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



Sunday, October 2, 2011
three o'clock in the afternoon

PRELUDE

PROCESSIONAL

INTROIT

A Jubilant Song

Durham Children's Choir

Mary Lynn Lightfoot

Cantate Domino canticum novum.

Sing to the Lord a new jubilant song!

Cantate Domino canticum novum omnis terra.

Sing to the Lord all the earth!

Let the sea roar and the floods clap their hands!

Let the hills sing together for joy!

Let the heavens and the earth all rejoice,

for the Lord is greatly to be praised!

Proclaim God's salvation! Declare God's great glory!

Lift up a jubilant song and make joyful noise!

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

ANTHEMS

And the Wolf Shall Dwell with the Lamb

Durham Children's Choir

Peter Paul Olejar

And the wolf shall dwell with the lamb; and the leopard shall lie down with the kid. And the calf and the lion and fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. They shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks; And nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

—*Isaiah 11:6 and 2:4*

Badgers and Hedgehogs

Andrew Carter

from from *Bless the Lord*.

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 guineapigs and gallinules and godwits and badgers and hedgehogs, bless the Lord. O ye weasels and warhogs 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 daddylonglegs, budgerigars and bumblebees and bandicoots and bullfrogs and badgers and hedgehogs bless the Lord.

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Genesis 2:19-20a

So out of the ground the Lord God formed every animal of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name. The man gave names to all cattle, and to the birds of the air, and to every animal of the field.

Matthew 10:29-30

Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground unperceived by your Father. And even the hairs of your head are all counted.

Lector: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

HOMILY—Living and Dying: What the Animals Teach Us

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 at times we have harmed your creation. 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 stewardship of creation, and help us to be faithful in caring for all you have created.

People: Hear us, O Lord!

Leader: We pray today for animals who are mistreated in any way... for those who are tortured, deserted, abused, exploited and used for unnecessary experimentation, and for any whose lives are spent in extreme confinement. Help us to stop abuse in any form. Open our mouths to the defense of the defenseless, and above all, open 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 remember before you our companion animals who have died. We remember at this time also, those animals who are lost or separated from their owners.

People: Hear us, O Lord!

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.*

MINISTRY OF WORSHIP

Presiding Minister	Fr. Michael T. Martin, OFM Conv. <i>Director of Catholic Campus Ministry</i>
Preacher	The Rev. Robin Arcus <i>United Church of Christ minister</i>
Lector`	Mr. Paul Wynkoop <i>Youth Member of the Congregation at Duke Chapel</i>
Other Participants	The Rev. Meghan Feldmeyer <i>Director of Worship, Duke University Chapel</i> The Rev. Bruce Puckett <i>Associate Pastor to the Congregation at Duke Chapel</i> The Rev. McKennon Shea <i>Director of Admissions, Duke Divinity School</i> Ms. Rondy Elliott <i>Founder of Duke Chapel's Blessing of the Animals service</i> Ms. Katelyn Scott <i>Divinity '12, Chapel Worship Intern</i>
Musician	Mr. Rick Keena <i>Member of the Congregation at Duke Chapel</i>
Choir	Durham Children's Choir Ms. Scott Hill and Ms. Dena Byers, conductors Ms. Vangie Poe, pianist
Ushers	Youth of Duke Chapel Congregation

The service today has been coordinated and supported by Duke Chapel and the Congregation at Duke Chapel Endowment. We would like to thank Rick's Reptile Rescue and the Triangle Vegetarian Society who are joining us today and for their work to help animals and to educate people.



THE HISTORY OF BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS AT DUKE CHAPEL

In 1989, Duke Divinity student DeRonda (Rondy) 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. Rondy also crafted the original framework for the litany on behalf of God's creatures, which has had some revision over the years, but largely remains intact. Today we remember those who have died, giving thanks for their lives and for all our finned, feathered, furry and fur-less friends.

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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