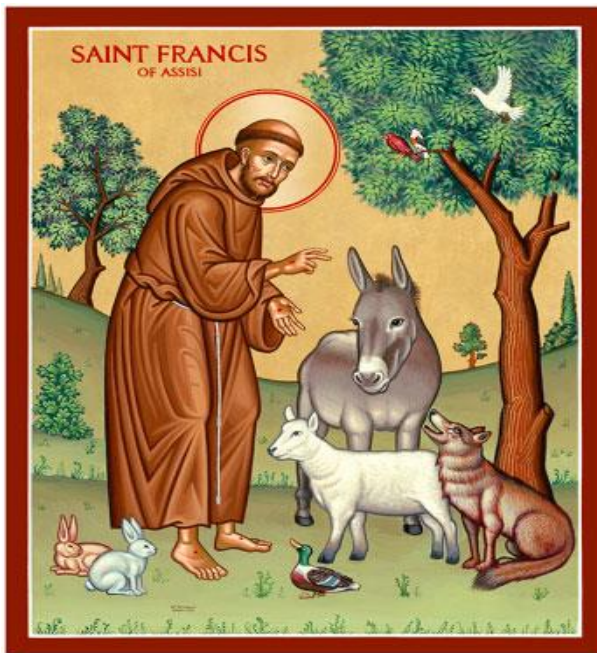


**Gisborne Presbyterian Parish
Welcomes you to Matawhero
Presbyterian Church
10.30a.m. Sunday 29th September**

EVERYONE IS WELCOME HERE

**A special welcome to members of St David's
who have come to worship with us today**



May God bless and inspire you today
Please stay for morning tea in the church lounge.

Worship Leader: Rev Mary Petersen
Organist: Val Hall St Andrew's choir
Readers: Pauline Ross and Bruce Burn

We gather to worship as the people of God

Welcome and notices

Some moments of silence to prepare ourselves for worship

Call to Worship

Praise the Lord

We will thank and praise our God

Sing praises to the Lord!

We come to praise and worship God together.

We come to connect with the Spirit of God

And to give thanks for the animals

Who share the earth with us,

Especially those here today.

Think of a world without any animals

Words by Doreen E. Newport CH4 155

Think of a field without any herd,

Think of a stream without any fishes,

Think of a dawn without any bird.

We thank you, Lord, for all your living creatures,

We thank you, Lord, and praise your holy name.

Think of a world without any people,

Think of a street with no-one living there,

Think of a town without any houses,

No-one to love and nobody to care.

We thank you, Lord, for families and friendships,

We thank you, Lord, and praise your holy name.

Sing: All creatures of our God and King CH4 147 vv 1,2,7

**All creatures of our God and King,
lift up your voice and with us sing
alleluia, alleluia!**

**Bright brother sun with golden beam,
clear sister moon with softer gleam:**

*O praise him, O praise him,
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*

**Swift rushing wind, so wild and strong,
high clouds that sail in heaven along,
O praise him, alleluia!
New-breaking dawn, in praise rejoice,
and lights of evening, find a voice: *O praise him.....***

**Let all things their Creator bless,
and worship God in humbleness,
O praise him, alleluia!
Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,
and praise the Spirit, Three in One: *O praise him.....***

We listen to and engage with the Word of God

Congregational story time: St Francis and the Animals

And meeting the animals with us today

Sing: I've never seen an elephant AA 76
Words and Music: Colin Gibson

**I've never seen an elephant, and an elephant's never seen me.
I can't swing like a monkey can from the branch
of a tropical tree.**

**I don't roar like a lion does, but a lion can't read my books;
I'm not as huge as a hippo is, but a hippo hasn't my looks
Thank you God, thank you God, for it's very plain to see
that the animals like the way they are,
and I'm glad that I'm like me.**

**I've never met an octopus, and no octopus ever met me.
I can't dive like a dolphin does
through the waves of an indigo sea.
I can't flop like a flounder can, or sing like a whale in the blue;
I can't leap like a flying fish, but that fish can't think like I do.
Thank you God, thank you God, for it's very plain to see
That the fish all like the way they are,
and I'm glad that I'm like me.**

**I've never heard a mocking-bird,
and a mocking-bird's never heard me.
I can't climb like a skylark climbs or nest on the top of a tree.
I don't hold what a peli-can, but a pelican cannot cry;
I can dream of an aeroplane even though I cannot fly.
Thank you God, thank you God, for it's very plain to see
That the birds all like the way they are,
and I'm glad that I'm like me.**

A New Zealand version of Psalm 8

God, you are our amazing Lord.

Your greatness is seen in all the world.

Children know this and grow strong.

You are the joy of the universe.

When we look at the sky which you have made

And the moon and the stars which you set in place,

Then we can't help wondering

“why do you care about us humans?”

Why do we matter to you?”

You have given us remarkable responsibility.

You have trusted us to take care of the land and the animals:

The cattle and the sheep, the deer and the pigs,

Kiwi, pukeko, weta and seagull,

Whale, snapper, dolphin and shark,

Paua and penguins and seals.

O God, amazing, mysterious God,

Your greatness is seen in all the world.

Thinking about Caring for Animals

Including a reading from Genesis 1

Pauline Ross

Sing O God, Your Creatures Fill the Earth
Tune: Ellacombe (CH 4 247)

**O God, your creatures fill the earth
with wonder and delight,
And every living thing has worth and beauty in your sight.
So playful dolphins dance and swim;
your sheep bow down and graze.
Your songbirds share a morning hymn
to offer you their praise.**

**You made the pets we welcome in-
they're wondrous blessings, too.
With paws and whiskers, wings and fins,
they offer praise to you.
O Lord, you call us to embrace these creatures in our care.
May we show kindness,
love and grace to all pets everywhere.**

**You made the creatures on each farm;
You know the things they need.
May they grow healthy, safe from harm,
And safe from human greed.
Just as a shepherd loves the sheep,
You know their joy, their pain.
Lord, bless the animals we keep; May all farms be humane.**

**Your creatures live in every land; They fill the sky and sea.
O Lord, you give us your command to love them tenderly.
We're called to have dominion here –
To care for them always.
By loving creatures you hold dear, we offer you our praise.**

Biblical References: Psalm 104; 148; Deuteronomy 5:14; Matthew 12:9-14;
Luke 15:4-6; 12:6; Genesis 1-2.

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Thinking about Learning from the Animals

Including readings from Job 12 and Isaiah 11 *Bruce Burn*

The story of **Quaky Cat Helps Out**
by Diana Noonan and Gavin Bishop

We respond to God

With Thanks

St Andrew's choir sings

Creator God we give you thanks HS 22

Creator God, we give you thanks
for those who live in nest or tank,
in basket, kennel, bowl or shed,
on sofa's, perches, straw for bed.
Through them we learn of nature's bond
with all of life, in field or pond.

To you it matters not at all
that they are very large or small,
or blue, or green, or patched, or pied,
or feathered, furred or finned outside.
How dull if all the world was us,
without a Rover, Fluff or Gus.

O loving God, we bring our praise
for these who gladden all our days,
who show us gratitude indeed
for milk or water, bone or seed.
They teach us how to care for those
without our fingers or our toes.

Bless all the creatures who depend
on us to be their special friend.
At one before you here today,
We make an Eden world – and pray
a life of shelter, kindness, care,
for every creature everywhere.

For the Word of God in Scripture
For the Word of God among us
For the Word of God within us
Thanks be to God.

Sing: If I were a butterfly

**If I were a butterfly
I'd thank you Lord for giving me wings.
And if I were a tui in a tree
I'd thank you Lord that I could sing.
And if I were a fish in the sea
I'd wiggle my tail and I'd giggle with glee.
But I just thank you, Father, for making me 'me'.**

Refrain

*For you gave me a heart and you gave me a smile.
You gave me Jesus and you made me your child.
And I just thank you, Father, for making me 'me'.*

**If I were an elephant
I'd thank you Lord by raising my trunk.
And if I were a kangaroo,
you know I'd like to hop, right up to you.
And if I were an octopus,
I'd thank you Lord for my fine looks,
But I just thank you, Father, for making me 'me'.**

Refrain

**If I were a wiggly worm,
I'd thank you Lord that I could squirm.
And if I were a crocodile,
I'd thank you Lord for my big smile.
And if I were a fuzzy wuzzy bear
I'd thank you Lord for my fuzzy wuzzy hair,
But I just thank you Father, for making me 'me'.**

Refrain

With Prayer

for ourselves and others

Written and read by Jill Wallis

We say together a version of the Lord's Prayer

Adapted from *The Lord's Prayer for Children* by Lois Rock

God, we are your children.

You show us love.

You are greater and wiser than we can ever be.

You call us all to your kingdom of love.

Help us to do things that make this earth more like heaven.

May all your children have the good things that they need.

God, forgive our mistakes

And help us to forgive others.

Show us the way we should go.

When bad things are all around us, watch over us.

Help us to understand how great you are.

Your love will last for ever and ever.

Keep us safe in that great love.

Amen.

We Sing as a prayer:

CH4 528 Make me a channel of your peace

Words from the Prayer of St Francis

Make me a channel of your peace.

Where there is hatred let me bring your love;

where there is injury, your pardon, Lord;

and where there's doubt, true faith in you.

*Refrain Oh, master, grant that I may never seek
so much to be consoled as to console;
to be understood as to understand;
to be loved, as to love with all my soul.*

**Make me a channel of your peace.
Where there's despair in life let me bring hope;
where there is darkness, only light;
and where there's sadness, ever joy.... *Oh, master.....***

**Make me a channel of your peace.
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
in giving of ourselves that we receive;
and in dying that we're born to eternal life...*Oh, master...***

With our offering

**Loving God, we thank you with our offering.
Bless these gifts and bless us as we serve you.
Amen**

Thinking about what Blessing means

Blessing all the animals (and the people with them)

We go blessed by the Spirit of God

Sing: CH4 588 vv 1,2,5 Praise the Spirit Tune: CH4 110

**Praise the spirit in creation,
breath of God, life's origin:
Spirit, moving on the waters,**

**forming order deep within,
source of breath for all things breathing,
life in whom all lives begin.**

**Praise the Spirit, close companion
of our inmost thoughts and ways;
who, in showing us God's wonders,
moves our hearts to love and praise;
and God's will, to those who listen,
by a still small voice conveys.**

**Pray we now, Lord, Holy Spirit,
on our lives descend in might;
let your flame burn bright within us,
fire our hearts and clear our sight,
till, consumed with your compassion,
we too set the world alight.**

Blessing:

Go to set the world alight with the love of God.
Through the power of the Holy Spirit
May your life be a blessing to others.
Be thankful for animals who bring joy into your lives.
Go with praise in your hearts to God.
God loves you. You are special to God.
God will bless you. **Amen**

We sing: Amen, Amen, A- men

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**WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY & THANKSGIVING
OFFERING Sunday 6 October. Combined Service
at St Andrew's 10.30 am.**