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



Sunday, October 3, 2010
four o'clock in the afternoon

PRELUDE

PROCESSIONAL

INTROIT

Music in the Air from In Praise of Music

Durham Children's Choir

Christopher Norton

There is music in the wind, in the air, there are sounds everywhere in the air. For the animals and birds, the sounds in the wind make a sweet, sweet music to their ear. The splash of a waterfall, the pounding of the rain, the rustling and the crackling of the ripening grain; The conversations of the birds in the trees, and the rumbling and the roaring of the seas. The rumble of thunder, the rustle of leaves, the fluttering of birds building nests in the eaves, The creaking of branches of a very tall tree, and the rumbling and the roaring of the seas.

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.

—adapted from St. Francis of Assisi

ANTHEM

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

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Psalm 65:6-13

*By your strength you established the mountains;
you are girded with might.
You silence the roaring of the seas,
the roaring of their waves,
the tumult of the peoples.*

*Those who live at earth's farthest bounds are awed by your signs;
you make the gateways of the morning and the evening shout for joy.*

*You visit the earth and water it,
you greatly enrich it;
the river of God is full of water;
you provide the people with grain,
for so you have prepared it.
You water its furrows abundantly,
settling its ridges,
softening it with showers,
and blessing its growth.
You crown the year with your bounty;
your wagon tracks overflow with richness.
The pastures of the wilderness overflow,*

*the hills gird themselves with joy,
the meadows clothe themselves with flocks,
the valleys deck themselves with grain,
they shout and sing together for joy.*

Genesis 6:11-22

Now the earth was corrupt in God's sight, and the earth was filled with violence. And God saw that the earth was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted its ways upon the earth. And God said to Noah, 'I have determined to make an end of all flesh, for the earth is filled with violence because of them; now I am going to destroy them along with the earth. Make yourself an ark of cypress wood; make rooms in the ark, and cover it inside and out with pitch. This is how you are to make it: the length of the ark three hundred cubits, its width fifty cubits, and its height thirty cubits. Make a roof for the ark, and finish it to a cubit above; and put the door of the ark in its side; make it with lower, second, and third decks. For my part, I am going to bring a flood of waters on the earth, to destroy from under heaven all flesh in which is the breath of life; everything that is on the earth shall die. But I will establish my covenant with you; and you shall come into the ark, you, your sons, your wife, and your sons' wives with you. And of every living thing, of all flesh, you shall bring two of every kind into the ark, to keep them alive with you; they shall be male and female. Of the birds according to their kinds, and of the animals according to their kinds, of every creeping thing of the ground according to its kind, two of every kind shall come in to you, to keep them alive. Also take with you every kind of food that is eaten, and store it up; and it shall serve as food for you and for them.' Noah did this; he did all that God commanded him.

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 *Rondy Elliott*

BRIEF TIME OF SHARING

People are invited to share their animal stories briefly.

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.*

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
- * Coalition to Unchain Dogs
- * Pet Chaplain, Inc.
- * Triangle Vegetarian Society



MINISTRY OF WORSHIP

Presiding Minister	The Rev. Meghan Feldmeyer <i>Director of Worship, Duke University Chapel</i>
Preacher	Dr. Norman Wirzba <i>Research Professor of Theology, Ecology, and Rural Life; Duke Divinity School</i>
Lector`	Ms. Katie Benjamin <i>Divinity '11, Chapel Worship Intern</i>
Other Participants	The Rev. Graham Ford <i>Campus Minister, Westminster Presbyterian Fellowship</i> Fr. Michael T. Martin, OFM Conv. <i>Director of Catholic Campus Ministry</i> The Rev. Bruce Puckett <i>Associate Pastor to the Congregation at Duke Chapel</i> Dr. Christy Lohr Sapp <i>Associate Dean for Religious Life</i> The Rev. McKennon Shea <i>Director of Admissions, Duke Divinity School</i>
Musician	Mr. Rick Keena <i>Member of the Congregation at Duke Chapel</i>
Choir	Durham Children's Choir Ms. Scott Hill, director

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 in 2004 by Scott Hill, retired DPS choral director, 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.

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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. Bruce Puckett at 684-3917. www.congregation.chapel.duke.edu

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