praise him and mag - ni - fy him for - ev - er.

O all ye works of the Lord, bless ye the Lord;  
 O ye angels of the Lord, bless ye the Lord;

OPENING HEARTS

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

Blessed are you, O God, maker of all living creatures.  
 On the fifth and sixth days of creation, you called forth fish in the sea,  
 birds in the air and animals on the land.  
 You inspired St. Francis to call all animals his brothers and sisters.  
 We ask you to bless these animals.  
 By the power of your love, enable them to live according to your plan.

**May we take care of them even as they bless our lives.  
 For all the beauty and life in your creation, we offer our praise.  
 Blessed are you, Lord our God, in all your creatures! Amen.**

"N. *(the pet)*, may you be blessed in the Name of God who created you, and may you  
 and N. *(the owner)* continue to enjoy life together with our God."

HYMN 229 God of the sparrow

*Roeder*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us give thanks to God our Creator for all the gifts we have been given:

East Side: **For the beauty and wonder of your creation,  
 in earth and sea and sky;**

West Side: **For the magic of the mountains, plains and rivers;**

East Side: **For all that is good in the lives of men and women, boys and girls;**

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

East Side: **For the songs of birds and the beauty of flowers and trees;**

West Side: **For the love and friendship we receive from our pets;**

East Side: **For the trust you have shown in giving into our care these, our pets.**

We pray that we may love and honour all your works, O God:

West Side: **That we may be good caregivers of all that lives  
 and all that sustains life;**

East Side: **That we may speak a word of justice and dignity  
 for those who have no voice.**

West Side: **That each pet here may be treasured with care and integrity;**

East Side: **That we may love and honour all your works, O God;**

West Side: **That we may continue to grow in harmony  
 with your abundant creation.**

SONG It's a song of praise to the Maker



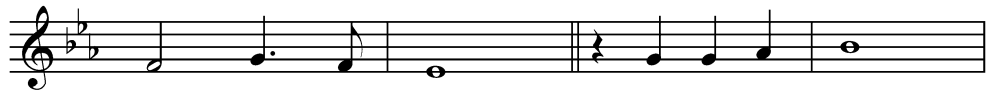
It's a song of praise to the Mak - er the  
 It's a call of life to the Giv - er when  
 It's a hymn of love to the Lov - er; the  
 It's the chor - us of all cre - a - tion; it's



thrush sings high in the tree. \_\_\_\_\_ It's a song of  
 waves and wat - er - falls roar. \_\_\_\_\_ It's a call of  
 bum - ble - bees hum a - long. \_\_\_\_\_ It's a hymn of  
 sung by all liv - ing things. \_\_\_\_\_ It's the chor - us



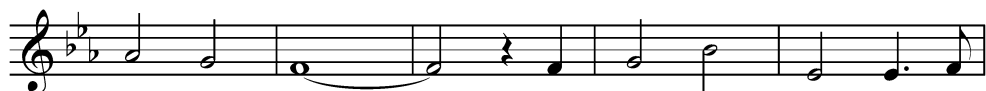
praise to the Mak - er the gray whale  
 life to the Giv - er when high tides  
 love to the Lov - er; the sum - mer  
 of all cre - a - tion; a song the



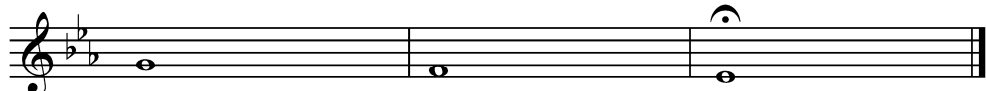
sings in the sea. *And by the Spir -*  
 break on the shore.  
 breeze joins the song.  
 u - ni - verse sings.



it you and I can join our voice to the



ho - ly cry \_\_\_\_\_ and sing, sing, sing to the



Mak - - - er, too.

Music: Ruth C. Duck  
 Words: Ron Klusmeier,

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O ye heavens, bless ye the Lord; **R**

O all ye powers of the Lord, bless ye the Lord;

O ye sun and moon, bless ye the Lord;

O ye stars of heaven, bless ye the Lord; **R**

O ye showers and dews, bless ye the Lord;

O ye winds of God, bless ye the Lord;

O ye fire and heat, bless ye the Lord; **R**

O ye winter and summer, bless ye the Lord;

O ye dews and frosts, bless ye the Lord;

O ye ice and snow, bless ye the Lord; **R**

O ye nights and days, bless ye the Lord;

O ye light and darkness, bless ye the Lord;

O ye lightnings and clouds, bless ye the Lord; **R**

O let the earth bless the Lord;

O ye mountains and hills, bless ye the Lord;

O all ye green things upon the earth, bless ye the Lord; **R**

O ye wells, bless ye the Lord;

O ye seas and floods, bless ye the Lord;

O ye whales and all that move in the waters, bless ye the Lord; **R**

O all ye fowls of the air, bless ye the Lord;

O all ye beasts and cattle, bless ye the Lord;

O ye people of God, bless ye the Lord; **R**

GOSPEL Matthew 6:25-33

The Gospel of Jesus Christ.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

ANTHEM All things bright and beautiful

John Rutter

*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 colours, he made their tiny wings. The purple-headed mountain, the river running by, the sunset and the morning that brightens up the sky; the cold wind in the winter, the pleasant summer sun, the ripe fruits in the garden: he made them every one. He gave us eyes to see them, and lips that we might tell how great is God Almighty, who has made all things well.*

STORY SERMON

God Made the World - That's Good!