



GOD'S CREATION

By Rev Barbara Allen

October 4th, the Feast of St Francis, is also known as World Animal Day. This year it falls on a Sunday, but with COVID-19, this will not be a year when churches have four-legged and feathered and finned visitors in attendance. Blessings of the Animals might not happen in churches, but we can still bless them. Note that I write 'animals' rather than 'pets.' God has created an abundance of animals, including creatures we wouldn't consider a 'pet' or 'companion animal', such as blue whales, or giraffes. Animals are part of the fabric of life, we are all interconnected. It would be a poorer world without non-human animals. I love my dog, my cats, my birds and my fish, but I also respect creatures found on farms, in forests, on plains, or deep beneath the waters.

Reflection:

Creator God, thank you for all creatures. You made us stewards of creation. May we protect all life, for all comes from you. Amen.

On the Feast of St Francis, consider the animals that have been part of your life, from your pets, to the ones you love seeing on nature programs. To 'bless' means we want the best for the other. How can we be blessings for animals? We are losing many species a year, with other creatures added to the Endangered List. Perhaps during lockdown, we could research a particular animal and its status: is it Vulnerable? Endangered? What can we do to help? Also, learn something new about animals: animals prevent boredom! Each zebra's stripes are different, like our fingerprints, polar bears have black skin under their white fur, a crocodile can go through 4000 teeth over its life span, a group of parrots is called a pandemonium, and the Giant Pacific Octopus has 3 hearts, 9 brains and blue blood!