

# The Feast of St. Francis

with a Blessing of the Animals

Christ Church Cathedral



**October 3, 2015**  
**10:00 a.m.**

900 Broadway  
Nashville, TN 37203  
615.255.7729, [christcathedral.org](http://christcathedral.org)



# The Feast of Saint Francis with a Blessing of the Animals

OPENING VOLUNTARY

WELCOME

## The Word of God

OPENING PROCESSION

*As the animals and their escorts enter the Nave, the congregation remains seated.*

OPENING ACCLAMATION (BCP, p. 355)

SONG OF PRAISE HYMN 400 – All creatures of our God and King

All crea - tures of our God and King, lift up your voic - es, let us  
Dear mo - ther earth, you day by day un - fold your bless - ings on our  
Let all things their cre - a - tor bless, and wor - ship him in hum - ble -  
sing: Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Bright burn - ing  
way, O — praise him, Al - le - lu - ia! All flowers and  
ness, O — praise him, Al - le - lu - ia! Praise God the  
sun with gold - en beams, pale sil - ver moon that gen - tly gleams,  
fruits that in you grow, let them his glo - ry al - so show:  
Fa - ther, praise the Son, and praise the Spi - rit, Three in One:  
*Refrain*  
O praise him, O praise him, Al - le - lu - ia,  
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Most high, omnipotent, good Lord, grant your people grace to renounce gladly the vanities of this world; that, following the Way of blessed Francis, we may for love of you delight in your whole creation with perfectness of Joy; through Jesus Christ Our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever.

People: *Amen.*

*The congregation is seated.*

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF GALATIANS 6:14-18

May I never boast of anything except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. For neither circumcision nor uncircumcision is anything; but a new creation is every thing! As for those who will follow this rule—peace be upon them, and mercy, and upon the Israel of God. From now on, let no one make trouble for me; for I carry the marks of Jesus branded on my body. May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brothers and sisters. *Amen.*  
The Word of the Lord.

People: *Thanks be to God.*

A READING FROM PSALM 148

Hallelujah! Praise the LORD from the heavens;* praise him in the heights.	<b>Mountains and all hills,* Fruit trees and all cedars;</b>
<b>Praise him, all you angels of his;* Praise him, all his host.</b>	Wild beasts and all cattle,* Creeping things and winged birds;
Praise him sun and moon;* Praise him, all you shining stars	<b>Kings of the earth and all peoples,* Princes and all rulers of the world;</b>
<b>Praise him, heaven of heavens,* And you waters above the heavens.</b>	Young men and maidens,* Old and young together.
Let them praise the Name of the LORD;* For he commanded, and they were created. He made them stand fast for ever and ever;* He gave them a law which shall not pass away.	<b>Let them praise the Name of the LORD For his Name only is exalted, His splendor is over earth and heaven.</b>
<b>Praise the LORD from the earth,* You sea-monsters and all deeps;</b>	He has raised up strength for his people And praise for all his loyal servants,* The children of Israel, a people who are near him. Hallelujah!
Fire and hail, snow and fog,* Tempestuous wind, doing his will;	

A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW 11:25-30

At that time Jesus said, 'I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. 'Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.'

People: *Thanks be to God*

HOMILY

HYMN 416 – For the beauty of the earth

1. For the beau-ty of the earth, For the glo-ry of the skies,  
2. For the won-der of each hour, Of the day and of the night,  
3. For the joy of ear and eye, For the heart and mind's de-light,  
4. For the joy of hu-man love, Broth-er, sis-ter, par-ent, child,  
For the love which from our birth O-ver and a-round us lies,  
Hill and vale, and tree and flower, Sun and moon, and stars of light,  
For the mys-tic har-mo-ny Link-ing sense to sound and sight,  
Friends on earth, and friends a-bove, For all gen-tle thoughts and mild,  
*Refrain*  
Lord of all, to Thee we raise This our hymn of grate-ful praise.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*Leader:* Holy God, you have established your covenant with us and with our future generations. Despite our apathy and sinfulness you have bound yourself to us. Despite our violence you have promised a covenant of peace. Despite our infidelity you have remained faithful to us; and to all living creatures; creatures that walk on the ground, birds that fly in the air, and creeping things that move along the earth. All these creatures you have bound to yourself in faithfulness and love.

Truly, you are a remarkable God whose graciousness knows no limits and before whom no creature is left desolate or bereft of your grace; not only have you created the great earth but also you are to each and every creature their kind and loving God; everything living looks to you for their sustenance and care; without you, all the creatures of the earth would perish.

*People:* All these living creatures you have put under our protection and we are to care for them as you care for us. Mindful of the great responsibility you have placed upon us, we now renew our covenant with these creatures in our care, and pray that we may be faithful to them as you are faithful to us.

May our lives reflect that generosity of spirit which we manifest in your Son, Jesus Christ.  
*Amen.*

## BLESSING OF ANIMALS

*Animals and family members are invited to come to the altar rail for an individual blessing.  
Please follow the direction of the ushers.*

*The congregation stands.*

## CLOSING PRAYER

Let us pray.

Eternal Father, we thank you for these creatures who live alongside us as our companions and friends; for their loyalty, love, and trust which enrich our lives and give us joy; teach us the value of kindness, the power of mercy, the strength of gentleness; and create in us a new spirit of humility in the face of your creatures within whose covenant they live and die; we ask these prayers through your Son, Jesus Christ, whose New Covenant of love gives life to all. *Amen.*

## HYMN 405 – All things bright and beautiful



*Descant*  
All things bright and beau - ti - ful, crea-tures great and small,  
*Refrain*  
All things bright and beau - ti - ful, all crea-tures great and small,  
all things wise and won - der - ful, God made them all.  
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.

DISMISSAL

CLOSING VOLUNTARY

## UPCOMING PROGRAMS AT CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL

### **SUNDAY, OCTOBER 23-25**

Second Presbyterian Church  
3511 Belmont Blvd.

For information or to register, go to  
[eventbrite.com/e/a-weekend-with-brian-mclaren](http://eventbrite.com/e/a-weekend-with-brian-mclaren).

### **A WEEKEND WITH BRIAN MCLAREN “WE MAKE THE ROAD BY WALKING”**

Christ Church Cathedral is co-hosting this symposium at Second Presbyterian Church. It will address five under-appreciated themes in the Bible: ongoing creation, mercy not sacrifice, violence reduction, healing a fractured world, and joining God.

### **WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28**

Dinner  
Program  
Suggested donation: \$10 dinner and  
program, \$5 program only

Dinner reservations are required  
by Monday, October 26.  
Please call 615.255.7729.

Childcare provided

5:30 p.m.

6:30-8:00 p.m.

### **AN EVENING WITH THE REVEREND MARTIN L. SMITH**

The Reverend Martin L. Smith is well known throughout the Episcopal Church and beyond as a preacher, retreat leader, and writer of a number of widely read books exploring contemporary spirituality. A priest for more than four decades, he conducts a roving ministry of spiritual formation.

### **SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1**

Free and open to the public

3:30 p.m.

### **ORGAN CONCERT/ALL SAINTS SOLEMN CHORAL EVENSONG WITH BENEDICTION**

Organ Concert by Michael Gebhart, Christ Church Cathedral, Nashville. Choral Evensong sung by the Cathedral Choir, under the direction of Dr. Michael Velting, Canon for Music, Michael Gebhart, Assistant Organist and Choirmaster, organ.

### **WEDNESDAYS, NOVEMBER 4, 11, 18**

Dinner  
Program

Dinner reservations are required  
by 4 p.m. on Mondays, of each week.  
Please call 615.255.7729

Childcare provided.

5:30 p.m.

6:00-7:00 p.m.

### **SEEING THE FACE OF GOD IN EACH OTHER: A CONVERSATION ON RACISM AND RECONCILIATION**

The program is designed to encourage us to explore ways of combatting racism not only in ourselves, but also in our church, our community, and in the world. We will analyze dynamics of power and oppression so that we can engage in the visioning of an alternative reality for the church and society.

### **SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15**

Free and open to the public

4:00 p.m.

### **AN ORGAN CONCERT BY SIMON JOHNSON** Organist and Assistant Director of Music at St. Paul's Cathedral in London

*The concert is sponsored by Peter Fyfe*

### **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13**

Free and open to the public

4:00 p.m.

### **CANDLELIGHT FESTIVAL OF LESSONS AND CAROLS**

Sung by the Cathedral Choir and Senior Choristers  
Under the direction of Dr. Michael Velting, Canon for  
Music, Michael Gebhart, Assistant Organist and  
Choirmaster, organ.

### **TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15**

Pay at the door  
\$20 suggested donation

7:00 p.m.

### **NASHVILLE UNLIMITED**

A holiday tradition continues as an array of  
Nashville musicians and at least one mystery  
guest perform in this rollicking annual benefit for  
Room In The Inn.

**OFFICIANT**

The Very Reverend Timothy E. Kimbrough, *Dean and Rector*

**ORGANIST**

Michael Gebhart, *Assistant Organist and Choirmaster*

**USHER**

Ann Hopton