

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 29TH, 2023



Dearly beloved,

Here comes one of our favorite Sundays of the year: the Blessing of the Animals! Your furry, feathered, and scaly companions are welcome, as always, but on this special day, we'll promenade with them around the sanctuary — an animal parade! — and make a beautiful blessing on them, in gratitude for the countless ways they bless us every day.

Mastermind Tech Team lead Art Nava's plan is to set up the big screen on the chancel and spotlight our animal guests in the Zoom room, so the in-person congregation can see the Zoomers while the Zoomers see those who come in person! Thank you, Art, and to the crew that will help make the magic possible: Kevin Tyrrell on the Zoom deck, Rich Abreu on camera, Sandy Dixon on sound, and Kem Morehead in the chat. We are so grateful!

The Arlington Street Church choir will sing *De Animals A-Comin'*. Building on last week's celebration of cows, sheep, and squirrels, this much-loved spiritual will extol the virtues of more cows and ... elephants, kangaroos, bears, bugs, bumblebees, hippopotamuses (we could say hippopotami), hyenas, monkeys, and pigs!

Dere's animals and animals and animals and animals
And animals and animals and animals,
Yes, Lord!

My homily is called *What Animals Can Teach Us About Being Human*. Director of music Mark David Buckles (piano and vocals) and Sam LaGrego (percussion) bring us *How Sweet It Is (To Be Loved By You)*. As always, our animal blessing service concludes with *All Creatures of the Earth and Sky*, with words attributed to St. Francis of Assisi. *Alleluia!*

*Faithfully yours, with love,
Kim*

p.s. If you're going to be in Boston on Sunday, Gaby & George Whitehouse invite you to join them after the service for brunch at Precinct Kitchen (154 Berkeley Street). BYOW (wallet)!



*You'll hear more about one of my great heroes,
Lawrence Anthony, on Sunday morning!*