

Blessing of the Animals

Sunday, October 5

9 am



WELCOME TO OUR CELEBRATION OF ST. FRANCIS

We welcome you to Christ Church and thank you for joining us for worship this morning as we celebrate all of God's creation in honor of the Feast Day of St. Francis. It is said that St. Francis "preached to humans and animals the universal ability and duty of all creatures to praise God, and the duty of humans to protect and enjoy nature as both the stewards of God's creation and as creatures ourselves." It is in this spirit that we humans and animals alike gather today to sing praises to our God and to experience the joy of God's presence in our midst.

THE ORDER OF SERVICE

THE WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Reverend Andrew Van Culin

THE ENTRANCE RITE

The people stand.

HYMN Earth and all stars Earth and All Stars



THE OPENING ACCLAMATION

Officiant Hallelujah! Praise the Lord from the heavens,

praise him in the heights.

People Praise him, sun and moon;

praise him, all you shining stars.

Let them praise the Name of the Lord; for he commanded, and they were created.

People Wild beasts and all cattle,

creeping things and winged birds;

Let them praise the name of the Lord,

for his name only is exalted.

People His splendor is over earth and heaven.

THE COLLECT FOR THE DAY

Officiant Let us pray.

> O God, you created all living things on the face of the earth and gave us dominion over them. Grant that we may be faithful to this trust in our care of all animals, insects, birds of the air and creatures that live in the waters, both wild and tame. Teach us to admire their beauty and to delight in their cunning, to respect their strength and to wonder at their intelligence. Grant that our use of them may be both merciful and wise, so that we may lend our voice to their praise of your goodness which endures forever.

People Amen.

THE WORD OF GOD

The people sit for the Lessons.

THE FIRST LESSON Isaiah 11:1-10

> A shoot shall come out from the stock of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

Here ends the Lesson.

For the beauty of the earth, For the beauty 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 beauty of each hour Of the day and of the night, Hill and vale, and tree and flower, Sun and moon, and stars of light. 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 each perfect gift of thine To our race so freely giv'n, 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.

> Folliot Sandford Pierpoint (1835-1917)

THE SECOND LESSON Matthew 6:25-34

> Jesus said, '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. 'So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today's trouble is enough for today.

Here ends the Lesson.

The people stand for the hymn.



The people remain standing.

THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Officiant We affirm our faith in one God:

People Source of all life,

greater than all names and forms, our inmost self, closer than any. Upon the one God we depend for all we are and for all that ever will be.

And we affirm our faith in Christ;

People Who has shown us the way of true life.

> By breaking the chain of human bondage, through his self-giving life and death

and by his rising again,

he has given us hope for a new humanity,

hope for the healing of earth's life.

And we affirm our faith in the living Spirit of God.

People Through whom we awaken to God's purpose for the world,

and share in the freedom, joy and peace

of the children of God.

For by his Spirit, God's love has flooded our lives

shaping us into a community of forgiven and freely accepted brothers and sisters,

set apart for God's service,

risen with Christ we share in his work for God's world of everlasting life,

justice and peace. Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Intercessor Let us pray.

For the artistry of spinning spiders,

the industry of ants, and the busyness of bees,

for all alert animals of field and forest,

for the squirrels that gather, chipmunks that chatter,

for mice that burrow, and pigs that root,

People We give you thanks, O God.

For the splendor of the great deep and sparkling streams,

for the water bugs and dolphins,

for all fish and all sea life. and for enormous whales.

People We give you thanks, O God.

For all things that fly,

for pelicans and parakeets,

barn owls and peacocks,

for eagles that soar,

and for birds that nest in eaves and attics.

People We give you thanks, O God.

For beasts that lumber,

for elephants and hippos,

grizzly bears and tortoises,

porcupines and three-toed sloths,

and for all creatures that remind us not to hurry.

People We give you thanks, O God. For the graceful beasts, the great cats, and for gazelles,

for giraffes, and for flamingos, foxes, and fawns.

People We give you thanks, O God.

For the animals that work for human good, for horses, oxen, mules, and beasts of burden, for dogs, who lead those who cannot see or hear,

track the lost and rescue the stranded.

People We give you thanks, O God.

For the animals that share our homes, for those in need of homes today, for faithful dogs and purring cats,

for all animals that teach us how to love without judgment, for rabbits, hamsters, birds, assorted reptiles, and freshwater fish.

People We give you thanks, O God.

For the loving pets we no longer see nor hold, who served us in faithfulness and trust, and now live on in our hearts and minds.

People We give you thanks, O God.

Officiant Give us the grace, O God, to learn from the animal kingdom that you created all

things: And bring us to your peaceable kingdom where lion and lamb lie down

together.

People Amen.

THE PEACE

Officiant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

The people greet one another with a sign of God's peace and then are seated.

THE REFLECTION

The Reverend Andrew Van Culin

THE OFFERTORY

The people remain seated while the offering is collected.

I love all beauteous things, I seek and adore them; God hath no better praise, And man in his hasty days Is honoured for them.

I too will something make And joy in the making; Altho' tomorrow it seem Like the empty words of a dream

Remembered on waking.

Robert Bridges (1844-1930)

THE BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

The people stand.

Officiant God be with you. People And also with you.

Let us pray.

Creator of the Universe, bless and protect, we pray, these creatures of your creation and those who care for them. May their faithfulness and affection towards us never go unnoticed and let your gentle touch always be upon them. Let their dependence upon us who care for them imperfectly remind us of your perfect care for all you have made.

People Amen.

The people sit. All are invited to bring their animals forward for a blessing by a priest.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

The people stand.

Officiant And now, as our Savior Christ has 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 COLLECTS

Officiant 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.

Almighty and everlasting God, you made the universe with all its marvelous order, its atoms, worlds, and galaxies, and the infinite complexity of living creatures: Grant that, as we probe the mysteries of your creation, we may come to know you more truly, and more surely fulfill our role in your eternal purpose; in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

People Amen.

Almighty God, whose loving hand has given us all that we possess: Grant us grace that we may honor you with our substance, and remembering the account which we must one day give, may be faithful stewards of your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

People Amen.

THE PRAYER OF ST. FRANCIS

Officiant Lord, make us instruments of your peace.

People Where there is hatred, let us sow love;

where there is injury, pardon; where there is discord, union; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy.

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.

THE BLESSING

Officiant God be with you.

People And also with you.

The Officiant blesses the People.

People Amen.

THE DISMISSAL

The Officiant dismisses the People. People Thanks be to God.





WORSHIP

The worship of God lies at the center of all that we do at Christ Church and forms the foundation of our Christian community. Each week, each day even, we gather in prayer to offer our gratitude to God from who all life proceeds. And it is from this great well of gratitude that our lives and ministries—our hospitality and fellowship, our service to the poor within our community, and our formation as Christians—collectively flow.

MUSIC

Music is at the heart of our Christ Church community and is one of the primary ways in which we worship, love, and serve our Lord Jesus Christ. Our choirs sing at over 100 choral worship services every year. The choirs also sing at special liturgies, including the Advent and Epiphany Processions, Christmas and Easter Lessons and Carols, and the triduum liturgies in Holy Week.

CHILDREN & YOUTH

Christ Church is a place where children are loved and valued, and we strive to provide fertile ground for our children to grow spiritually, physically, mentally, and socially. The Church School offers a variety of regular classes and activities for children and youth. We work together to lead our children through age-appropriate lessons, crafts, and interactive discussions as they explore a new theme each week.

LEARN

Christian Formation is a multi-faceted and life-long process of transformation. Christian Education gives language to our experiences of the Holy and provides us a place to explore the deep questions and implication of our faith. It is our profound hope that the Educational programs offered at Christ Church—for children, youth, and adults will aid you and your children in your journey of faith.

CONNECT

Many people find the anonymity of a large parish safe when they first begin attending. At some point, however, most seek a community, a way to join with a group of people sharing the same journey. We gather all the time in different kinds of groups: for prayer, study, to help others, and just for fun. Whether you don't know what a Nave is or you are an expert at navigating Coffee Hour, there is a community here for you.

SERVE

At Christ Church we believe that the expression of our Christian faith and life is made complete in the life of service. Throughout the year our Outreach Ministries provide opportunities for members to bring God's love into the our community and world through acts of compassion and service. In partnership with area agencies we build homes, feed the hungry, visit the sick and homebound, and clothe the poor.



To learn more please visit christchurchgp.org



THIS WEEK AT CHRIST CHURCH

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5

8 am Holy Eucharist (N)

8:45 am Coffee Hour (U)

9 am Blessing of the Animals (N)

10 am St. Francis Festival (FL)

10 am Sunday Market (FL)

MONDAY, OCTOBER 6

Offices Closed

8:30 am Morning Prayer (Z)

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 7

8:30 am Morning Prayer (Z)

3:30 pm Bible Study (FR)

5 pm Evening Prayer (SMC)

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 8

8:30 am Morning Prayer (Z)

10 am Staff Meeting

5 pm Evening Prayer (SMC)

7:30 pm Chorale (N)

8:30 pm AA (LL)

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 9

8:30 am Morning Prayer (Z)

5 pm Evening Prayer (SMC)

5:30 pm Holy Eucharist (N)

6 pm Community Dinner (U)

6:45 pm Book Study (MH)

6:45 pm One Big World (B217)

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 10

8:30 am Morning Prayer (Z)

11 am OWLS (O)

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11

Offices Closed

11 am Funeral: Bill Champion (N)

1 pm Chorister for a Day (CR)

8:30 pm AA (LL)

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 12

8 am Holy Eucharist (N)

8:45 am Coffee Hour (U) 9 am Holy Eucharist (N)

10:15 am Rector's Forum (U)

10:15 am Children's Formation (EdW)

Location Abbreviations:

C - Columbarium EdW - Education Wing

FL - Front Lawn

L - Lobby N - Nave

LL - Lower Level N O - Offsite R - Rectory SMC - Chapel U - Undercroft

Who's Hiding in the Flowers

tiger-fish raccoon fish dragonfly bees butterfly bunny 2 jellyfish eagle clown-fish wolf lion. snakes horse 3 mice COW cardinal airaffe parakeets lamb hummingbird panda baby squirrels goat 3 toed sloth koala Mom & Baby 6 parrots orangutan 🕍 big snake rooster sea lion

DISCOVER

OBJECTS AND PLACES

THE NAVE

WHERE YOU'LL FIND OUR HIDING

ANIMAL FRIENDS

Pig is plopped in the _____

Alligator adorns the _____

Flamingo flourishes the

Gorilla gallantly graces the _____

Deer dashes the

Peacock is perched in the

Skunk sits in the _____

Bat buzzes the

Kangaroo has convened in the

Walrus wanders around the _____

Seal secretly hids

Ferret is found

Rector's Forum

Resumes October 12 | 10:15 am | Undercroft

RenewalWorks Director: Loren Dixon – We will welcome Loren Dixon, director of Renewal Works at Forward Movement as she shares with us key insights into our 2025 inventory results.

All Children are Welcome! Children gather at the Children's Cross for the Collect of the Day and dismissal to Children's Chapel to hear the story of Jesus and engage in a meaningful reflection of the lessons for that Sunday. They return to join in our Prayers and to share in the Peace and Holy Communion.

Parish & Community Events

Today at Christ Church

Childcare for infants – 3 years old is offered during the 9 am Sunday Eucharist.

>>	Holy Eucharist	8 am .	Nave
	Coffee Hour		
>>	Blessing of the Animals	9 am .	Nave
	Pony Rides/Petting Zoo		
	Sunday Market		

Children and Youth Atrium Faith FormationResumes October 12 | Education Wing | 10:15 am

Following the 9 am service, parents should accompany their children to the Family Room at the end of St. David's Crossing. The children will enjoy a snack before heading to formation. Parents can then head down to the Rector's Forum in the Undercroft.

>>	Atrium 1 PK-3–Grade 1)10:15–11:15 am Ed Wing
>>	Atrium 2 (Grades 2 - 5))10:15-11:15 am Ed Wing
>>	MS Gathering (Grades 6 - 8)10:15–11:15 am Ed Wing
>>	HS Gathering Grades 9-12) 10:15–11:15 am Ed Wing

This Thursday at Christ Church

Dinner for October 9: Octoberfest Dinner!

»	Atrium 1 (3 - 6 year olds)	4:45 pm	Ed Wing
»	Evening Prayer	5 pm	ıChapel
»	Holy Eucharist	5:30 pm	ıChapel
»	Community Dinner	6 pm	Undercroft
»	Confirmation Preparation	6:45 pm	Ed. Wing
»	Adult Formation	6:45 pm	Miller Hall

Crossroads Ask of the Month: October!

We will be collecting items monthly in the lobby – due to space limitations at this time we are only collecting the specific items requested. The ask of the month for October is hand warmers (any brand).

An Invitation to Shared Discernment

Every fall, the Rector and Vestry appoint a Nominating Committee to discern and call members of Christ Church to serve on the Vestry. This faithful work, however, is never done in isolation and is best done with your prayerful support and participation.



The Nominating Committee invites you to join us in this difficult, yet sacred, task. Please scan the QR code to share with us who you recommend for the Vestry!

Children, Youth and Family

Childcare

Childcare is always available during the 9 am services. Childcare is also available by request for any and all Christ Church events such as Evensong, concerts, adult formation events, etc. Please contact lbrown@christchurchgp.org to arrange childcare for events other than the weekly Sunday Eucharist.

Now Accepting Reservations! Thursday Formation for 3 – 6 year-olds

Thursdays | 4:45 pm

Do you have a 3 to 6 year-old who would enjoy/prefer Faith Formation on Thursdays from 4:45 to 6 pm rather than our Sunday program? We have three certified Catechesis of the Good Shepherd catechists excited to run a weekly program for our potty-trained littles from any Christian denomination – they do not need to be a CCGP member so bring a friend! These classes are a wonderful opportunity for after-school socialization, prayer, and building friendships. We need at least five children to formally register for the class to be meaningful for the children. Please contact Lisa Brown, lbrown@christchurchgp.org to register.

Confirmation Preparation

Thursday | October 9 | 6:45 - 8 pm

Confirmands are welcome to join us for community dinner at 6 pm and then head up to the Education Wing to continue their confirmation preparation!

Parish Life

O.W.L.S: Outings, Wisdom, Love, ServiceThe Shepherd | Friday | October 10 | 11 am

.We will be attending an exhibit at The Shepherd followed by lunch at Alma Kitchen on Friday, October 5 at 11 am! Please RSVP by Wednesday, October 8 at christchurchpg.org/owls.

Fall Euchre Tournament

Friday, October 17 6:30 pm

Experienced players are invited to join us for a fun evening of round robin Euchre. \$10 per player. Bring your friends, the beverage of your choice, a toiletry item or handwarmers for Crossroads and a snack to share! Sign up using the QR code.





Do not fret yourself over the one who pros

Parish & Community Events

Worship & Music

Flowers

The flowers this weekend are given to the Glory of God in loving memory of Noah B. Huebner by Peter and Laura Huebner.

Do You Know a Child Who Loves to Sing?

Invite them to be a Chorister for a Day! Saturday, October 11 | 1 – 4 pm

Our after-school choir program has provided outstanding music opportunities for Grosse Pointe and Detroit area children for nearly a century. The Novice Program provides children and families a first experience of our world-class choir program in a fun group environment and is a place to explore our role and commitments in our community. Parents of children with enthusiasm for music are encouraged to email Jackson Merrill, Assistant Director of Music at jmerrill@christchurchgp.org.

Lyyra in Concert

Saturday, October 25, 2025 | 7 pm Tickets \$25 (Students \$15)

Specializing in classical, jazz, pop, and folk music from diverse traditions and backgrounds, Lyyra redefines the genre of upper voice music in the choral landscape, highlighting the astonishing capabilities within the full spectrum of women's singing. This bright, young



group combines velvety richness alongside star-like brilliance with a broad texture and exhilarating range of sound. Scan the QR code for tickets.

Join the Choir for a Detroit Cruise Basketball Game! Saturday, November 8 | 7 pm

Support our choir at the Wayne State Fieldhouse as they sing the National Anthem on the Cruise court before tip-off of the Cruise vs. the Sioux Falls Skyforce! Discounted tickets are available by scanning the QR code. Deadline to buy tickets is October 26. T-Shirts will be available to order soon!



Sweeny Weekend Postponed

Due to circumstances beyond our control, Jim Wallis' visit for the weekend of October 17-19 has been postponed until early 2026. We will announce the new dates as soon as we have them.

Assisting at Services

Altar Guild:

8 am Susan Tobbe

Eucharistic Ministers:

8 am Lector: 8 am

Susan Tawile Paulina Kennedy

Frank Stellingwerf

9 am **Prayers:**

8 am Frank Stellingwerf 9 am Mil Hurley

Verger:

9 am Katie Trost

Acolytes:

9 am Carolyn Adams Sam Van Culin

Violet Hakim Catherine Van Culin Molly Hanoian Emme Bachand

Ushers:

9 am Richard Best

George Sutton Steve Fehniger Jean Redfield

Flowers:

Martha Bangs Deb Champion Kathy Williams Charlotte Russell Siena Bennett

We Pray Together

Please leave your written prayer request at our Reception Desk or contact Fr. Drew at rector@christchurchgp.org. In order to keep all our prayers for healing meaningful and current, we keep names on the Prayer List for two weeks.

In the Diocese of Michigan Cycle of Prayer: All Saints (East Lansing); Saint Paul & Saint Luke (San Isidro, DR).

In the Anglican Cycle of **Prayer we pray for:** The Church of Tanzania.

In our Parish Cycle of Prayer this week we pray for: Ed & Lynn Pember; Elise Perkins; Ursula & Maris Persidskis; Johnny & Daniel Persyn and children, Johnny and Devin; Alan & Kiera Phlipot; Eric & Martha Pietsch and children, Jonah, Micah, and Clara; Evan & Sarah Pile and children, Samantha and Aiden; Pamela Plants; Richard & Diane Platt; Todd Platt, III and daughter, Lauren.

We offer prayers for: Barbra, Elsie, Greg, Helen, Jamie, JoAnn, Lindsey & Eric, Patricia.

celebration for

the

birthdays and anniversaries of: Alan Phlipot; Sue Chaklos; Susan Mills; Henry Ash; Jay Ash; Megan Van Osdol; Sam Felix; Stephen Detwiler; Eloise Traynham; Sheila Sweeny; Gretchen White; Olive Waugh; Robert Newton; Lisa Niscoromni; Ann Spica; Colin Utley; Faye Higbie; Colleen Fitzgerald; Graham Romer; Violet Hall; Craig & Kimberly Melegari, Jr.; Charles & Carol Exley, Jr.; Ed & Lynn Pember.

pers, the one who succeeds in evil schemes.





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