



St. John's Episcopal Church

John's Island - Wadmalaw Island
Kiawah and Seabrook Islands
South Carolina

GROUNDING IN THE WORD,
ROOTED IN WORSHIP,
LOVING THE WORLD



The Feast of St. Francis
The Blessing of the Animals

Sunday, October 5, 2025
4:00pm

**'The Curate Thinks
You Have No Soul'**

The curate thinks you have no soul;
I know that he has none. But you,
Dear friend, whose solemn self-control,
In our foursquare familiar pew,
Was pattern to my youth – whose bark
Called me in summer dawns to rove –
Have you gone down into the dark
Where none is welcome – none may love?
I will not think those good brown eyes
Have spent their life of truth so soon;
But in some canine paradise
Your wraith, I know, rebukes the moon,
And quarters every plain and hill,
Seeking his master... As for me,
This prayer at least the gods fulfill;
That when I pass the flood and see
Old Charon by the Stygian coast
Take toll of all the shades who land,
Your little, faithful, barking ghost
May leap to lick my phantom hand.

St. John Lucas

**"You save humans and animals
alike, O Lord."**

Psalm 36:6

"The earth is the Lord's."

Psalm 24

**"Satan hates the dog more than
all other animals because he is
so close to man."**

-St. Hildegard of Bingen



ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

4:00 PM Blessing of the Animals

Rector: God's creatures inhabit the skies, the land, and the sea; we share the earth with them, and like them rely on God's blessing to sustain and preserve us. We gather today in communion and friendship with Francis of Assisi who preached to animals and moved throughout the known world sharing God's unconditional love for all beings. *Let us pray.*

The Collect

God, who has made all the earth and every creature that dwells upon it: 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 harm; and grant that in caring for them we may find a deeper understanding of your love of all Creation, though Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The First Reading: Job 12:7-10

Reader: A Reading from the Book of Job.

"But ask the animals, and they will teach you, the birds of the air, and they will tell you; ask the plants of the earth... and they will teach you, and the fish of the sea will declare to you. Who among all these does not know that the hand of the Lord has done this? In his hand is the life of every living thing.

Reader: *The Word of the Lord.*

People: *Thanks be to God.*

The Lord's Prayer (said together)

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.*

Litany for All Creation

Rector: Let us remember those animals for whom we care. Let us also remember those animals who are no longer with us.

For a healthy world and healthy creatures,
God of all creation,
Hear our prayer.

That we may learn to forgive,
God of all creation,
Hear our prayer.

For the courage to do what is right,
God of all creation,
Hear our prayer.

For Brother Fire who warms our chill and heats our homes,
God of all creation,
Hear our prayer.

For Brother Wind and Air and our many kinds of weather,
God of all creation,
Hear our prayer.

To be happy to help when we can,
God of all creation,
Hear our prayer.

For the people who grow the food we eat,
God of all creation,
Hear our prayer.

For birds who sing to God at sunrise,
God of all creation,
Hear our prayer.

For protection of all endangered animals,
God of all creation,
Hear our prayer.

For Brother Sun who makes plants grow,
God of all creation,
Hear our prayer.

For Sister Moon who guides the ocean-tides,

God of all creation,
Hear our prayer.

For peace and justice in all the world,
God of all creation,
Hear our prayer.

For our friends and enemies alike,
God of all creation,
Hear our prayer.

For hope to fill our hearts,
God of all creation,
Hear our prayer.

For eyes open to see God's grace,
God of all creation,
Hear our prayer.

For our mother Earth from whose soil we are created,
God of all creation,
Hear our prayer.

THE BLESSING OF GOD'S ANIMALS

At this time, please come forward with your animals so that they may each be blessed. Please move forward in line. You will be greeted by a priest who will bless your pet. You will be given a special tag for your pet commemorating this shared experience.

A Prayer of St. Francis

**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.***



COMING UP AT ST. JOHN'S



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