

BURLINGTON LUTHERAN CHURCH

October 2, 2022

17th Sunday after Pentecost

Blessing of the Animals

Welcome to worship! In your bulletin there is a Connect Card. Please fill it out if you'd like to sign up for our weekly informational emails and/or communicate with our office or Pastor. All are welcome to share in the sacrament of Holy Communion.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We are on the ancestral homelands of the Upper Skagit peoples. We are grateful for their stewardship of our shared land & waterways since time immemorial. May we live consciously and respectfully, honoring treaties, and remembering that God created everything and we are to keep it sacred.

GREETING

The grace of Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

THE PRAYER OF ST. FRANCIS

One: Lord, make us instruments of your peace.

All: Where there is hatred, let us sow love;

One: Where there is injury, pardon;

All: Where there is doubt, faith;

One: Where there is despair, hope;

All: Where there is darkness, light;

One: Where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine One, Grant that we may

All: not so much seek to be consoled as to console;

One: To be understood as to understand;

All: To be loved as to love.

One: For it is in giving that we receive;

All: It is in pardoning that we are pardoned;

One: And it is in dying that we are born to eternal live.

Amen!



*Apprehend God in all things, for God is in all things.
Every single creature is full of God, and is a book about
God.*

*Every creature is a word of God. If I spent enough time
with the tiniest creature- even a caterpillar-
I would never have to prepare a sermon so full of God is
every creature.*

-Meister Eckhart
13th century Christian mystic

OPENING SONG: "Oh, Sing to God Above" ELW 555

Verse 1 **Oh, sing to God above
a hymn of joyful greeting,
a song of grateful love
in the new day's light repeating:
you made the sea and sky,
the sun and stars in splendor;
delight shone in your eye—
all your works were filled with wonder.**

Refrain **Alleluia! Alleluia!
Oh, sing to God above: Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Oh, sing to God above: Alleluia!**

Verse 2 **Oh, sing to God above
a hymn of praise and blessing,
a song of grateful love,
hope and faith our hearts expressing:
creation lifts its voice
to tell your might and glory,
and we, too, will rejoice
to proclaim the saving story. *Refrain***

Oh, sing to God above: Alleluia!

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

After the message, children may head to Godly Play (ages 4-10) in the education wing

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who is eager to forgive and who loves us beyond our days.

Amen.

Dear friends, together let us acknowledge the occasions when we not live out the love to which Jesus calls us.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of mercy and forgiveness,

**We confess that we have harmed your good creation.
We have failed to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with you.
Turn us in a new direction.
Show us the path that leads to life.
Be our refuge and strength on the journey, through Jesus Christ, our redeemer and friend. Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Creator, we come together to worship, to be together, and to thank you for the fellowship of other creatures, to celebrate their God-given lives, and to pray for compassionate hearts so we may care for them and for all your creation. Teach us how to love this world and ALL of its citizens. **Amen.**

THE READINGS

First Reading: Blessing of the Animals *by Jan Richardson*

You who created them and called them good:
bless again these creatures who come to us as a blessing
fashioned of fur or feather or fin,
formed of flesh that breathes with your own breath,
that you have made from sheer delight,
that you have given in dazzling variety.
Bless them who curl themselves around our hearts
who twine themselves through our days
who companion us in our labor
who call us to come and play.
Bless them who will never be entirely tamed
and so remind us that you love what is wild,
that you rejoice in what lives close to the earth,
that your heart beats in the heart of these creatures
you have entrusted to our care.

L: The Word of the Lord

C: thanks be to God.

Second Reading: Job 12:7-9 *(The Message)*

But ask the animals what they think—let them teach you; let the birds tell you what's going on. Put your ear to the earth—learn the basics. Listen—the fish in the ocean will tell you their stories.

L: The Word of the Lord

C: thanks be to God.

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

Pastor Charis Weathers & Upper Skagit Elder skʷal̕x̕əʃ, Kay Knott

Individuals are welcome to bring up their animals (or a photo) for a special blessing!

Gospel Acclamation: "Hallelujah" ELW 171

Hallelujah, hallelujah; halle, hallelujah.

Hallelujah, hallelujah; halle, hallelujah. (2x)

Gospel: Luke 17:5-10

⁵The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith!" ⁶The Lord replied, "If you had faith the size of a mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it would obey you."⁷"Who among you would say to your servant who has just come in from plowing or tending sheep in the field, 'Come here at once and take your place at the table'? ⁸Would you not rather say to him, 'Prepare supper for me, put on your apron and serve me while I eat and drink; later you may eat and drink'? ⁹Do you thank the servant for doing what was commanded? ¹⁰So you also, when you have done all that you were ordered to do, say, 'We are worthless servants; we have done only what we ought to have done!'"

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

SONG OF THE DAY: "All Creatures of Our God and King"

Verse 1 **All creatures of our God and King
Lift up your voice and with us sing
O praise Him alleluia
Thou burning sun with golden beam
Thou silver moon with softer gleam
O praise Him O praise Him
Alleluia alleluia alleluia**

Verse 2 **Thou rushing wind that art so strong
Ye clouds that sail in Heav'n along
O praise Him alleluia
Thou rising moon in praise rejoice
Ye lights of evening find a voice
O praise Him O praise Him
Alleluia alleluia alleluia**

Verse 3 **Let all things their Creator bless
And worship Him in humbleness**

**O praise Him alleluia
Praise praise the Father praise the Son
And praise the Spirit three in One
O praise Him O praise Him
Alleluia alleluia alleluia**

Refrain **O alleluia alleluia
O alleluia alleluia
O alleluia alleluia
O alleluia alleluia alleluia**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

All are welcome to light a candle during the prayers.

SUNG PRAYER RESPONSE

When the reader says, "Receive this prayer, gracious God," the congregation sings:

***Lord, listen to your children praying.
Lord, send your Spirit in this place.
Lord, listen to your children praying.
Send us love, send us power, send us grace.***

PASSING OF THE PEACE

May the peace of God be with you always.

And also with you.

You are invited to share a sign of peace with your neighbor.

OFFERING

Online giving is also available at burlingtonlutheran.org, Venmo @Burlington-Lutheran, the Vanco Mobile app or by texting 360-727-0807.

MUSIC DURING OFFERING: "Eternal Spirit of the Living Christ" ELW 402

Offering Prayer

Gracious God, in your great love you richly provide for our needs. Make of these gifts a banquet of blessing, and make us ready to share with all in need; through Jesus Christ, who sets a table for all. **Amen.**

COMMUNION

At Burlington Lutheran Church we celebrate open table communion which means the table is open to ALL, no exceptions. Today we are receiving communion in our seats, with offerings of both wine, juice and gluten free wafers. Come, taste and see that God is good!

Great Thanksgiving

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Holy Communion

The Prayer of Jesus

Our loving God, who is in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our sin, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

Invitation to Communion

Music During Communion: “When Peace Like A River (It Is Well With My Soul)” ELW 785

Prayer after Communion

God of the abundant table, you have refreshed our hearts in this meal with bread for the journey. Give us your grace on the road that we might serve our neighbors with joy; for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

BENEDICTION

May God, the Creator of all that is, God the Redeemer of all Creation, and God the life giving Spirit, bless you all – human and otherwise – now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING SONG: “Hallelujah! We Sing Your Praises” ELW 535 (see insert)

Refrain **Hallelujah! We sing your praises,
all our hearts are filled with gladness.
Hallelujah! We sing your praises,
all our hearts are filled with gladness. (2x)**

Verse 1 **Christ the Lord to us said:
I am wine, I am bread,
I am wine, I am bread,
give to all who thirst and hunger. (2x) Refrain**

Verse 2 **Now he sends us all out,
strong in faith, free of doubt,
strong in faith, free of doubt.
Tell to all the joyful gospel. (2x) Refrain**

DISMISSAL

Go in peace, with Christ beside you.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

WORSHIP NOTES

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Worship Leaders: Pastor Charis Weathers & Musician Sean Bendickson
Bulletin Cover Art: Brother Francis, Canticle of Creation. Acrylic. Nancy Earle, n.d.



Blessed Are All Living Things

By Maureen Killoran

For the blessing of animal companions we give thanks.
For the beautiful ones, those whose fur is silky and whose tails are long;
whose feathers are brilliant or whose voices are splendid... we give thanks.
For the frantic ones, the runts and the hungry, who run for a food bowl
or a pat as though this is life's last possible gift, we give thanks.
For the obnoxious ones, the heads that butt against us as we're trying to sleep;
the bodies that refuse to learn discretion as they make digestive gifts... we give thanks.
For those who bark and purr and growl and mew,
for all who squeak or squawk or snarl or hiss, we give thanks.
For the animals unknown to us, those whose niche in life's web is fragile;
whose lives are insecure; for all who care for them and wish them well, we give thanks.
Blessed are the animals.
Blessed are the creatures who live with us and need our care.
Blessed are the mammals and the reptiles and the birds
who teach us we are not alone.
Blessed are all living things from whom we learn to love.

Got Bible Bummers?

A LIGHT SUNDAY COFFEE-HOUR SERIES w/ Chris Hoke
SEASON 1 11:30 AM - 12:15 PM (JUST 45 MIN!)

OCT 16

"What's up with all the killing?? God is going around like a 2-year-old throwing a tantrum." - Owen Rozema

Sodom & Gommorah

NOV 20

"All the killings and massacres in the Old Testament for the sake of God?"
- Claire Burwash

Abraham & Isaac / Israel's Military & Wars

DEC 11

"The idea that Jesus had to die in humanity's place. What a shitty god if that's true." - Giordi Yunge

Jesus' Execution & "Atonement"

SEASON 2: Bible as myth? History? Reliable? | All the patriarchy? | YOUR Q's!!

A Note From Your Pastor

When I was 20 years old and in the first week of a college summer mission, I realized that I was missing \$200 of the cost for the mission. This caused me major panic - my parents weren't exactly enthusiastic about me being on this particular mission, and I didn't know how I could possibly pay for it. The stress weighed on me continually, and I didn't want to tell my parents about the shortfall. Essentially I was stuck: I was already on the mission, and I needed money that I didn't have.

In the second week of the mission I received a letter from a friend of my parents. She had heard about what I was doing and felt the Spirit prompting her to send me money. Out fell a \$50 check, which was the first of four \$50 checks that she said she would be sending me.

At that very moment I realized that I hadn't even prayed about this financial need. I had taken it all on myself to worry and fret, and apparently God knew my need already. Her act of listening to the Spirit and responding with generosity has stuck with me. She did not know I needed exactly \$200; my parents told her I had already raised enough money for the mission. But it didn't matter, she was moved to give.

When I have sensed a particular call to give I have tried to follow suit, even if I haven't been able to give much. Over time the amounts have been able to be larger, but I do still try to pay close attention when I'm receiving a spiritual nudge to give.

At BLC we are starting a stewardship campaign this Fall, ***Leaning Generously Into Our Vision***, during which we will hear about how BLC is making a difference in the lives of those within and those outside this church. Our aim is to build on the spirit of generosity and support for the mission of BLC that is already present here, not just to address our bottom line. *Leaning Generously Into Our Vision* begins this Sunday, Oct 2nd, and will conclude on Nov. 13 with Intent Sunday when we turn in our intent cards.

As this campaign begins, please consider your experience with generosity. Who in your life has modeled generosity? How do I want to cultivate my own generosity? What is happening at BLC, or what do I want to be happening *through* BLC, that I want to support? We have several weeks to listen and discern. There is no pressure, no set expectations, just an open invitation to live into our mission together.

In peace,

Pastor Charis

UPCOMING BLC EVENTS

October 9: Indigenous People's Day Worship

Upper Skagit Elder sk^walxăx, Kay Knott will co-lead this unique worship

October 7th @ 6:30pm – Jennifer Knapp in concert at the Lincoln Theater

Our second BLC Faithfully Queer & Allied Series will be held at a special location (thanks PFLAG!)

October 12- November 16 (Wednesdays) – Let's Go Together (6:30-8:00pm)

*This **six week training** prepares Christian communities for partnerships with diverse traditions and cultures to build a more peaceful future together. Led in person/online by BLC member, Rev. Terry Kyllö!*

October 16: Worship as Visioning

Join BLC for a special worship service in the Fellowship Hall!

October 17: (Monday) Coffee & Walk

Meet at Skagit Co Op at 11am for coffee/snacks, then we'll leave for a walk on the Riverwalk at 12pm

October 18th @ 6:30pm – Pastor Tony Brown

Join us for our third speaker in our BLC Faithfully Queer & Allied Series in the sanctuary



GOD IS LOVE

We are all God's beloved children and are recipients of God's radical love and grace.

All are welcome in this church community. You are welcome here if you have ever felt excluded or judged because of your gender, ethnicity, race, religion, status, ability, sexual orientation, doubts or questions. We are a community committed to racial equity, and we believe in Jesus' commandments to love God and love neighbor. Join us!

Matthew 22: 37-39



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