



Blessing of the Animals October 6th, 2019

Opening Meditation

Today is known as the Feast of St. Francis Day! St. Francis of Assisi was a devout Christian who lived in the 13th century. In his youth, Francis felt called by God to abandon the wealthy lifestyle that he had inherited and to take up a life of private devotion while living alone in nature. There, St. Francis developed a remarkable relationship with animals and discovered that the creatures around us are God's gifts which should be cherished and nurtured. The church celebrates the life of St. Francis on this day, and thus it is fitting that we should use this occasion to bring our pets to church and to give God thanks for the wonderful gift of animals. Let us worship God through the *Blessing of the Animals*, for they, indeed, have been a blessing to us!

Call to Worship

Praise the Lord from the earth, fish from deep waters
Beasts and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds
Let everything that has breath praise the Lord
Praise the Lord!

Prayer of Invocation

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Creator of all things bright and beautiful, of creatures great and small, we confess that we have failed to care for nature properly. We have littered the natural habitats of your beloved animals. We have poisoned the waters where fish strive to live. We have pushed some of your created species into extinction and have hunted others to dangerous limits. Forgive us when we see ourselves as rulers over nature rather than the caretakers of nature that you intended us to be. Help us to find a better way to relate to your creation. Amen.

Assurance of God's Grace

The Scripture Reading

Psalm 148

Litany of Thanksgiving

Merciful Lord, creator of the world and everything in it, we gather today to give you thanks for our pets. For dogs and cats, birds and fish, rabbits and hamsters, gerbils and guinea pigs, and all other pets,

We give you thanks, O Lord.

For the affection which pets give and the affection which they bring out of us,

We give you thanks, O Lord.

For the unconditional acceptance that they often shower upon us, for the excitement they show when we arrive, and for the trust that they have in our care and protection,

We give you thanks, O Lord.

For the added charm that pets bring to family life and the lasting friendships that they form with children,

We give you thanks, O Lord.

For the companionship that pets provide to people who would otherwise be lonely and for the healing cheer they provide in school rooms and nursing homes,

We give you thanks, O Lord

For the pets which we have brought with us this day and for all animals everywhere

**We give you thanks and praise, O Lord of all.
Amen**

Individual Prayers of Thanksgiving

As the closing act of the service, you are invited to bring your pets forward to one of the pastors, who will offer a prayer thanking God for your pet and its special gift to your family.

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Leading in Worship

Associate Pastor: Rev. Abbey Walker

Parish Associate, Volunteer: Rev. Jennifer Kirbas

Director of Worship and Music: Josh Phelps

AT A GLANCE

North Campus

14501 N Rockwell Ave, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73142
(405) 509-9368
facebook.com/wpcnorth

Sunday Schedule

- 5 PM - Worship

Central Campus

4400 North Shartel Avenue
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73118
(405) 524-2224
facebook.com/wpcokc

Central Campus Office Hours

Monday - Friday 8 AM - 5 PM

Online www.wpcokc.org

Sunday Schedule

- 8:30 AM - Chapel Worship
- 9:30 AM - Christian Education
- 10:30 AM - Sanctuary Worship

Service Broadcast

Sundays -

- 5 AM on KOKH
(check local listings)
- 11 AM on KOCO
(check local listings)
- online via our LiveStream at:
<http://www.wpcokc.com/live-streaming>

I would like to speak with a pastor or ministry leader...

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Rev. Michelle Junkin, ext. 222

Senior Associate Pastor

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A NOTE FROM REV. DR. PAUL J. KIRBAS

Hi, Neighbor!

Welcome to World Communion Sunday. Today we celebrate the connectional nature of Christ's Church. North and South, East and West, in every tongue and every land, Christians are part of one family of faith. As we come to the communion table today, let us imagine that this table expands around the globe and that Christians everywhere are pulling up their chairs to join in this uniting feast of faith.

World Communion Sunday is also a time to think about food and the issues of food scarcity in our nation and our world. In his children's television show, Mister Rogers addressed issues of hunger and food scarcity. As we continue our series of "To Be A Neighbor," let us observe his teachings on hunger and how courageous he was in lifting them up in the particular time in our nation's life.

In our mission response to this issue, we want to thank those of you who brought in the food bags to support our food drive. We are also thankful for all of you who have donated sweaters for our Mister Rogers' Sweater

Drive. Together, these collections will meet the needs for food and warmth for many people in our neighborhoods.

Last week, we considered Mister Rogers' teachings on animals, and how the Bible instructs us to treat animals kindly. To celebrate the special connection that we have with animals, we will hold our annual Blessing of the Animals service today at 5 PM at our North Campus. We invite you to bring your animal companion to our service, as we give thanks for the gift of animals in our lives and offer a prayer of blessing on our special pets.

And now, let us return to Mister Rogers' Neighborhood, and to the world-wide neighborhood of Christian faith.

In God's Grace,



Rev. Dr. Paul J. Kirbas

Pastor/Head of Staff

CONGREGATIONAL OFFERINGS

Sudden Infant Loss October 16 / 6 PM North Campus

SIL is a support group for mothers who have experienced infant loss. There will be lite refreshments provided. To reserve childcare, please email Lynne Bowers at melodielynnebowers@gmail.com.

Wednesday Opportunities The Bridge

Wednesday Evening Offerings at Central Campus

Dates: Oct. 9, 16, 23

Dinner Time: 5:30 PM - 6:15 PM

Class Times: 6:15 PM - 7 PM

Dinner Cost: Adults: \$7 / Kids: \$5 / Family Max: \$25

- Wednesday, Oct 9 - Chicken Tetrazzini, Garlic Bread, Salad, Dessert

RSVP for dinner: sign up in the Garden Court or online at wpcokc.com. The deadline to RSVP for the Oct 2 dinner is noon on Monday, September 30.

BARRE North Campus

Don't forget that we have weekly Barre classes (think ballet workout meets Pilates) on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday from 5:45-6:45 p.m.

Football, Chili, & Fun

October 26th: Are you an OU or OSU fan? Well, both teams have an away game on October 26th and so we'd like to get together and watch the games (in a friendly manner) on the big screens and have a chili cookoff! What better way to really get into the spirit of Fall than football, chili, and fun? This event is open to anyone and we ask that you RSVP to Rev. Abbey Walker, awalker@wpcokc.org; 405-524-2204, ext 233 so we know who is bringing chili and how many accoutrements we'll need to go with the food. Time: TBD based on game times.

Drive-In Movie Night

November 8th: Come and watch a fun, "drive-in" movie with us! We will be projecting a movie onto the south side of the North Campus building and setting up a popcorn and hot dog station. The movie will be family friendly—so grab some friends, neighbors, nieces/nephews, aunts, uncles, cousins, kids, blankets, lawn chairs, bug spray, and your favorite movie candy to share and come join us! Movie time: TBD based on when it gets dark.