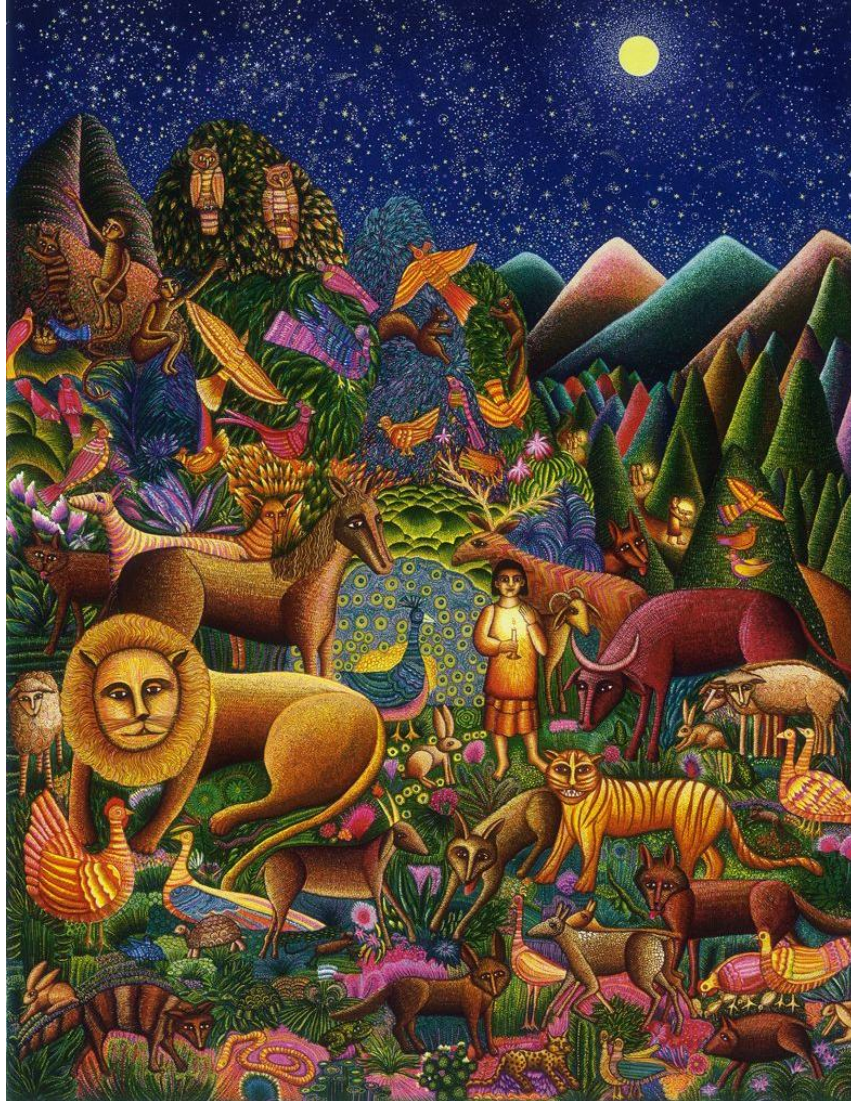


the nineteenth sunday after pentecost | october 4, 2026



Blessing of the Animals

In honor of St. Francis, whose feast day is October 4, today's service will begin with a blessing of the animals. We invite you to join us in Sycamore Commons along with any pets, service animals, stuffies, photos or memories of beloved creatures to participate in blessing and prayer.

The Noon Service

at Christ Church Cathedral, Cincinnati, OH

Inclusivity Statement

Jesus' ministry invited people from all walks of life, and we strive to do the same.

You are welcome and celebrated here exactly as you are—bringing your faith, race, class, sexuality, gender identity, nationality, immigration status, life experiences, housing, abilities, age, personal history and all the qualities that make you who you are. It is important in this community to treat everyone the way they want to be treated. If there is an accommodation that would help you experience the service more comfortably, please let us know by contacting Kirsten Marron at kmarron@cccath.org.

Jesus showed love, healing, and reconciliation in different ways to each of his followers, and we strive to do the same. Practices that some might find comforting might inspire discomfort in others. For that reason, everything at the Noon Service is an invitation—if you don't feel comfortable with a part of it, you can always step away, no explanation required. Concerns brought to leadership will be heard without judgment and considered seriously.

Jesus called people of every kind to serve God through the gifts they were given, and we strive to do the same. We believe everyone has wisdom and gifts from God worth sharing, whether it's friendship, unique perspective, prayer, volunteering, financial support or something else. In God's eyes there are no small gifts. The Noon Service is collaborative and participatory. If you want to be a more active part of this community, we welcome you—and we welcome you to contribute in the way that you uniquely can.

Gather in the Lord's Name

Welcome

Community responses are in bold.

Creator of the world, eternal Light,
We have come from many places.

Redeemer of humanity, God-with-us,
We have come seeking common ground.

Spirit of unity, sustaining God,
We have come on journeys of our own.

So here, in this place where journeys meet, let us take time together. For when paths cross and pilgrims gather, there is much to share and celebrate.
In your name, God, the three-in-one and pattern of community, Amen.

Blessing of the Animals

Gracious God, we **lift to you the animal inhabitants of the earth. For those seen and unseen creatures and living things that attest to your creative power, we ask your blessing. Help us recognize your power and wisdom in the variety of creatures that live in our world, and hear our prayer for all that suffer overwork, hunger, and ill-treatment. We pray that companionship with the animals in our lives will deepen our care for all of your beloved creatures. Help us to balance our needs with theirs, and lead us in ways of life together that will be sustainable for all. We pray in Jesus' name, Amen.**

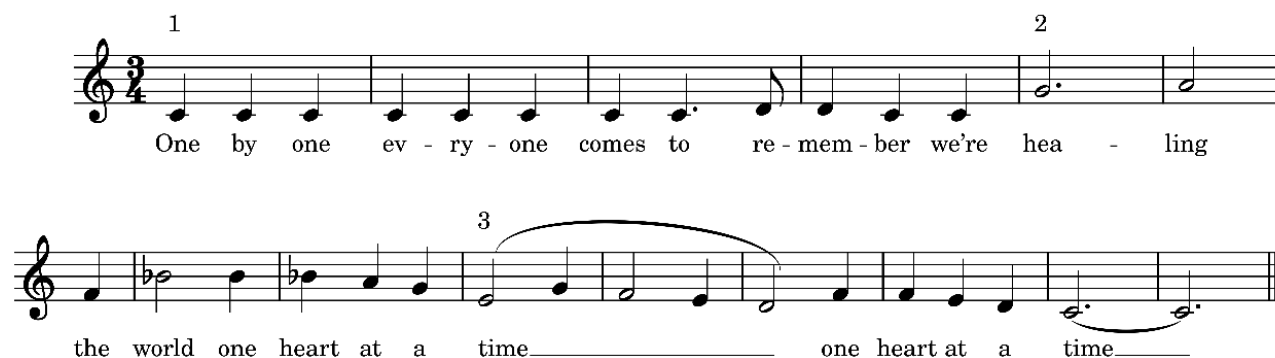
Holy God, we thank you for the gift of these animals in our lives. Through these creatures you have brought many blessings. Today we pause to name our gratitude, and to pray a blessing on each of them. For the companionship of our pets we say thanks. Bless the lives of all the animals in our care; may they know love through all their days. **Amen.**

*As your animal companion is blessed,
you may return to the Chapel and join in the gathering song.*

Gathering Song

One by One

**One by one, everyone comes to remember
We're healing the world one heart at a time**



Opening Prayer

God be with you.

And also with you.

Sovereign of the universe, your first covenant of mercy was with every living creature. When your beloved Son came among us, the waters of the river welcomed him, the heavens opened to greet his arrival, the animals of the wilderness drew near as his companions. With all the world's people, may we who are washed into new life through baptism seek the way of your new creation, the way of justice and care, mercy and peace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Proclaim and Respond to the Word of God

The First Reading

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Philippians.

If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 3:4b-14 (NRSV)

Hear the stories of God active in the world.

Thanks be to God.

The Second Reading

The heavens declare the glory of God, *

and the firmament shows his handiwork.

One day tells its tale to another, *

and one night imparts knowledge to another.

Although they have no words or language, *

and their voices are not heard,

Their sound has gone out into all lands, *

and their message to the ends of the world.

In the deep has he set a pavilion for the sun; *

it comes forth like a bridegroom out of his chamber;

it rejoices like a champion to run its course.

It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens
 and runs about to the end of it again; *
 nothing is hidden from its burning heat.
 The law of the Lord is perfect and revives the soul; *
 the testimony of the Lord is sure and gives wisdom to the innocent.
 The statutes of the Lord are just and rejoice the heart; *
 the commandment of the Lord is clear and gives light to the eyes.
 The fear of the Lord is clean and endures for ever; *
 the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.
 More to be desired are they than gold, more than much fine gold, *
 sweeter far than honey, than honey in the comb.
 By them also is your servant enlightened, *
 and in keeping them there is great reward.
 Who can tell how often he offends? *
 cleanse me from my secret faults.
 Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins;
 let them not get dominion over me; *
 then shall I be whole and sound, and innocent of a great offense.
 Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my
 heart be acceptable in your sight, *
 O Lord, my strength and my redeemer.

Psalm 19

Hear the stories of God active in the world.
Thanks be to God.

The Gospel Acclamation

Heleluyan

Please stand as you are comfortable, in body or spirit



He - le - lu - yan, he - le - lu - yan: he - le, he - le - lu - yan;
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia: al - le, al - le - lu - ia;



The Gospel

The Holy Gospel of Jesus according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Christ.

Jesus said, “Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went to another country. When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. Again he sent other slaves, more than the first; and they treated them in the same way. Finally he sent his son to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’ But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, ‘This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.’ So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?” They said to him, “He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time.” Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the scriptures: ‘The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord’s doing, and it is amazing in our eyes’? Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom. The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and it will crush anyone on whom it falls.” When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

Matthew 21:33-46 (NRSV)

The Gospel of our Savior.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Community Reflection

Please be seated.

In community, we exchange our thoughts and reflections on scripture. The noon service community is a place where doubts and questions are honored and encouraged. This is also a multi-generational community so we ask that comments are shared in a manner appropriate for all ages. Examine your own assumptions and perceptions; be sensitive to differences in communication and cultural styles; tolerate ambiguity and difference. What is shared in our community is vulnerable and sacred – please do not share or refer to someone else’s sharing outside of this holy space. Part of the strength of this community is that we listen as well as speak: we encourage you to give space for holy silence and space for everyone to reflect. Listening is a spiritual act.

Affirmation of Faith

This is the first and the great commandment:

Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.

The second is like it:

Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these.

Pray for the World and the Community

With all our heart and all our mind, we pray:

Make us instruments of your peace.

For the peace of the world, that a spirit of respect and forbearance may grow among nations and peoples, we pray:

Where there is hatred, let us sow love.

For our enemies and those who wish us harm, and for all whom we have injured or offended, we pray:

Where there is injury, let us sow pardon.

For all who fear God and believe in you, O Christ, that our divisions may cease and all may be one as you and the Father are one, we pray:

Where there is discord, let us sow union.

For those who do not yet believe, for those who have lost their faith, and those in despair and darkness that they may receive the light of the faith, we pray:

Where there is doubt, let us sow faith.

For the poor, the persecuted, the sick, and those who have asked of our prayers: and for all who suffer and those who are in danger; that they may be relieved and protected, we pray:

Where there is despair, let us sow light.

For those who have died and those who are grieving, may they be comforted finding courage and hope in this time, we pray:

Where there is sadness, let us sow joy.

Silence

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.

Exchange the Peace

As a community let us embrace the ongoing work of being reconciled.

God makes peace within us. Let us claim it.

God makes peace between us. Let us share it.

The peace of Christ be always with you.

And also with you.

You are invited to share peace with your neighbor.

During this time, the community may greet each other with a sign of Christ's peace and may say "peace be with you!" or something similar. You may remain at your seat and greet those around you, or make your way around the room greeting people. If you are feeling brave, you might introduce yourself to someone you don't know!

Announcements for the Community

Please be seated.

Share the Gifts of God

Offering & Song

God, How Can We Forgive

Walk in love as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God

Refrain: All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small,
all things wise and wonderful, the Lord God made them all.

1. Each little flower that opens,
each little bird that sings,
God made their glowing colors,
God made their tiny wings.

Refrain

3. The cold wind in the winter,
the pleasant summer sun,
the ripe fruits in the garden,
God made them ev'ry one.

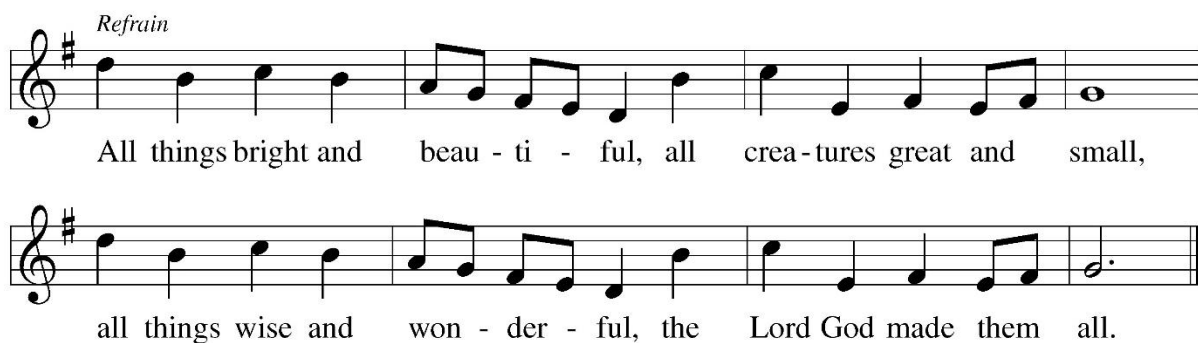
Refrain

2. The purple-headed mountains,
the river running by,
the sunset, and the morning
that brightens up the sky.

Refrain

4. God gave us eyes to see them,
and lips that we might tell
how great is God Almighty,
who has made all things well.

Refrain





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



Refrain

God made their glow-ing col - ors, God 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, God made them ev - 'ry one.
how great is God Al - might - y, who has made all things well.

Make Eucharist

The Holy Eucharist (which means 'thanksgiving') is the sacred meal of the church, where we respond to the call of Jesus to continue to break bread and share the cup in his name. It is a way for us to be in communion with God and one another. We pray remembering all that God has done and noticing what God is doing even now.

God be with you.

And also with you!

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

We thank you for calling us to an adventure of faith. You made us in your image to respond to your grace; your story came alive with the children of Israel, of Leah and Rachel, of Zilpah and Bilhah, and a promise was born that one day no face would be forgotten, no body enslaved, no spirit broken, but all would join the covenant of life. You sent your Son in solidarity with us, healing our sickness and confronting our demons; he bore the cross and rose again to disclose our true humanity.

Therefore, with all your unlikely saints, with the church of many times and languages, with those who have known you under different names, we sing the glorious liberty of all the children of God:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
 Heav'n and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.
 Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.
 Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and

might, heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -

san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is the one who comes

in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the

high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Blessed is our brother Jesus, who comes behind the doors we have closed, and breathes on our fears his peace; who on the night that he was betrayed, took bread, gave thanks, broke it, and said: 'This is my body, which is for you. Do this to remember me.' In the same way he took the cup, after supper, saying: 'This is the new covenant in my blood. Do this whenever you drink it, to remember me.'

**We remember Christ's death; we proclaim Christ's resurrection;
We await Christ's coming in glory.**

Send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts of bread and wine that they may be to us the Body and Blood of your Christ.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.

Break the Bread

We break this bread to share in the Body of Christ.

We who are many are one body, because we all share one bread.

The Invitation

The table of bread and wine is now made ready. It is the table of company with Jesus, and all who love him. It is the table of sharing with the poor of the world, with whom Jesus identified himself. It is the table of communion with the earth, in which Christ became incarnate.

So come to this table, whether you have much faith or would like to have more; whether you have been here often or have not been for a long time or ever before; those who have tried to follow Jesus, and all of us who have failed. Come: it is Christ who invites us to meet him here.

Communion

Please be seated.

All are welcome to God's table! And that means everyone! If you wish to receive communion, please come forward as the spirit moves you. You can receive the bread and/or wine by extending your hands for the bread and taking a sip from or dipping your bread in to the wine. If you would like to receive a blessing instead, come forward and cross your arms over your chest. In addition to Communion, a priest will be available during this time for the ministry of healing prayer. You can also use this time for prayer or contemplation. The bread we share is vegan and gluten-free. Individually wrapped gluten-free wafers are available upon request.

Communion Song

Creator God, we cry to you

♩ = 66 *Refrain* Cm Gm/B $\flat$ A $\flat$ M7 B $\flat$ Cm *Fine*

Cre - a - tor God, we cry to you. Hear our prayer, hear our prayer.

1 For all who serve a - cross your Church, for all who
2 For jus - tice, peace, and e - qui - ty, for all who
3 For heal - ing of our Mo - ther Earth, for all to
4 For bro - ken spir - its, bro - ken bones, for chil - dren
5 For all a - bused and all dis - owned, for all the
6 For lives and loves who now are gone, for all of
7 May all cre - a - tion heed your call to rec - on -

doubt and all who search, for all who seek, for all who
guide and all who lead, for all with priv - 'lege, power, and
know her end - less worth, for right re - la - tion - ships with -
who will not come home, for hate in hearts with great dis -
sick, for all a - lone, for all dis - tressed, strug - gling to
those who jour - neyed on, for all who move a - cross the
cile with one and all. Grant us your hope, your sight, your

find, sway, in, dain, cope, deep, nerve
 for o - pen hearts and o - pen minds:
 to give, to share, to make a way:
 with all you made, our sa - cred kin:
 for peo - ple tired, a world in pain:
 for whole - ness, health, re - lief, and hope:
 for all who mourn, for all who weep:
 with hearts that love and hands that serve.

Prayer after Communion

Please stand as you are comfortable, in body or spirit

Let us pray together:

God revealed in the stranger's approach and the bread of hospitality, in the message of new life and the laughter of response: we thank you for this meal, this sharing in yourself, and we pray that our communion might be broken apart for the world. Amen.

Blessing

May we remain open to wonder and mystery, to what is strange and new and precious in each child of God, that with all the saints we might walk in the light of hope; and may the blessing of the undivided Triune God who created all people in Their image be with you and all you love, this day and always. Amen.

Closing Song

Thank You For This Day

Thank you for this day, God, thank you for this day. This healing, this healing, this healing day.

Dismissal

Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

Thanks be to God.



New to the Noon Service? We would love to get to know you! Please send your name and preferred contact information to Pr. Liesebet Gravley: lgravley@cccath.org. Prayer requests and questions about the Noon Service can also be directed to Rev.

Gravley. Have a suggestion or want to get involved in Noon Service music? Contact Kirsten Marron: kmarron@cccath.org. More information about the ministries at Christ Church Cathedral can be found at cincinnati.cathedral.com. If you would like to receive a weekly e-mail from the Noon Service and/or receive digital communications about service information (cancellations, road closures, etc.) please provide your e-mail address by either: scanning this QR code and entering it in google forms or e-mailing Rev. Gravley at lgravley@cccath.org.



Land Acknowledgement: Our Cathedral and Cincinnati occupy the ancestral lands of the Shawnee and Miami Indigenous Peoples. We acknowledge the painful history of colonization, genocide and intergenerational trauma that they have endured, and commit to working toward truth and reconciliation. We honor the perseverance and resiliency of Indigenous people, and we will continue to seek their guidance and participation in our efforts to build awareness of the history, traditions and contributions of Indigenous cultures.



Downtown Cincinnati

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