

10:30AM, MAY 31, 2026

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

*\*Indicates please stand as you are able.*

*Bold text is read in unison.*

## WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

*This service is in commemoration of Francis of Assisi (c. 1181-1226), reformer and renewer of the church. He is considered the patron saint of animals.*

### GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Keli Shipley Cooper

PRELUDE

"Across the Lands"

Getty

### CALL TO WORSHIP

You, O God, made the springs into rivers that flow between the mountains.  
All the animals drink their fill from them, and the wild donkeys quench their thirst.

**Beside them, the birds of the air make their nests;  
among the branches, they lift their voice.**

The joy of our Lord Jesus Christ, the compassion of God,  
and the creative power of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

Source and sustainer of life, we cherish the myriad works of your hands. Water, earth, and sky are yours, as are all their inhabitants, wild and tame. We thank you for creatures that nourish and serve us, befriend, enrich, entertain, and protect us. May we, who are made in your image, care for them well. And may your groaning yet wondrous creation rally and thrive, revealing to all who come after us your wise, redemptive, transforming love; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

### HYMN OF PRAISE

"Morning Has Broken"

No. 664

- |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| 1. Morning has broken<br>like the first morning;<br>blackbird has spoken<br>like the first bird.<br>Praise for the singing!<br>Praise for the morning!<br>Praise for them, springing<br>fresh from the Word! | 2. Sweet the rain's new fall<br>sunlit from heaven,<br>like the first dewfall<br>on the first grass.<br>Praise for the sweetness<br>of the wet garden,<br>sprung in completeness<br>where God's feet pass. | 3. Mine is the sunlight!<br>Mine is the morning,<br>born of the one light<br>Eden saw play!<br>Praise with elation;<br>praise every morning,<br>God's re-creation<br>of the new day! |
|--|--|--|

### CALL TO CONFESSION

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Holy and merciful God, in your presence we confess our failure to be what you created us to be. You alone know how often we have sinned, in wandering from your ways, in wasting your gifts, in forgetting your love. By your loving mercy, help us to live in your light and abide in your ways, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Savior.**

*...continuing in Silent Prayer...*

## DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

### \*GLORY TO GOD

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.**

### \*PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of our LORD Jesus Christ be with you all.  
**And also with you!**

## WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

### TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

Jillian Gatewood

*Today is our Blessing of the Animals, which means something fun and special is happening! We invite all of our children to stay in worship so they can be part of blessing God's creatures with the whole congregation.*

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

**Creator God, open our hearts and minds, that as your Word is read and proclaimed, we may hear with joy your love for all creatures and learn to cherish the animals you have placed in our care; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### OLD TESTAMENT READING

Genesis 1:1-2:4a

pg. 1

<sup>1</sup> In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. <sup>2</sup> Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. <sup>3</sup> And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. <sup>4</sup> God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness. <sup>5</sup> God called the light "day," and the darkness he called "night." And there was evening, and there was morning – the first day.

<sup>6</sup> And God said, "Let there be a vault between the waters to separate water from water." <sup>7</sup> So God made the vault and separated the water under the vault from the water above it. And it was so. <sup>8</sup> God called the vault "sky." And there was evening, and there was morning – the second day.

<sup>9</sup> And God said, "Let the water under the sky be gathered to one place, and let dry ground appear." And it was so. <sup>10</sup> God called the dry ground "land," and the gathered waters he called "seas." And God saw that it was good.

<sup>11</sup> Then God said, “Let the land produce vegetation: seed-bearing plants and trees on the land that bear fruit with seed in it, according to their various kinds.” And it was so. <sup>12</sup> The land produced vegetation: plants bearing seed according to their kinds and trees bearing fruit with seed in it according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good. <sup>13</sup> And there was evening, and there was morning – the third day.

<sup>14</sup> And God said, “Let there be lights in the vault of the sky to separate the day from the night, and let them serve as signs to mark sacred times, and days and years, <sup>15</sup> and let them be lights in the vault of the sky to give light on the earth.” And it was so. <sup>16</sup> God made two great lights – the greater light to govern the day and the lesser light to govern the night. He also made the stars. <sup>17</sup> God set them in the vault of the sky to give light on the earth, <sup>18</sup> to govern the day and the night, and to separate light from darkness. And God saw that it was good. <sup>19</sup> And there was evening, and there was morning – the fourth day.

<sup>20</sup> And God said, “Let the water teem with living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the vault of the sky.” <sup>21</sup> So God created the great creatures of the sea and every living thing with which the water teems, and that moves about in it, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. <sup>22</sup> God blessed them and said, “Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the water in the seas and let the birds increase on the earth.” <sup>23</sup> And there was evening, and there was morning – the fifth day.

<sup>24</sup> And God said, “Let the land produce living creatures according to their kinds: the livestock, the creatures that move along the ground, and the wild animals, each according to its kind.” And it was so. <sup>25</sup> God made the wild animals according to their kinds, the livestock according to their kinds, and all the creatures that move along the ground according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good.

<sup>26</sup> Then God said, “Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.”

<sup>27</sup> So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

<sup>28</sup> God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground.”

<sup>29</sup> Then God said, “I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food. <sup>30</sup> And to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds in the sky and all the creatures that

move along the ground – everything that has the breath of life in it – I give every green plant for food.” And it was so. <sup>31</sup>God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning – the sixth day.

**2** Thus, the heavens and the earth were completed in all their vast array. <sup>2</sup>By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing; so on the seventh day he rested from all his work. <sup>3</sup>Then God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he rested from all the work of creating that he had done. <sup>4</sup>This is the account of the heavens and the earth when they were created, when the LORD God made the earth and the heavens.

This is the Word of our Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Matthew 28:16-20

pg. 34

<sup>16</sup>Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. <sup>17</sup>When they saw him, they worshiped him, but they doubted. <sup>18</sup>And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup>Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit <sup>20</sup>and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

This is the Word of our Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

“All God’s Critters”

Rev. Keli Shipley Cooper

## WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD

HYMN

“For the Beauty of the Earth” vv. 1-4

No. 14

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. For the beauty of the earth,<br>for the glory of the skies,<br>for the love which from our birth,<br>over and around us lies:<br>(Refrain)   | 2. For the wonder of each hour<br>of the day and of the night,<br>hill and vale, and tree and flower,<br>sun and moon, and stars of light:<br>(Refrain)    |
| 3. For the joy of ear and eye,<br>for the heart and mind’s delight,<br>for the mystic harmony<br>linking sense to sound and sight:<br>(Refrain) | 4. For the joy of human love,<br>brother, sister, parent, child,<br>friends on earth, and friends above,<br>for all gentle thoughts and mild:<br>(Refrain) |

**Refrain: Lord of all, to thee we raise,  
this our hymn of grateful praise.**

## AFFIRMATION OF FAITH – THE APOSTLES’ CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Gracious Lord of love, we affirm our vital connection with all living creatures. Empower us to seek their welfare, intervening where needed, defending and tending your world with grace, compassion, and dignity. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Patient Lord of life, guide our choices so that we might safeguard habitats, ensuring, by your grace, that the mysteries and beauties of nature unfold for future generations. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Saving Lord of lords, your word foretells a day when the wolf will lie down with the lamb. Renew our vision for the peaceable kingdom. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

## BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS AND THE LORD’S PRAYER (pg. 35)

Almighty and everlasting God, creator of all things and giver of all life, let your blessing be upon all these animals. May our relationships with them mirror your love, and our care for them be an example of your bountiful mercy. Grant the animal’s health and peace. Strengthen us to love and care for them as we strive to imitate the love of Jesus Christ, our Lord, and your servant Francis. **Amen.**

*The blessing of each animal is offered at this time.*

[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 service continues after all the blessings.*

God is the source and loving sustainer of all that lives – of species endangered as well as those newly discovered and named. Called to care for this diverse and imperiled web of life, let us again offer ourselves as advocates, donors, and active stewards, being reverent and mindful toward all creation. Water, earth, and sky are home to us all. We accept God’s call, in the name of the Good Shepherd who taught us to pray: **Our Father . . . (debts and debtors)**

## DEDICATION OF OURSELVES, OUR TITHES, AND OUR OFFERINGS

*The Offering plates are located on one of the tables. As you join or leave worship, you can place your offering in the plate. You can also give online at the website using the QR code. Thank you for your faithful giving.*



**\* DOXOLOGY** to the tune of "All Creatures of Our God and King"

No. 15

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow, Praise Him, all creatures here below.**

**Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Praise Him above, ye heavenly host, Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

**Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

### **\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**Gracious God, we thank you for this day and all its many blessings. We offer these gifts of our time, talents, and treasures for the good of all God's creatures now and forevermore. Amen.**

## WE GO TO LOVE AND SERVE THE WORLD

### **\*HYMN**

"All Things Bright and Beautiful" vv. 1, 2, 4

No. 20

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

- |   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| 1. Each little flower that opens, Each little bird that sings, God made their glowing colors; God made their tiny wings (Refrain) | 2. The purple-headed mountain, the river running by, the sunset, and the morning that brightens up the sky (Refrain) | 4. God gave us eyes to see them, and lips that we might tell how great is God Almighty, who has made all things well. (Refrain) |
|---|--|---|

### **\*BLESSING**

**Go out into God's world. Live in peace with one another and with all God's creatures. Amen.**

### **\*POSTLUDE**

"Come, People of the Risen King"

Koerts

*During the postlude, we invite you to join us for fellowship time.*

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*Liturgy adapted from the PCUSA Book of Common Worship and the Connections Worship Companion for Year A.*

## WORSHIP LEADERS

Rev. Keli Shipley Cooper, *Pastor*; Jillian Gatewood, *Director of Christian Formation*;  
Sarah Cothorn, *Organist/Accompanist*; Nancy Fabian, *Liturgist*

*The flowers are given by Dave and Kathy Bauer to the glory of God  
and in honor of Allan Tenorio.*

## WELCOME TO OUR GUESTS

**Welcome to Tuckahoe Presbyterian Church!** We're glad you're with us today. If you want to learn more about our church and ways to engage, please fill out the visitor card in the pew cardholder. Place the completed card in the offering plate in the foyer or hand it to an usher. We invite you to join us after the service in the Fellowship Hall for refreshments and a time to get to know each other!

**Childcare** is available for children four and under in the nursery (ushers can guide you if needed). We also have **children's bulletins** and crayons in the hallway.


**Get Connected:** see our Discipleship Opportunities Flyer in the Resource Center (between the Sanctuary and the Fellowship Hall) for ways to connect with others with similar interests or to join a Small Group.

**A church calendar of events** for the year can be found in the Resource Center. Pick one up today!

## ANNOUNCEMENTS & EVENTS


If you have **prayer requests**, you can list them on the prayer cards tucked in the cover of the friendship pads. Please place the completed card in the prayer box in the Narthex. You can also email prayer requests directly to Pastor Keli at [kcooper@tuckahoepres.org](mailto:kcooper@tuckahoepres.org).

**The Offering plates** will be located on the table. As you arrive or depart, you can place your offering in the plate. Thank you for your faithful giving.

 **There are Sign-Up Calendars for Flower Dedications available online for 2026.** You can find the links on our main website page at the bottom of the event blocks section. Questions? Contact the office: [office@tuckahoepres.org](mailto:office@tuckahoepres.org).

**Sign up to host Fellowship After Church one Sunday! The Fellowship Committee has made the process very simple, and you can use snacks from the pantry.** Scan the QR code or sign up on our main website page at the bottom of the event blocks section. Questions? Contact Jeanne Webster.



 **Vacation Bible School 2026** registration is open. Join us **Monday-Thursday, June 8-11, from 9:00am-12:00pm.** We welcome children ages 4 and up who are potty-trained for four mornings of fun, creativity, and discovery. Through music, storytelling, games, crafts, and hands-on activities, children will explore what it means to live with kindness, curiosity, and faith while growing in understanding of themselves, their neighbors, and God's love in everyday life. Participants can expect engaging activities, creative storytelling, and opportunities to practice compassion and care for our community. **Register today**, save your spot, and for questions or more information, contact Jillian Gatewood.

This summer, we're offering **Nursery Summer Hours** as a space of care, joy, and welcome for our youngest children (4 and under). Join us from **9:30am-12:30pm, Sundays, May 24 through August 30.**

For the week of **June 21-27**, a group from TPC will travel to **Spruce Pine, NC**, to help families and churches rebuild damage sustained in September 2024 due to Hurricane Helene. Anyone 16 years of age or older is welcome, and you can come for the full week or just part of the week. **Suggested donations to cover food, transportation, and lodging are \$75 for youth and \$150 per adult;** scholarships are available if needed. Do not let a lack of experience deter you; everyone will be able to contribute to the effort. If you can't come and would like to support the mission financially, that would be greatly appreciated. **Register online using the QR code** or make a monetary donation. Thank you in advance for your participation and prayerful support. Please contact Walter Smith with any questions.



*Tuckahoe Presbyterian Church    7000 Park Ave. Richmond, VA 23226    [www.TuckahoePres.org](http://www.TuckahoePres.org)*

*Office Hours: Monday - Thursday 9am - 3pm*

*Rev. Keli Shipley Cooper, Pastor: [KCooper@TuckahoePres.org](mailto:KCooper@TuckahoePres.org) 804-282-2860 x. 3*

*Jillian Gatewood, Dir. of Christian Formation: [JGatewood@TuckahoePres.org](mailto:JGatewood@TuckahoePres.org) 804-282-2860 x. 4*

*Sarah Cothorn, Organist/Accompanist: [SCothorn@TuckahoePres.org](mailto:SCothorn@TuckahoePres.org)*

*Mary McGee, Financial Administrator: [MMcGee@TuckahoePres.org](mailto:MMcGee@TuckahoePres.org) 804-282-2860 x. 5*

*Pastoral Emergency Line: 804-282-2860 x. 9 (will ring to the pastor's cell phone for emergencies)*