



CHRIST CHURCH  
PORTOLA VALLEY & WOODSIDE

# Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

Each year, we celebrate a special Blessing of the Animals service on the Sunday that falls closest to October 4<sup>th</sup>, St. Francis of Assisi's feast day. St. Francis was a lover of the environment and saw God in nature, often writing prayers and poems that praised God for the beauty of creation. He is often depicted, as here, with a bird in his hand because of a legend where he told his traveling companions to "wait for me while I go to preach to my sisters the birds," who flocked to him at the sound of his voice. Today, we see Francis as a model, and we strive to care for God's creation as he once did.



The Blessing of the Animals  
and The Holy Eucharist  
October 2, 2022, at 10:00 a.m.

**WELCOME!**

The Episcopal Parish of Portola Valley & Woodside

815 Portola Road, Portola Valley, California 94028

☎ (650) 851-0224 📧 [ccpvw.org](http://ccpvw.org) 📘 [facebook.com/ccpvw](https://facebook.com/ccpvw)



**Please socially distance and wear masks for indoor services.**

(Masks are available on the table in the Narthex as you enter the Church)

**All eligible people need to be vaccinated.**

**Please be smart, stay safe, care for others,  
and stay at home if you don't feel well.**

**Thank you to today's volunteers!**

Greeter Mary Hufty

Usher Danny Alegria

Acolyte Louise Delafield

Altar Guild Betsy Alexander

Lesson Katy Darrow

Epistle Lauren Wittine

Intercessions Sarah Halsey

## **THE WORD OF GOD**

**PRELUDE** *All Things Bright and Beautiful*

*arr. Wendy Stevens*

*Please stand as you are able.*

### **OPENING ACCLAMATION**

Officiant Blessed be God: Creator, Savior, and Holy Spirit.

**People All creation sings your praises. Amen.**

Officiant The Lord be with you.

**People And also with you.**

Officiant Let us pray,

Source and sustainer of life, you have filled the world with beauty: Open our eyes to behold your gracious hand in all your works. Water, earth and sky are yours, as are all their inhabitants, wild and tame. We thank you for creatures that befriend, enrich, entertain, serve, nourish and protect us. May we, who are made in your image, care for them well. And may your groaning yet wonderful creation rally and thrive, revealing to all who come after us your wise, redemptive, transfiguring love: through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

# HYMN 405 All things bright and beautiful

Royal Oak



All things bright and beau - ti - ful, all crea-tures great and small,



all things wise and won - der - ful, the Lord God made them all.



1 Each lit - tle flower that o - pens, each lit - tle bird that sings,  
2 The pur - ple - head - ed moun-tain, the riv - er run - ning by,  
3 The cold wind in the win - ter, the pleas - ant sum - mer sun,  
4 He gave us eyes to see them, and lips that we might tell



he made their glow-ing col - ors, he made their ti - ny wings.  
the sun - set, and the morn - ing that bright-ens up the sky,  
the ripe fruits in the gar - den, he made them ev - ery one.  
how great is God Al - might - y, who has made all things well.

*Please be seated.*

## THE FIRST READING *Genesis 9:8-17*

Readings for worship are taken from various books of the Bible. Hebrew Scripture details the work and history of the Jewish people.

*Reader* A Reading from Genesis.

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.'

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

**CHORAL ANTHEM** For the Beauty of the Earth

*John Rutter (b. 1945)*

*Today, we have a choral reflection in place of the usual psalm. This text was written by Follitt Sandford Pierpoint as he sat in his country home in Bath, England, admiring the rolling hills and the Avon River.*

For the beauty of the earth,  
For the glory of the skies,  
For the love which from our birth,  
Over and around us lies,  
'Lord of all, to Thee we raise  
This our joyful hymn of praise.

For the joy of human love,  
Brother, sister, parent, child,  
Friends on earth and friends above,  
For all gentle thoughts and mild,  
'Lord of all, to Thee we raise  
This our joyful hymn of praise.

For the beauty of each hour,  
Of the day and of the night,  
Hill and vale and tree and flow'r,  
Sun and Moon and stars of light,  
'Lord of all, to Thee we raise  
This our joyful hymn of praise.

For each perfect gift of Thine,  
To our race so freely given,  
Graces human and divine,  
Flow'rs of earth and buds of heav'n,  
'Lord of all, to Thee we raise  
This our joyful hymn of praise.

**THE SECOND READING** When I Was a Forest *by Meister Eckhart, as rendered by Daniel Ladinsky. Said in alternation.*

*Reader* When I was the stream, when I was the  
forest, when I was still the field,  
when I was every hoof, foot,  
fin and wing, when I  
was the sky  
itself,

*People* **no one ever asked me did I have a purpose, no one ever  
wondered was there anything I might need,  
for there was nothing  
I could not  
love.**

*Reader* It was when I left all we once were that  
the agony began, the fear and questions came,  
and I wept, I wept. And tears  
I had never known

before.

**People**     **So I returned to the river, I returned to  
the mountains. I asked for their hand in marriage again,  
I begged—I begged to wed every object  
and creature,**

**Reader**     and when they accepted,  
God was ever present in my arms.  
And God did not say,  
“Where have you  
been?”

**People**     **For then I knew my soul—every soul—  
has always held  
Him.**

*Please stand as you are able.*

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** A Repeating Alleluia

*Calvin Hampton (1938-1984)*

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,  
al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le -  
lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

**THE GOSPEL**     *Matthew 6:25-30*

*Gospel is simply the Greek word for "Good News." In this context, however, it means a reading from one of the first four books of the New Testament: Matthew, Mark, Luke or John.*

*Celebrant*     The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

**People**     **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

“Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your

span of life? And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What will we eat?’ or ‘What will we drink?’ or ‘What will we wear?’ For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

*Celebrant*      The Gospel of the Lord.  
*People*          **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

**THE SERMON**    *The Rev. Beth Phillips*

*Please stand as you are able and say together:*

### **A TRIUNE CREED**

*Typically, we recite The Nicene Creed – a communal declaration and ancient statement of the Christian faith formulated in the 4<sup>th</sup> century. It is sectioned into three parts: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. At the heart of each section is the power and work of each person of the Trinity. This is a modern version:*

**We believe in God, who loves us and wants us to  
love each other.**

**This is our God.**

**We believe in Jesus, who cared for children and  
held them in his arms. He wanted a world  
where everyone could live together in peace.**

**This is Jesus Christ.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, who keeps working  
with us until everything is good and true.**

**This is the Holy Spirit.**

**We can be the church, which reminds people of  
God because we love each other.**

**This we believe. Amen.**

### **THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

*Leader*          Let us give thanks to God our Creator for all the gifts so freely bestowed upon us.  
For the beauty and wonder of your creation, in earth and sky and sea;

*People*          **We thank you, Lord.**

*Leader*          For all creatures that breathe, and move, and have life;

*People*           **We thank you, Lord.**

*Leader*           For the songs of birds and the loveliness of flowers and trees;

*People*           **We thank you, Lord.**

*Leader*           For the trust you have shown in giving into our care these wonderful creatures;

*People*           **We thank you, Lord.**

*Leader*           That each creature here may be treasured with care;

*People*           **We pray to you, Lord.**

*Leader*           That we may love and honor all your works, O God;

*People*           **We pray to you, Lord.**

*Leader*           That we may continue to grow in our grateful enjoyment of your abundant creation;

*People*           **To the honor and glory of your name, now and forever, we pray to you, Lord.**

## **THE BLESSING OVER ALL THE ANIMALS**

*Celebrant*       You who created them and called them good: bless again these creatures, who come to us as a blessing. 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. **Amen.**

## **CONFESSION OF SIN**

*Celebrant*       Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*All*               **God of compassion,  
we confess that we have squandered your creation,  
And mistreated those you give into our care.  
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.  
Fill us with your Spirit,  
That we may care for all that you have made,  
According to your will and in the fullness of your love;  
Through Jesus Christ our Redeemer, Amen.**

*Celebrant*       Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

## **THE PEACE**

*Celebrant*       The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People*           **And also with you.**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Dates for many of our upcoming events can be found on the back of this bulletin.*

## THE HOLY COMMUNION

**ANTHEM** Creator of Beauty and Giver of Light

*Mark Schweizer (1956-2019)*

*Flute soloist: Katy Darrow*

Creator of beauty and giver of light,  
Who set the stars shining in dark sacred night;  
We offer our music with hearts full of praise,  
With joyful thanksgiving for all of our days.

In pastures of heaven, where green valleys sing,  
And high mountains echo, each prayer to our King;  
May this song, a gift forever be found,  
Now offered with grace, and eternity bound.

The journey of each soul remains in your care,  
Your guidance and faithfulness, always you share;  
Your spirit, within us, each strength that you send,  
Returned to your glory, a world without end.

*At the start of The Great Thanksgiving, please stand as you are able.*

### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

***People* And also with you.**

*Celebrant* Lift up your hearts.

***People* We lift them to the Lord.**

*Celebrant* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

***People* It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

*Celebrant* God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.

***People* Glory to you for ever and ever.**

*Celebrant* At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space,  
galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.

***People* By your will they were created and have their being.**

*Celebrant* From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with  
memory, reason, and skill. You made us the rulers of creation. But we turned

against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.

**People** **Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.**

*Celebrant* Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.

*Celebrant* Therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

**People** **Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

*Celebrant* And so, God our Creator, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him.

On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper, he took the cup of wine, gave thanks, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving,

**People** **We celebrate his death and resurrection, as we await the day of his coming.**

*Celebrant* Lord God of our ancestors: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

**People** **Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.**

*Celebrant* Accept these prayers and praises, Holy Creator, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation. **Amen.**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

*Celebrant* And now, as our Savior Christ hath taught us, we are bold to say,  
*People* **Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

## THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

*Celebrant* Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

*People* **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

*Please be seated until it is your turn to come forward for Communion. Do not consume the host immediately upon receiving it. Please return to your seat with the sacrament and together we will consume the bread as the celebrant says the following words:*

*Celebrant* The Gifts of God for the People of God.

Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

## THE COMMUNION

*All people (including children of all ages) are welcome to receive Communion at this Church. Please come forward as directed by the ushers. To receive the bread, hold out your hands and the clergy will place it on your palm without touching your hands. The celebrant will take a sip of the wine on behalf of the congregation. If you prefer not to receive the Communion, you may come forward placing your hands over your chest, and the clergy will be glad to offer you a blessing.*

**COMMUNION MUSIC** All Creatures of our God and King *Phillip Keveren (b. 1961)*

*Please stand as you are able.*

## POST COMMUNION PRAYER & BLESSING

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

*All* **Almighty and everlasting God,  
Creator of all things and giver of all life,  
let your blessing be upon all of us, your creatures.  
May our relationships with your creation,  
mirror your love.  
May our care for it be an example of your bountiful mercy.  
Grant all creatures health and peace.  
Strengthen us to love and care for the animals we bless today**

as we strive to imitate your love.

Amen.

## CLOSING HYMN 400 All creatures of our God and King

*Lasst uns erfreuen*

The text of our closing hymn, *All Creatures of our God and King*, was written by St. Francis of Assisi in 1225.



1 All crea - tures of our God and King, lift up your voic - es, let us  
\*2 Great rush - ing winds and breez - es soft, you clouds that ride the heavens a -  
\*3 Swift flow - ing wa - ter, pure and clear, make mu - sic for your Lord to  
4 Dear mo - ther earth, you day by day un - fold your bless - ings on our

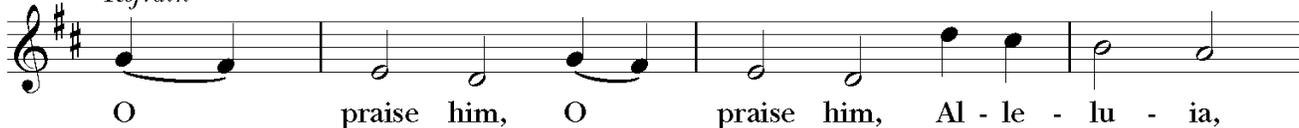


1 sing: Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Bright burn - ing  
2 loft, O — praise him, Al - le - lu - ia! Fair ris - ing  
3 hear, Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Fire, so in -  
4 way, O — praise him, Al - le - lu - ia! All flowers and



1 sun with gold - en beams, pale sil - ver moon that gen - tly gleams,  
2 morn, with praise re - jice, stars night - ly shin - ing, find a voice,  
3 tense and fierce - ly bright, you give to us both warmth and light,  
4 fruits that in you grow, let them his glo - ry al - so show:

### *Refrain*



O praise him, O praise him, Al - le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

## THE DISMISSAL

*One* Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

*People* Thanks be to God.

## THE BLESSING OF EACH ANIMAL

*Those with animals present, please bring them forward now to be blessed and receive a Saint Francis tag.*

### **A PRAYER FOR CELEBRATIONS**

Watch over your children, O Lord, as their days increase; bless and guide them wherever they may be. Strengthen them when they stand; comfort them when discouraged or sorrowful; raise them up if they fall; and in their heart may your peace which passes understanding abide all the days of their life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Check our weekly email for more details.

### Sunday, October 2

*10:00 a.m.*

Blessing of the Animals!

Bring your pets to be blessed at Sunday worship on the patio.

### Friday, October 14

*4:30 p.m.*

Fleece Blanket making on the church patio for the Life Moves Homeless Family Linen Drive. Contact Kathy Kennedy at (650) 291-9678.

### Sunday, October 16

*11:30 a.m.*

Come paint pumpkins and cheer a lonely senior at Silver Oaks Memory Care. SpiritCare will deliver the pumpkins at 1:30 p.m., and will sing and read with them. Contact Angela Hey at (650) 796-2377.

### Ongoing

We are currently collecting small (hotel-sized) toiletries for Maple Street Shelter. Please bring them to the box in the Narthex.

Don't receive our weekly email? Contact [nicole@ccpvw.org](mailto:nicole@ccpvw.org) to be added to the list.