

Episcopal Church of the Incarnation



St. Francis of Assisi Blessing of the Animals

Sunday, October 3 at 5:00pm

308 College Drive
Gaffney, South Carolina 29340
864-489-6183

www.incarnation-gaffney.org
incarc@bellsouth.net

The Rt. Rev. Daniel P. Richards, Bishop
The Rev. Jenny Gettys, Rector
Mr. Hal Tyson, Organist and Choir Director
Mrs. Angharad Torres, Secretary and Bookkeeper

*We love and serve the Lord
by loving and serving others.*

Blessing of the Animals

Priest Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness; let the whole earth tremble before him. *Psalm 96:9*

Priest O God, make speed to save us.

People O Lord, make haste to help us.

Priest and People Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen. Alleluia.

The Song of Praise

“The Butterfly Song”

If I were a butterfly,
I'd thank you, Lord, for giving me wings.
If I were a robin in a tree,
I'd thank you, Lord, that I could sing.
If I were a fish in the sea,
I'd wiggle my tail and I'd giggle with glee;
But I just thank you, Father, for making me me.

CHORUS

For you gave me a heart and you gave me a smile.
You gave me Jesus and you made me your child.
And I just thank you, Father, for making me, me

If I were a wiggly worm,
I'd thank you, Lord, that I could squirm.
If I were a crocodile,
I'd thank you Lord for my great smile;
If I were a fuzzy, wuzzy bear,
I'd thank you, Lord, for my fuzzy, wuzzy hair.
But I just thank you, Father, for making me me.

CHORUS

The First Reading

Genesis 1:20-25

And God said, "Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the firmament of the heavens." So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature to its kind. And God saw that it was good. And God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth." And there was evening and there was morning, a fifth day. And God said, "Let the earth bring forth living creatures according to their kinds: cattle and creeping things and beasts of the earth according to their kinds." And it was so. And God made the beasts of the earth according to their kinds and the cattle according to their kinds, and everything that creeps upon the ground according to its kind. And God saw that it was good.

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

The Psalm

Psalm 148:7-14

- 7 Praise the Lord from the earth,
you sea-monsters and all deeps;
- 8 Fire and hail, snow and fog,
tempestuous wind, doing his will;
- 9 Mountains and all hills,
fruit trees and all cedars;
- 10 Wild beasts and all cattle,
creeping things and winged birds;
- 11 Kings of the earth and all peoples,
princes and all rulers of the world;
- 12 Young men and maidens,
old and young together.

- 13 Let them praise the Name of the Lord,
for his Name only is exalted,
his splendor is over earth and heaven.
- 14 He has raised up strength for his people
and praise for all his loyal servants,
the children of Israel, a people who are near him.
Hallelujah!

The Second Reading

Job 12:7-10

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.

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

The Gradual Hymn

Hymn 405, stanzas 1 and 4

Descant

All things bright and beau - ti - ful, crea-tures great and small,

Refrain

All things bright and beau - ti - ful, all crea-tures great and small,

all things wise and won - der - ful, God made them all.

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,
 4 He gave us eyes to see them, and lips that we might tell

he made their glow-ing col - ors, he made their ti - ny wings.
 how great is God Al - might - y, who has made all things well.

Repeat Refrain

The Third Reading

Matthew 6:25-26a, 28b-29

Jesus said, “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. 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.

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

The Homily

The Rev. Jenny Gettys

The Apostles’ Creed

Priest and People

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
 creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Priest The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Priest Let us pray.

Priest and People

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.

The Confession

The Intercessor and People pray responsively

Creator God,
You have made a beautiful world filled with wonder and surprises!
We adore you.

Creator God,
you have gifted us with the blessing of animals,
those in the wild, those on farms, and those in our own homes.
We adore you.

Creator God,
you brought into being that which we could not imagine for
ourselves,
life we cannot see without the aid of microscopes,
animals we can only see in pictures from remote regions of this
planet earth.
We adore you.

We thank you for abundant life;
for the birds we hear in the morning,
the drone of the bees when we are outside,
and the vast tapestry of life which is interwoven.
We give you thanks.

We thank you for the gift of our own animal companions;
the joy they bring us,
and the unconditional love and forgiveness which teaches us

about you.

For the confidant, the listener, the stress-releaser,
for the benefits they are to our health and to our Spirit.
We give you thanks.

And yet, we know that we have not always been faithful
caretakers of the animals.

Forgive us when we have dirtied their environment,
erased places of shelter,
polluted the waters,
killed off their food supplies,
or neglected to feed or tend animals in our own communities.
Forgive us.

Forgive us when we have neglected our own animal companions;
when we have said we are too busy to play with them,
when we have shooed them away;
when we have made excuses, saying we are too tired or too busy
so that we do not walk them, cuddle them, spend time with them.
Forgive us when we have not loved them as they have loved us.
Forgive us.

Forgive us when we have not considered the wider picture;
when we have neglected the animals in the wild,
the cruelty inflicted in the name of “sport” or in the name of food
production.
Forgive us.

Forgive us when we have focused only on our “favorites”
and neglected the care of the supposedly less beautiful
or those who hold a lower public profile.
Forgive us when we neglect to see all animals as part of your
creation,
when we neglect to acknowledge that your love beats in all hearts
and that you give breath to all creation
Forgive us.

The Priest declares the absolution

God is love. Through Christ your sins are forgiven. Take hold of this forgiveness

and live your life, knowing that you are forgiven and deeply loved. Know that the Holy Spirit will enable you to live fully, richly, and deeply. Amen

Prayer of Remembrance

O Lord, our Shepherd, you tenderly lead us and know all your own by name. We thank you for the gift of the pets we've loved and lost: for their unwavering love, their kooky quirks, and the deep joy they brought us. Watch over them, Lord. Gather them up in your arms and hold them close. And be with us in the emptiness they've left behind. In Christ's name we pray. *Amen.*

The Blessing of the Animals and Prayer for Those Not Here

Families will remain at their seats with their animals. The priest will come invoke God's blessing on your pet. If your pet wasn't able to accompany you today, you may be blessed on his or her behalf and then pass the blessing along to your pet when you get home.

The Prayer attributed to St. Francis

The Priest and People pray together

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.

The Blessing

The Priest blesses the people and animals using the following words

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you.

The Lord lift up his eyes to you and give you peace. *Amen.*

The Closing Song

He's Got the Whole World

1. He's got the whole world in his hand,
He's got the whole world in his hand,
He's got the whole world in his hand,
He's got the whole world in his hand.
2. He's got the puppies and the kitties in his hand...
3. He's got the lizards and the llamas in his hand...
4. He's got the whole world in his hand...

The Dismissal

Priest Let us bless the Lord

People Thanks be to God.

The Priest then dismisses the people with the following words

Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine: Glory to him from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever.

- *Ephesians 3:20-21*

Regular Schedule of Services

Monday through Friday:

8:00am Morning Prayer livestreamed on Facebook

Sundays:

8:30am Holy Eucharist Rite I in the Church
(quiet and contemplative)

9:30am Christian Education for all ages
or Breakfast on the first Sunday of the month

10:30am Holy Eucharist Rite II in the Church
with Nursery and Children's Chapel
also livestreamed on Facebook

Prayer Group

In case of emergencies, confidential prayer requests can be sent out to the Daughters of the King, a group of women committed to praying confidentially for anyone in need of prayer. To add a name to the Daughters' list, fill out a prayer request card and place it in the offering plate – it will be sent to the Daughters. If the need is immediate, call the Rev. Jenny Gettys at 489-6183 and she'll get word out right away.

2022 Vestry

Angharad Torres, Senior Warden and Worship
Niccie Dearing, Junior Warden and Buildings / Grounds
Robin Childers, Administration
Morgan Johnson, Evangelism
Jennie Hamrick, Hospitality
Hank Jones, Outreach
Nancy Fowler, Pastoral Care

Ex Officio Members:
Ellie Bird, Treasurer
Cynthia Glidden, Clerk

Welcome to Incarnation!

Wherever you are on your spiritual journey, you are welcome here. Whether you are passing through, or this is the beginning of a longer relationship, welcome. You are today part of our family. We invite you to fill out one of the Welcome cards on the table so that we can get to know you better. Completed cards may be dropped in the offering basket.