**Episcopal Church of the Nativity**

**Second Sunday Family Service**

**on** [**Facebook Live**](https://www.facebook.com/pg/Nativity-in-San-Rafael-113940705355878/videos/?ref=page_internal)

**10 a.m.**

**Blessing of the Animals October 10, 2021**

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**Rev. Kirsten Snow Spalding, Rector**

**Rev. Rebecca Morehouse, Deacon**

**Rev. Lynn Oldham Robinett, Assisting Priest**

**Rev. Scott Gambrill Sinclair, Assisting Priest**

**We Gather Together**

*While we’re worshipping online, please type any prayers you have into the comment box on the Facebook site. If you are with us in-person, put your prayers on an index card. Also please grab a stone which will be used during our confession.*

**Opening Hymn “**All God’s Critters Got a Place in the Choir” *by Bill Staines*

*Chorus:*

All God's critters got a place in the choir  
Some sing low, some sing higher  
Some sing out loud on the telephone wires  
And some just clap their hands, or paws, or anything they got now

Listen to the bass, it's the one on the bottom  
Where the bullfrog croaks and the hippopotamus  
Moans and groans with a big t'do  
And the old cow just goes moo

Well the dogs and the cats they make up the middle  
Where the hummingbird hums and the crickets fiddle  
And the donkeys bray and the horses neigh  
And the old coyotes howl.

*Chorus*

Listen to the top where the little birds sing  
On the melodies with the high notes ringing  
The hoot owl hollers over everything  
And the jaybird disagrees

It's a simple song of living sung everywhere  
By the ox and the fox and the grizzly bear  
The grumpy alligator the hawk above  
The sly raccoon and the turtle dove

*Chorus*

**We Pray Together**

Priest: Blessed be God: Father, Son & Holy Spirit.

People: **And blessed be God’s kingdom, now and forever. AMEN**

All: Almighty God to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Priest: Lord, have mercy.

All: **Christ, have mercy.**

Priest: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: The Lord be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

Priest: Let us pray.

God of all creation, 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. O God, you have made us and all living things. You are even more wonderful than what you have made. We thank you for giving us these pets who bring us joy. As you take care of us, so also we ask your help that we might take care of those who trust us to look after them. By doing this, we share in your own love for all creation. We ask this in the name of the Jesus, the firstborn in creation. *Amen.*

**Bible Story and Discussion “Matthew 11:25-30”**

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.”

**Song “Good Saint Francis”**

*During the song please put any prayers you have in the comments section and we will collect the prayer cards.*

**Prayers of the People**

Leader: We pray today especially for our parish members: Carissa, Marge, Juliette, Dan, Donna, Jim, Duane, Norma, Steve, Nancy, Jamie, and Margaret D and our friends and neighbors; Katherine, Ed, John, Mary P., Nathaniel, Les, Eric and Julie, Bob, Ronald and Emily, Polly, Sylvia, Young, Kevin, Sarah, Tom and Jane, Robert B, Jayden, Linda, Sylvia, Sarah, Rachelle, Abbey, Diane B, Ed M, Janet L., Allison and her unborn baby, Wayne W., and Jared. Pray for those in any need or trouble.

We pray for all who have died and all who mourn their passing, remembering especially The Rev. Doe Yates, Deacon in the Diocese of California.

Leader: Let us give thanks to God our Father for all his 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 the richness of the mountains, plains and rivers;

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

Leader For all that is gracious in the lives of men and women;

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, our pets;

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

Leader That each pet 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: **We pray to you, Lord.**

*All the prayers will be read. After each one, the people will respond:*

**God, hear our prayer.**

Priest: Above all, we thank you for Jesus, his teachings to guide us, and his Spirit to help us. **Amen.**

**The Blessing of the Pet**

*The blessing is usually done with the sprinkling of water over the animal and the human companion.*

(Name of pet), may you be blessed in the Name of God our Creator, God in all Creation and of God the Creating Spirit. May you and (the name of the human companion) enjoy life together and find joy with the God who created you." Amen.

**A Blessing Prayer**

God, our Creator, yours are the praise, the glory, the honour and all blessings! To you alone do all things belong. Be praised for giving us the animals, birds and fish which fill your world. May we think of you and thank you when we play with and care for our pets. Be praised for making us so happy to have our pets and to have them to play with. We ask you, God, that we may be good to our pets always, so that they may be happy also. Help us always to take care of them so that they will be healthy. O God, your world is wonderful. May we all come into your even greater world of the kingdom of heaven where we shall see even more wonderful things and where we shall live and love for ever. This we ask to your eternal praise, and to our blessing. *Amen.*

**We Share God’s Peace**

Priest: The peace of Christ be always with you.

People: **And also with you.**

*All greet each other with the peace of Christ*

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Indigenous Peoples Day** on Monday: **W**atch the webinar Native Voices: A Response to The Episcopal Church’s History with Indian Boarding Schools, Monday, Oct. 11, 2:00 – 3:30 PM Pacific. Join this panel discussion with Indigenous Episcopalians as they respond to a [statement on Indigenous boarding schools](https://diocal.us13.list-manage.com/track/click?u=55a4c86d3e04b0a68eba23b20&id=c3155c6ba6&e=32644e6062) issued by Presiding Bishop Michael Curry and House of Deputies President Gay Jennings. A moderated Q&A will follow the panel. The livestream webinar will be recorded and posted on the [Indigenous Ministries Facebook page](https://diocal.us13.list-manage.com/track/click?u=55a4c86d3e04b0a68eba23b20&id=07aacee98a&e=32644e6062) for later viewing. Learn more about the Indigenous Ministries of the Episcopal Church by [clicking here](https://diocal.us13.list-manage.com/track/click?u=55a4c86d3e04b0a68eba23b20&id=5d99100306&e=32644e6062).

**Emergency Preparedness** resources are available on our [website](https://www.nativityonthehill.org/weekly-announcements). If you missed last week’s forum, the recording is posted and handouts are available there.

The Second Annual **Fall Follies** Fundraiser Happens October 22 at 5 p.m. If you missed it last year, don't make that mistake again. To participate, you can create a three-minute performance video. You can also ask your talented friends and family members to contribute performance videos. Keep in mind that the definition of "performance" can be pretty broad. We love singing, dancing, or playing your instrument. But we've also had cooking demonstrations, gymnastics, painting, even a tutorial about raising lambs. Contact Susan Pick at susanrows@yahoo.com for more details about how to submit your (and your friends) and family's videos.

**Join us for Coffee Hour** following our service this morning on the patio. If you are newcomer or returning for the first time, please introduce yourself and add your name to our mailing list so that we can keep in touch. If you would like a call from clergy or the welcome committee, just note on the newcomer form.

**Offering** We will with thanksgiving receive offerings of Nativity pledges and plate today. You can contribute by sending a check to the church or by using the “Give” button on our website, [www.nativityonthehill.org](http://www.nativityonthehill.org).

**Communion** All who participate in this Holy Eucharist virtually receive the full benefits of the sacrament by coming with the intention of being united with Christ and one another. (BCP 457) For those who are participating in person, note that the individual chalices can be opened by taking off the foil on the bottom for the wafer before removing the top foil for the wine.

**We Share our Gifts with God**

Priest: Let us give God the gifts of our love.

**Offertory Song “All Things Bright and Beautiful”**

*Chorus:*

All things bright and beautiful

All creatures great and small

All things wise and wonderful

The Lord God made them all.

Each little flower that opens

Each little bird that sings

He made their glowing colors

And made their tiny wings.

*Chorus*

The purple headed mountains

The rivers running by

The sunset and the morning

That brightens up the sky.

*Chorus*

The cold wind in the winter

The pleasant summer sun

The ripe fruits in the garden

He made them every one.

*Chorus*

He gave us eyes to see them

And lips that we might tell

How great is God Almighty

Who has made all things well.

*Chorus*

**The Great Thanksgiving**

Priest: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Priest: Lift up your hearts.

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

Priest: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

Priest: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. So we offer this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

People: **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,**

**Heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

Priest: O God, you are most holy and we want to show you that we are grateful. We bring you bread and wine, and ask you to send your Spirit to make these gifts the body and blood of Jesus your Son.

On the night before he died, Jesus was having a meal with his friends. He took bread from the table. He gave you thanks and praise. Then he broke the bread, gave it to his friends, and said, “Take this all of you, and eat it: this is my body which will be given up for you. Do this in memory of me.”

When the meal was ended, Jesus took a cup filled with wine. He thanked you, gave it to his friends and said, “Take this all of you and drink from it: this is my blood which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this in memory of me.”

We remember Jesus’ death and resurrection. Let us proclaim our faith:

All: **Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

Priest: Most holy God, because you love us, you invite us to come to your table. Fill us with the joy of the Holy Spirit as we receive the body and blood of your Son. Through him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and forever. **Amen.**

**The Lord’s Prayer**

All: **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.**

**We Break the Bread**

Priest: Alleluia, Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

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

Priest: The Gifts of God for the People of God.

**Communion Hymn “Sanctuary”**

God prepare me, to be a sanctuary.

Pure and holy, tried and true.

With thanksgiving, I’ll be a living,

Sanctuary for you.

**Post-Communion Prayer**

All: **Thank you, Jesus, for being with us once again through the bread and wine of Communion. Be with us also when we leave the church today: when we are at work, when we are at home, when we are at school, when we are with friends. Bring us to your table again. Amen.**

**Blessing Song “**May the Lord Bless You”

May the Lord bless you, may the Lord keep you,

may the Lord lift up his face to shine on you.

May the Lord bless you, may the Lord keep you,

may the Lord lift up his face to shine on you.

**Closing Song** “Love of the Creator”

Love of the Creator (3x)

Fill my… fill my heart.

Love of the Savior (3x)

Fill my… fill my heart.

*Chorus:*

Let that love abide in me and never depart

Let that love abide in me and never depart.

Love of the Sanctifier (3x)

Fill my… fill my heart.

Love of the three and one (3x)

Fill my… fill my heart.

*Chorus:*

Let that love abide in me and never depart

Let that love abide in me and never depart.

Love of the Creator (3x)

Fill my… fill my heart.

**Dismissal**

People: **Thanks be to God.**