

October 2, 2025

Dear Ones,

This Sunday our observance of the Season of Creation draws to a close with our St. Francis Day celebration. We will bless any animals you bring (and I'll bless photos as well), we'll remember animals we have lost over the past year. We will give thanks for the joy and companionship they bring. In the pre-church Sunday School session, our Chapel Kids discussion will include looking at animal cards and considering what the animals we feel drawn to might reveal about ourselves. What is it about turtles and crows that resonate with who I am as a person?

But St. Francis was about more than just animals. He saw God everywhere, and believed that all creation, not just human beings, would be redeemed and made new. He grew up in a wealthy family but chose to live a life of poverty. He became a soldier and was a prisoner of war for a year, but ultimately became a pacifist. He was a mystic, but lived in the noise and chaos of the city. He was a strict ascetic and imposed harsh rules on his followers. He is said to have had the stigmata. He wrote canticles of profound joy, but could also be quite cranky.

In short, he wasn't some pretty pious statue standing in the corner of the garden, but a complex human being, just like the rest of us.

I haven't watched this video on his life, made by Martin Scorsese, but I am planning to do so sometime between now and Sunday. www.youtube.com/watch?v=qZ8pWC9D-i4 If you would like to watch and can't figure out the technology, let me know—we could watch it together in the Guild Room.

In the meantime....*keep the faith*,
Nancy+

THIS SUNDAY'S READINGS

Jeremiah 22:13-16

Psalm: 148:7-14

Galatians 6:14-18

Matthew 11:25–30

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Bernadette LaForte 10/9

Kim Peranzi 10/9

CREATION CARE TIPS

Sweet the rain's new fall sunlit from heaven, like the first dewfall on the first grass. Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden, sprung in completeness where his feet pass... Praise with elation, praise every morning, God's recreation, of the new day! – Eleanor Farjeon, 1881-1963

"In the year 1306, King Edward I of England issued a royal proclamation prohibiting the burning of coal in London.

"Smoke from the burning of coal was leading to widespread pollution, health problems for Londoners and social unrest. The proclamation is often considered to be the first ever environmental law."

The article headlined “Mine, baby, mine,” and written by David Gelles ran Tuesday in *The New York Times*.

But in another country, seven hundred nineteen years later, another leader is encouraging the use of coal. Why? Not to make people more healthy, but to make some people more wealthy.

Thank God for rain. Raindrops form when water vapor condenses on dust particles; when enough water vapor particles congregate on one particle of dust, they become a raindrop. The particles can be dust from a field that’s recently been plowed, and the wind has blown tiny soil particles into the air. The particles can be soot – from a campfire, a forest fire, a poorly tuned car, or a power plant. The particles can be cosmic dust, or any number of other substances blowing through the atmosphere. Whatever the source, the raindrop brings the particle with it as the water returns to Earth. And the atmosphere is temporarily rid of that dust.

But dust in the air isn’t just dust, and it isn’t just condensation nuclei, sitting in the atmosphere, waiting to make raindrops. Certain dusts can cause emphysema, or cancer, or even skin diseases in polluted areas. It stings the eyes, dirties laundry that someone dares to hang outside, and clogs lungs of humans, livestock, pets, and wild animals.

So why doesn’t someone do something about dust in the air? Well, the Environment Protection Agency, a branch of the United States Government, used to be able to regulate what kinds of particles and how much of each kind of particles could be released into the air. Not now.

If you don’t think endangering the health of millions upon millions of people is a good idea, perhaps you’d like to express your opinion to one of your governmental officials. The list of elected federal senators and representatives has been posted on the church bulletin board. I’ll post it again, and you can call, email, or write to your elected officials to let them know what you think.

– Patty Watts, Christ Church Earth Keeper

Hurt not the earth—neither the sea—nor the trees. Revelation 7:3

CALENDAR

SUN:	9:30 AM Sunday School
	10:15 AM Eucharist and Animal Blessing
WED:	9:00 AM Eucharist/Bible Study
THU:	9:00 AM Christ Church Book Group/Zoom
	5:15 PM Vestry
	7:15 PM Zoom Compline

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Animal Blessing We will give thanks for and bless the animals in our lives at the beginning of today’s service.

School Supplies Collection through October 19

Vestry Meeting Thursday 10/9 at 5:15.

Diocesan Convention October 25 in Bangor. This year’s delegates are Jason Long and Patty Watts.

MINISTRIES LIST

	<u>This week:</u>	<u>Next week:</u>
Lector 1:	Peter Bickford	Rosemary Laban
Psalmist:	Mary Bickford	Tom Knight
Lector 2:	Thelma Cunningham	Jason Long
Acolyte:	Doug Wall	Michelle Christoph
Euch. Minister:	Tom Knight	Jim Christoph
Shepherd:	Susan Glines	Jason Long
Usher:	Jen Lehr	David Mering
Altar Guild:	Patty Watts	Patty Watts
Coffee Hour:	Bruce & Patty Watts	Rosemary Laban
Counter:	Mary Bickford	Tom Knight
Closer:	Peter Bickford	Tom Knight