

Parish of the Good Shepherd

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN WABAN, MASSACHUSETTS

St. Francis of Assisi

October 4, 2026 – 10:00AM

Holy Eucharist, Rite I AND BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS



A Note about St Francis:

St. Francis of Assisi was born in the 12th century in Italy. He is remembered for generosity to the poor, and for his love for animals and nature. He is the patron saint of animals and the environment. He is commemorated on the church calendar each year on October 4th, and it has become common practice to bless animals, especially pets, in celebration of St. Francis' Day.

Processional Hymn *The Hymnal 1982 #405, verse 1*

Royal Oak

*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, he made their tiny wings.*

THE WORD OF GOD

The Opening Acclamation

The Book of Common Prayer 323

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

People And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

Collect for Purity and Summary of the Law

The Book of Common Prayer 323

*The purple-headed mountain, the river running by,
the sunset, and the morning that brightens up the sky.*

*All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful, the Lord God made them all.*

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And with thy spirit.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

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 Reading

The People sit.

Genesis 1:20-31

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." So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth." God said, "See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food." And it was so. God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm

Saint Francis of Assisi (d. 1226)

All stand and repeat the alleluias after the cantor, and where indicated:



1. Lord, make me an instrument of your peace;
where there is hatred, let me sow love;
2. when there is injury, pardon;

- where there is doubt, faith;
Alleluia
3. where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light;
and where there is sadness, joy.
4. Grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console;
to be understood, as to understand, to be loved as to love;
Alleluia
5. 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.
Alleluia

The Gospel

Standing

Matthew 11:25-30

Celebrant

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

People

Glory be to thee, O Lord.

“At that time 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 who 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.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

People

Praise be to thee, O Christ.

The Sermon

The People sit.

The Blessing of the Animals

Most high, almighty Lord, Creator of all things great and small, to you be praise, glory, honor and blessing. We thank you for these animals gathered here today, and for the families of which they are a part. Give us grace to care for them, to love them, and to give them all things necessary for our common lives. And grant that the love that they show for us might inspire us also to love others without reservation or condition. This we ask through him who taught us unconditional and unyielding love, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Officiant blesses pets.

Officiant continues:

Let us pray together in the words attributed to St. Francis.

God of manifold blessings, source of all that is good and true and holy: Raise us up to see the world through your eyes, so that with the eyes of our heart enlightened, we may treasure each creature alive with your Spirit and touched by your creative hand. And may the blessings of this bountiful God, who creates, redeems, and sanctifies, be upon us all, now and for ever. Amen.

The Prayers for the Pets

The Confession of Sin

The Book of Common Prayer 331

Celebrant

Let us humbly confess our sins unto Almighty God.

The people kneel.

Most merciful God,
**we confess that we have sinned against thee
in thought, word, and deed,**

The Celebrant stands and adds an absolution.

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People **And with thy spirit.**

The ushers collect the offering. Your generosity supports the ministries & work of this parish.

The Celebrant continues with the Proper Preface until saying,

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.
People **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

“O Lamb of God” *Agnus Dei*

Spoken

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, grant us thy peace.

The Presentation and Invitation

Facing the people, the Celebrant says the following Invitation

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you,
and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

We welcome all baptized persons, regardless of denomination or tradition to receive Communion. Please come forward as the ushers direct you. The Celebrant communicates every individual with bread (gluten free available). To receive wine, you may either drink from the common cup or by intinction. Those wishing to receive a blessing instead should indicate by crossing their arms.

During the Administration of the Sacrament

Anthem *Sicut Cervus and Sitivit Anima Mea* Giovanni Luigi da Palestrina (b. 1978)

The Post-Communion Prayer

The Book of Common Prayer 339

Celebrant and People, kneeling

Almighty and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.

The Blessing

The people stand.

Recessional Hymn *The Hymnal 1982 #405*

Royal Oak

*All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful, the Lord God made them all.
The cold wind in the winter, the pleasant summer sun,
the ripe fruits in the garden, he made them every one.*

*All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful, the Lord God made them all.
He gave us eyes to see them, and lips that we might tell
how great is God Almighty, who has made all things well.*

The Dismissal

Celebrant

Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the spirit.

People

Thanks be to God.

Parish Notes for The Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Coffee Hour – On the Good Shepherd Green with today's hosts
Kate and Matt Scott

This Week at Good Shepherd:

<u>Sunday</u>	10:00 AM	Choral Holy Eucharist and Children's Christian Ed Coffee Hour Follows
	11:45 AM	Adult Forum
<u>Tuesday</u>	6:30 PM	Bible Study on ZOOM

2026/2027 Coffee Hour – Please sign up to host Coffee Hour one Sunday during the school year (2026/2027). Information about hosting and a sign-up form were sent out via e-mail. Please fill out the form (link is in the weekly email) to note your availability and preferences. If you need assistance or have questions, please contact Callie Emery at callieemery@gmail.com or the parish office.

Music Minute – Cecil Frances Alexander was an Irish poet, born in Dublin in 1818. She is known not only for the text of “All things bright and beautiful,” but also for “There is a green hill far away,” and “Once in royal David's city.” Cecil was much admired as a philanthropist and social activist, although one of the original verses of today's hymn is omitted from most hymnals because it espouses the class system. That's not surprising, given the age in which Cecil Alexander lived, and we can still enjoy the vivid imagery of her words, which speak to both children and adults.

Adult Forum - October 2026

Oct 4 *St. Francis Day Spiritual Walk (dogs welcome to join!)*
Oct 11 No Adult Forum, enjoy the long weekend.
Oct 18 *PGS Book Club* with Covie Edwards-Pitt
Oct 25 *“The Odyssey” Movie Discussion* with Ken Rothwell and James Oldfield
*Please watch the movie beforehand.

Serving in the Liturgy today:

Barbara Wood – Lector/Usher; **Allie Baker** – Chalice Bearer; **Covie Edwards-Pitt** – Intercessor; **Louisa Younkin** – Crucifer; **Marilyn and Harry Baker** – Torch Bearer(s); **Vivi Leavy and Louise Conant** – Altar Guild

The Reverend Natasha Stewart - Celebrant and Preacher

The Reverend Natasha Stewart, Interim Rector
Frances Fitch, Interim Organist/Choirmaster
Sara Foley, Parish Administrator
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