

Huguenot Memorial Church

November 8th, 2020 • 10:00 A.M. • BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

Until one has loved an animal, a part of one's soul remains un-awakened.

-Anatole France

PRELUDE

"God of the Sparrow, God of the Whale"

Roeder

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING SENTENCES *responsive*

The animals of God's creation inhabit the skies, the earth, and the sea.

They share in the fortunes of our existence and have a part in our lives.

God, who gives gifts to all living things, has often used the service of animals or made them reminders of the gifts of salvation.

Animals were saved from the flood and afterwards made a part of the covenant with Noah.

The paschal lamb recalls the Passover sacrifice and the deliverance from slavery in Egypt.

A fish saved Jonah; ravens brought bread to Elijah; animals were included in the repentance of Nineveh; and animals share in Christ's redemption of all God's creation.

We, therefore, praise the Creator and thank God for blessing our lives with these wondrous creatures, as we prepare to ask God to bless them.

CALL TO CONFESSION

Through Adam and Eve, God entrusted the creation to our stewardship and care. Often, we lose our connection to this good earth and her creatures. We turn inward and fail to live into our high calling. But the Creator is our Redeemer and our Sustainer, and so we know we can be restored if we will but confess and seek forgiveness. Let us pray to the Lord of heaven and earth.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *unison*

Lord Jesus, how wonderful are the works of your hands. They fill our senses with the abundance of your love. And yet, at times, we live disconnected from the earth and the creatures you made for our enjoyment. Forgive us for our ungrateful selfishness. Restore our wonder in you and in your handiwork that we might live with love for all: our neighbors, our home, our companions the animals. These things we pray in your holy name. Amen.

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Friends, hear and believe the good news of the Gospel: We are saved by grace through faith. In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Amen!

SCRIPTURE READING

Psalms 8 & 148

(The remainder of the service will take place in the church parking lot)

PRAYER OF BLESSING

Almighty and everlasting God,

Creator of all things and giver of all life,

let your blessing be upon all these animals.

May our relationship 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.

Bless these gifts given for their care and bless

those who tend and care for them, even as the Spirit

tends and cares for us. Amen.

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

[*Name of animal*], you were created by God, and you are loved by God.

May you and your human family experience joy and companionship together,

and continue to be a blessing to each other.

THE PRAYER OF ST. FRANCIS

Lord, make us instruments of your peace.

Where there is hatred, let us sow love;

Where there is injury, pardon;

Where there is doubt, faith;

Where there is despair, hope;

Where there is darkness, light;

Where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master, 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.

BENEDICTION

Live without fear: your Creator has made you holy, has always protected you, and loves you as a mother. Go in peace to follow the good road and may God's blessing be with you always. Amen.

POSTLUDE

"All Things Bright & Beautiful"

Royal Oak



NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Music Notes

Today we offer our great thanks to Chris Ingram for the musical offerings in Kathy Jones' absence.

Limited In Person Worship Begins Sunday November 15th

Pastor Paul published a prepared announcement on our Facebook page and on You Tube: HMC Productions explaining the plans for returning to limited in person worship on Sunday, November 15. Members attending worship will be required to be masked and socially-distanced. Reservations are required to maintain a log for contact tracing and can be made a week in advance starting on the preceding Sunday at 11am through Wednesday at 4 pm. Reservations are limited to 30 members at this time. Email Tia Parrish at info@huguenotchurch.org to reserve a place. Watch the full plans on Facebook or You Tube.

Book Study Begins Tuesday November 10th

Our Tuesday night Zoom book study of Shirley Guthrie's Christian Doctrine begins on November 10th. Excepting Session nights and holiday weeks, it will run through March 9th. A complete schedule is available to those interested in attending. Previously, we have a registration period for the class and now have books available for pickup outside the library door for those who signed up. Anyone else is welcome to obtain a copy of the book and join in. To get a copy of the schedule, please contact Anna Grace at agclaunch@huguenotchurch.org.

Fall Church Clean Up

The Buildings and Grounds Committee invites you to *Help out at Huguenot* for our annual fall cleanup Saturday, November 14th from 9am -12pm. Please come and help prepare for the winter, if you can please bring gloves, rake, broom or shovel. For more information contact Lynne Dintrone at lynnemagee2@gmail.com.

Thanksgiving in a Box

Help us feed 900+ families in Westchester this holiday season! Contact Tina Constable and let her know you'd like to put together a box! Tina Constable 917-215-9543 or tconstable@prh.com.

HUGUENOT PRAYS

Please join as a community in lifting up the following people and situations to God in prayer:

Homebound -Henry Hayes

Remembrance - Sander Booij, death of his wife, Jeannet Booij-van Donselaar

Healing - Larry Jones, Alison Pinsley, Bob Tritsch, Bruce Tischler, Avery Porter, Jen Engborg, Yoshi Ichijo, James Ingram, Gerrick Tischler, Frances Caldwell, Dr. Richard Eaton, John Wines, Martha Sterner, Dr. Elliot Strong, Tommy Hoare, and Twig Hayes.

Coronavirus Front Lines - Laura Davis, Dr. Valerie Alley, Dr. Michael Owen-Michaane, Dr. Daniel Billings, Scott Strong

HUGUENOT MEMORIAL CHURCH PURPOSE STATEMENT

Making Music
Urging Unity
Sharing Supper
Inviting Ideas
Celebrating Community

STAFF CONTACTS

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CHURCH CALENDAR

NOVEMBER

10th Tuesday

Book Study

Board of Deacons Meeting

11th Wednesday

Fireside Chat & Evening Prayer

12th Thursday

Sanctuary Open for Prayer

14th Saturday

Fall Church Clean-Up

Huguenot Memorial Church • Presbyterian Church USA

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Live stream every Sunday worship and for more information on our worships, missions, ministries, or programs visit www.huguenotchurch.org