

OCTOBER 9, 2021 – SATURDAY SERVICE
THE FEAST OF ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI
ZION LUTHERAN, TAMAQUA, PA

GATHERING

Prelude: “All Creatures of Our God and King” – Words by St. Francis of Assisi

Video: “The Present”

Opening song: “All God’s Creatures Got a Place in the Choir”

Gathering

Welcome – Pastor Cindy White

Gathering words - Pastor Cindy White - Please remain seated

This is the day the Lord has made.

Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Blessed be God, Creator of Heaven and Earth.

All creation sings your praises.

Gathering prayer - Please remain seated

Let us pray together: **Creator God, We give thanks that all things belong to you. We praise you for giving us the animals, birds and fish which fill your world. We give thanks for our pets that bring us joy and who help teach us the value of unconditional love. Grant that we may good caretakers for our pets that they may also know the joy of unconditional love. May our shared lives together always bring joy to others as we live, serve, and love all of your creatures, both great and small; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Sharing of Peace – Please remain seated – Please wave

Let us share the peace of the Lord with one another. The peace of the Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Godsightings - We recognize God at work when we see acts of goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control, love, peace, patience, kindness and caring. Where have you seen God at work in your life?

THE WORD (Genesis 1:20-26, 30-31)

Gospel reading – Please remain seated

Holy God, may we taste and see the good things you are doing in our lives.

May the words we hear inspire us to be your faithful followers. Amen.

A reading from Genesis: And God said, "Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky." So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm, and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good. God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth." And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day. And God said, "Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind." And it was so. God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind, and the cattle of every kind, and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good. Then God said, "Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth." And it was so. God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. (Genesis 1:20-26, 30-31)

The Word of Our Lord

Thanks be to God.

Today's message - Pastor Cindy White

Praise & Prayer

Song: "The Creatures We Love" – Amanda Udis-Kessler

Offering our gifts

Let us pray: **Almighty Creator, you have blessed us with abundant life and steadfast love. We offer these gifts to you, asking that your Holy Spirit will bless them and use them to shower grace and love upon our brothers and sisters, both near and far. In the name of Christ, we pray. Amen.**

Moment of remembrance – Please remain seated

Lord, we pause and give thanks for the memories of those pets we have lost. We pray for their owners who continue to mourn their loss. But most of all, we give thanks for their memory and for the ways in which they have enriched our lives. **Amen.**

Animal blessings – Pastor Cindy White

Prayer for Pets – Please remain seated

Let us pray together: **Almighty and everlasting God, Creator of all things and giver of all life, let your blessing be upon all our pets and animals. May our relationships with them mirror your love, and our care for them be an example of**

your bountiful mercy. Grant the animals health and peace. Strengthen us to love and care for them as we strive to imitate the love of Jesus Christ our Lord and God's servant Francis. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer – Spoken - Please remain seated

Sending

Sung - The Prayer of St. Francis - Please remain seated

Benediction

May the Lord bless you and keep you. May the Lord make his face to shine upon you and bless you. Go in peace! Serving Christ and loving all creatures!

Thanks be to God.