
DUKE UNIVERSITY CHAPEL
A Service of Worship *for the* Blessing of Animals



Sunday, October 5, 2008
three o'clock in the afternoon

PRELUDE

PROCESSIONAL

INTROIT

We Thank You, God, for Animal Friends

Durham Children's Choir
Music by Larry Schultz

Come now and join in the celebration!
Sing and give thanks for God's good creation.
All living creatures, large and small,
are gifts from the Spirit, Maker of all!
We thank you, God, for animal friends.
They cause us to marvel, laugh and grin.
They cuddle close when we are sad.
They jump for joy when we are glad.
We thank you, God, for animal friends.
They guide and protect us and defend.
They sense and warn when danger's near.
They help us see; they help us hear.
Bless all animals everywhere,
in our homes and flying through air,
in the fields and rivers on earth.
Thank you, God, for giving them birth;
the kittens and puppies, the goldfish and guppies,
the roosters and hens, the sparrows and wrens,
the parrots and colts, hamsters and goats, the spaniels and beagles,
penguins and eagles!
We thank you God, and promise to care for animals everywhere!

Text by Jann Aldredge-Clanton

GREETING

OPENING PRAYER

Lord, make us instruments of your peace,
where there is hatred, let us sow love; where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy;
O Divine Master,
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.

—*St. Francis of Assisi*

ANTHEM

Durham Children's Choir

Badgers and Hedgehogs from "Bless the Lord"

by Andrew Carter

O ye badgers and hedgehogs, bless the Lord. O ye badgers and squirrels and hedgehogs, bless the Lord. O ye badgers and squirrels and ferrets and foxes and hedgehogs, bless the Lord. O ye parakeets and pelicans and porcupines and penguins, guillemots and guinea pigs and gallinules and godwits and badgers and hedgehogs, bless the Lord. O ye weasels and warthogs and wallabies and wombats, chipmunks and chuckawallas and kookaburras and caterpillars and badgers and hedgehogs, bless the Lord. O ye dromedaries and ye dragonflies and diddy little daddy longlegs, budgerigars and bumblebees and bandicoots and bullfrogs and badgers and hedgehogs, bless the Lord!

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Genesis 9:8-17

Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, 'As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.' God said, 'This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.' God said to Noah, 'This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.'

Job 12:7-10

*'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
and the breath of every human being.*

Lector: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

HOMILY

LITANY ON BEHALF OF GOD'S CREATURES (*read responsively*)

Leader: Gracious God, You created the earth and all that is in it and proclaimed it good. We confess that all this belongs to You and that we have harmed your non-human creatures in pursuit of selfish and unnecessary pleasures and pursuits. Forgive us, we pray, and help us to be champions of all those who suffer, so that we may be channels of Your goodness.

People: Hear us, O Lord!

Leader: We give you thanks, O God, for the life and witness of the prophets who remind us of Your true purpose and for those special people who minister with tenderness to all living beings.

People: Hear us, O Lord!

Leader: We give you thanks, O God, for animals who live in our homes, on farms, in the wild, and in havens of refuge. Make us ever aware of our responsibility to them, and help us to be faithful in caring for them.

People: Hear us, O Lord!

Leader: We pray today for animals who are in captivity, who are pursued, hunted, trapped, tortured, sacrificed, deserted, abused, exploited and used for unnecessary experimentation and for those living in agony on "factory farms." Open our eyes to those victimized by humans who misuse their power over them. Open our hearts to their cause and our hands to their need. Open our mouths to their defense, and above all, our lives to Your ways.

People: Hear us, O Lord!

Leader: We ask forgiveness for the part we have all played in systems that employ violence and promote hardness of heart.

People: Hear us, O Lord!

Leader: We now remember before you in the silent and deep places of our hearts those animals who have died—those who have been companions in our homes, and those who have died because we could not save them. We remember at this time also, those animals who are lost, separated from their owners, or themselves mourning.

People: Hear us, O Lord!

—written by Rony Elliott

BRIEF TIME OF SHARING

Congregation members are invited to share their stories.

THE BLESSING

O sweet maker of all, we ask your blessing on every creature gathered here today, the large and the small. May they live peacefully in praise of you. Bless us all to love your creation, and revere its sacredness. We ask this blessing in the name of the one who was, is, and always will be, our Creator, to whom every creature belongs. Amen.

Animals will be blessed individually. The worship leaders will come to you.

You may depart in peace after your animal companions have been blessed.

Today is the twentieth celebration of the Blessing of the Animals at Duke Chapel. In 1989, Divinity student DeRonda Elliott proposed the idea for the service based on her belief that people of faith should acknowledge the blessings we receive from the animals of the earth and also be advocates for their well-being. Each year since then we have welcomed a grand menagerie to the lawn of Duke Chapel along with their owners and friends on the Sunday in October closest to the Feast Day of St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of animals. Many animal protection and advocacy groups have also participated in the service and educated us about the needs of animals in our community. Through the years we have blessed many wonderful creatures of all shapes, sizes, and species. Today we remember those who have died, giving thanks for their lives and for all our finned, feathered, furry and fur-less friends.

The service today has been coordinated and supported by Duke Chapel, and the Congregation at Duke Chapel Endowment. We would like to thank the following for their participation and help, and also for their work to help animals and to educate people.

- * Animal Protection Society of Durham
- * Alamance County Humane Society
- * Coalition to Unchain Dogs
- * Carolina Pet Rescue
- * Green Iguana Society
- * Pet Chaplains, Inc.
- * Triangle Vegetarian Society



A special thank you to the planning committee: Robin Arcus, Rony Elliott, Meghan Feldmeyer, Nancy Ferree-Clark, and McKennon Shea

MINISTRY OF WORSHIP

Presiding Minister	The Rev. McKennon Shea <i>Divinity '08, Associate Pastor to the Congregation at Duke Chapel</i>
Preacher	The Rev. Nancy Ferree-Clark <i>Senior Pastor to the Congregation at Duke Chapel</i>
Lectors`	Ms. Micaela Arneson Ms. Maura Ashton <i>Youth members of the Congregation at Duke Chapel</i>
Other Participants	The Rev. Robin Townsley Arcus <i>Divinity '91</i> Ms. Rondy Elliott <i>Divinity '91</i> Ms. Elizabeth Matthews <i>Divinity '09, Worship Intern</i> The Rev. Gaston Warner <i>Director of University and Community Relations</i>
Musician	Mr. Rick Keena <i>Member of the Congregation at Duke Chapel</i>
Choir	Durham Children's Choir <i>Ms. Scott Hill, director</i>
Ushers	Youth of Duke Chapel Congregation

ABOUT THE DURHAM CHILDREN'S CHOIR

The Durham Children's Choir is a community organization made up of outstanding young singers from elementary and middle schools, public and private, and home-schooled children, in the Durham and neighboring communities. Their mission is to learn a wide variety of high quality choral music, both sacred and secular, and to share that music with the community through public performances. The choir was founded by Scott Hill, retired DPS choral director, in May, 2004, with generous support from the Durham Arts Council, Duke University Chapel Music, Durham Public Schools, the BIN Charitable Foundation and supporters from the community.

A PRAYER FOR ANIMALS

Hear our humble prayer, O God, for our friends the animals, especially for animals who are suffering; for any that are hunted or lost, deserted, frightened, or hungry; and for all that will be put to death. We entreat for them all Thy mercy and pity; and for those who deal with them, we ask a heart of compassion, gentle hands, and kindly words. Make us, ourselves, to be true friends to animals, and so to share the blessings of the merciful.
—*Albert Schweitzer*



DUKE UNIVERSITY CHAPEL

Duke Chapel is a grand building, suitable for hosting major events in the life of the University and its members; it acts as a moderator for the diversity of religious identity and expression on campus; and it is a Christian church of an unusually interdenominational character, with a tradition of stirring music, preaching, and liturgy. We welcome you to our life of worship, learning, dialogue, and service.

www.chapel.duke.edu • Box 90974, Durham, NC 27708 • 919-684-2572

We invite you to consider joining the Congregation at Duke Chapel. The Congregation is an interdenominational church with a variety of vibrant ministries, including discipleship and spiritual formation (for children, youth, and adults), mission and outreach, and pastoral care. If you are interested in making Duke Chapel your home church, contact the Rev. Nancy Ferree-Clark at 684-3917. www.congregation.chapel.duke.edu

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The Rev. Craig Kocher *Associate Dean of the Chapel and Director of Religious Life*

The Rev. Meghan Feldmeyer *Director of Worship*

The Rev. Patrick Thompson *Director of Black Campus Ministries*

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Ms. Elizabeth Clift *Director of Children's Ministry*