



**A Service of Thanksgiving for The Feast of St. Francis of Assisi
and the Blessing of Animals**

**October 4, 2026
4:00 PM in the Afternoon**

Officiating Clergy
The Reverend Dr. Eric Biddy
The Reverend Kimberly Dunn
The Reverend Dr. Bill Dolen
The Reverend Dr. Cynthia Taylor

The Opening Acclamation

Officiant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People ***And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.***

The Collects

Officiant

Hear our humble prayer, O God, for our friends the animals; for those who are suffering; for all that are overworked, underfed or cruelly treated; for all wistful creatures in captivity that beat against their bars; for any that are hunted, or lost or deserted or frightened or hungry; for all that must be put to death. We ask for them all your mercy and pity, and for those who deal with them, we ask a heart of compassion and gentle hands and kindly words. Make us to be true friends of animals and to share in the blessing of the merciful. We pray in Jesus' Name. ***Amen.***

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. ***Amen.***

The Lessons

Canticle 12 A Song of Creation

Invocation

Read by all

Glorify the Lord, all you works of the Lord, *
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

In the firmament of his power, glorify the Lord, *
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

II The Earth and its Creatures

Read responsively by half verse

Let the earth glorify the Lord, *
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.
Glorify the Lord, O mountains and hills,
and all that grows upon the earth, *
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

Glorify the Lord, O springs of water, seas, and streams, *
O whales and all that move in the waters.
All birds of the air, glorify the Lord, *
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

Glorify the Lord, O beasts of the wild, *
and all you flocks and herds.
O men and women everywhere, glorify the Lord, *
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

III The People of God

Let the people of God glorify the Lord, *
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.
Glorify the Lord, O priests and servants of the Lord, *
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

Glorify the Lord, O spirits and souls of the righteous, *
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.
You that are holy and humble of heart, glorify the Lord, *
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

Doxology

Read by all

Let us glorify the Lord: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; *
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.
In the firmament of his power, glorify the Lord, *
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

“No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon. Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you shall eat or what you shall drink, nor about your body, what you shall put on. 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 which of you by being anxious can add one cubit to his span of life? And why are you anxious 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 arrayed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O men of little faith? Therefore do not be anxious, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For the Gentiles seek all these things; and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things shall be yours as well. Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Let the day’s own trouble be sufficient for the day.”

Lector The Word of the Lord.

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

The Litany

Officiant Let us pray:

For birds with broken wings,
For rabbits caught in springs,
For poor bewildered foxes
And butterflies in boxes.

People ***Lord, hear our prayer.***

Officiant For dogs without a home,
For cats “that walk alone,”
For horses worn and old
For sheep without a fold.

People ***Lord, hear our prayer.***

Officiant For all those weak and lowly,
Depending on man solely
By all we hold most holy

People ***Lord, hear our prayer.***

Officiant We remember before you with gratitude our beloved animals who have died,
including those we now name.

Silence. The People may add their own petitions, either silently or aloud.

Officiant Bless, O Lord, this water to symbolize the setting apart of our pets and animals
as a part of your creation; we give thanks for them and your loving-kindness
for us, for them, and for all creation. ***Amen.***

The Blessing of the Pets

The Officiants will now bless the pets, present, with the following:

Officiant May these pets, and those who care for them be blessed in the Name of the
Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. ***Amen.***

After the animals are blessed, the Officiant continues:

Officiant The Lord be with you.
People ***And also with you.***
Officiant Let us pray.

The Lord's Prayer

Said by 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.*

Two Prayers of St. Francis

Officiant

Most High, omnipotent, good Lord, to thee be ceaseless praise outpoured, and blessing without measure. Let creatures all give thanks to thee and serve in great humility. ***Amen.***

Lord, make us instruments of your peace. 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

The Dismissal

Officiant Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

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

Officiating Clergy Biographies

The Reverend Dr. Eric Biddy is the Rector of Saint Paul's Church. He, his wife, Jackie, and their children, Isaac and Lucy, share their home with their three cats: Skye, Chase, and Hildegard (indulgences offered if you can guess which cat was named by Eric, and which were named by the kids).

The Reverend Kimberly Dunn is the Associate Rector of Saint Paul's Church. She shares her home with Lucie Pevensie Dunn, a 16-year-old white wired-haired Dachshund.

The Reverend Dr. Bill Dolen is an assisting priest at Saint Paul's Church. Bill and his wife, Carolyn, share their home with "Buddy," a Manchester Terrier, who was adopted from Augusta Animal Shelter.

The Reverend Dr. Cynthia Taylor is an assisting priest at Saint Paul's Church. Her two Corgis graciously allow her to share their home. Reepicheep is the senior member of the corgi household. And then there is Zelda, who also doubles as a therapy dog as well as an animal-assisted crises response dog bringing comfort in natural and/or manmade disasters.



Welcome to Saint Paul's Church

No matter who you are, no matter where you come from, and no matter where you are on the journey of life — you are welcome in this church.

We hope you will find Saint Paul's to be a place of refreshment and renewal, where you experience the presence of the risen Christ. We have been serving Christ in this location for over two hundred seventy years. The monuments in our church and the graves in our churchyard reflect the conflicts and complexities of our nation's and our city's history. While our building is old and beautiful, our mission is contemporary and forward moving. Here you will find a people very much connected with the questions and struggles of modern life and faith and of following the way of Jesus.

More information is available on our website at www.saintpauls.org.
Connect with us on Facebook & YouTube at Saint Paul's Church - Augusta, GA.



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The Augusta Humane Society, Inc. - Elizabeth P. Wright Memorial Chapter - was founded in 1955 and has remained active in the community ever since that time. At present, we have no shelter for housing homeless animals, but cover medical and kennel care in limited and extreme cases. All of the animals we sponsor are treated for any medical problems before being adopted into permanent homes; all animals are spayed/neutered prior to, or shortly after adoption. Although we remain a pet placement list to try to match pets and prospective owners, there are always more pets than homes!