

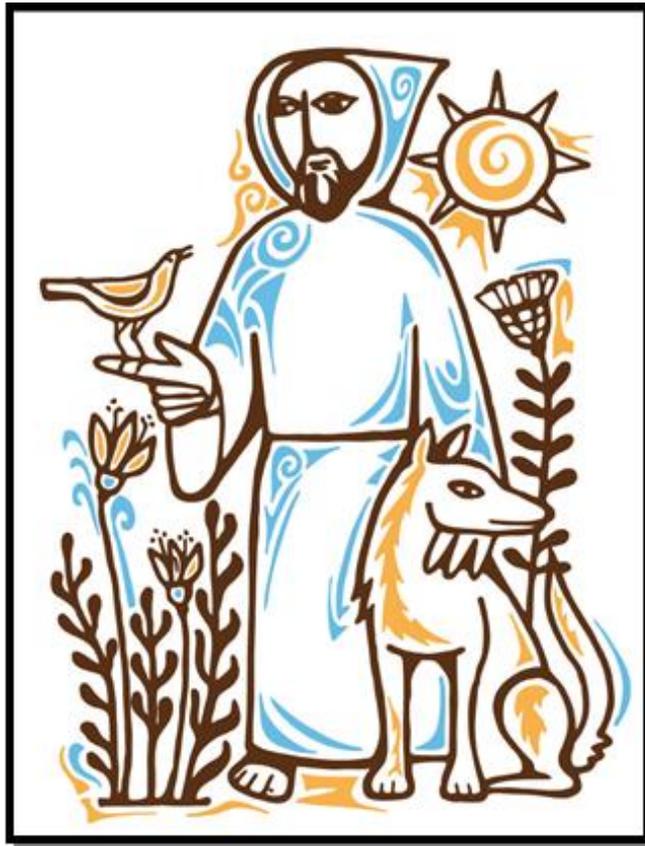
The Anglican Church of Canada  
**CHRIST CHURCH, MEAFORD**

*"We are gathered together on the territory of the Saugeen Ojibway Nation"*

**Blessing of the Animals, Sunday, Oct 3, 2021, 4:00pm**

*in observance of the Feast Day of Saint Francis of Assisi  
Francis of Assisi, Friar d. 1226, Patron of Animals and of Ecology*

Celebrant: The Venerable Judy Walton, Officiant & Lay leader: Postulant Gilles Haché,  
Reader: Norma McCauley, Organist: Charlie Strimas, Vocalists; John Howard, Victoria Alcock



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## Feast Day of St Francis of Assisi

### GATHERING

Leader Loving God, we assemble with all your creatures in this circle of life.

People ***We ask you to join our circle and celebrate with us.***

Leader As we join in celebration with you and all creation,

People ***We ask for your blessing, your shalom, on the creatures present here that we love, and all creatures celebrating in the wild.***

Leader In the name of God, who creates all life,  
In the name of Jesus Christ, who redeems all life, and the name of the  
Spirit, who renews all life, we cry with all in the circle of life:

People ***Shalom! Shalom! Shalom! May your blessing come!***

HYMN: *All Things Bright and Beautiful*  
Sung by Victoria Alcock, John Howard

CP 416

### CIRCLE OF PRAISE:

Leader All dogs and coyotes, large and small:

People ***Praise the Lord!***

Leader All rabbits, and guinea pigs, large and small:

People ***Praise the Lord!***

Leader All goldfish, guppies and swimming creatures:

People ***Praise the Lord!***

Leader All roosters, parrots, budgies and singing birds:

People ***Praise the Lord!***

Leader All goats, ponies and pigs:

People ***Praise the Lord!***

Leader All horses, cows and sheep:

People ***Praise the Lord!***

Leader All lizards, skinks and crawling creatures:

People ***Praise the Lord!***

Leader Every animal in the sky, the sea and the forest:

People ***Praise the Lord!***

HYMN: *God of the Sparrow (VS 1 & 4)*

#414

### THANKS AND CONFESSION:

Leader Lord, for all the animals in the whole wide world,

People ***We thank you, God!***

Leader Lord, for all the fun and friendship we have with animals,  
People ***We thank you, God!***

Leader Lord, for all the times we have hurt or neglected animals.

People ***We are sorry,***

Leader Lord, for all the times we have used poisons that have killed animals,

People ***We are sorry,***

Leader Lord, for all the times we have destroyed the homes of animals in the forests, oceans or fields,

People ***We are sorry.***

#### **PRAYER FOR THE DAY:**

People

***God, our Creator, help us to love all creatures as kin, all animals as partners on Earth, all birds as messengers of praise, all minute beings as expressions of your mysterious design and all frogs as voices of hope. Amen.***

FIRST READING: *Genesis 2: 18-19a*

HYMN: *JOYFUL, JOYFUL WE ADORE THEE*

CP #425

SECOND READING: *A reading from a Sermon of St Francis:*

***"Peace, birds, peace! - My brother and sister birds, you should greatly praise your Creator and love him always. he gave you feathers to wear, and wings to fly, and whatever you need. God made you noble among his creatures and gave you a home in the purity of the air, so that, though you do not sow nor reap, he nevertheless protects and governs you without your least care.***

THIRD READING: *Matthew 6: 25-29*

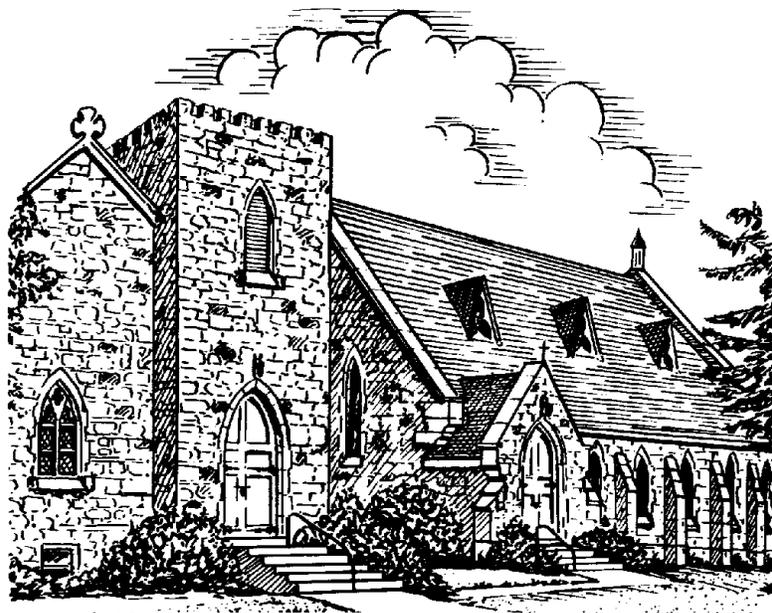
#### **BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS:**

***Blessing the Animals, 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.***

**ARCHDEACON JUDY BLESSES EACH INDIVIDUAL ANIMAL**

HYMN: *A PLACE IN THE CHOIR (sung by our choristers)*

We thank you and your beloved companions for joining us  
for this special service of blessing.  
May they live long and happy lives in the unbreakable bond of love  
you share together.



**Christ Church, Alleaford**