

***Phippsburg Congregational Church, UCC***  
*Open and Affirming: All are Welcome Here!*  
**September 30, 2018: Blessing of the Animals**  
*Please silence all electronic devices. Thank you!*

*\* indicates times when you're invited to rise in body or spirit*

**Gathering Music & The Ringing of the Church Bell**

**Greetings and Announcements**

**Centering Prayer**

**Prelude**      *"Little Bird"*      Edvard Grieg

**\*Opening Hymn:**

**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 the sings,  
God made their glowing colors, God made their tiny wings.**

**A Reading of Psalm 148 (adapted)**

All dogs and cats, large and small: **PRAISE THE LORD!**  
All rabbits, hamsters, and Guinea pigs: **PRAISE THE LORD!**  
Goldfish and all swimming creatures: **PRAISE THE LORD!**  
Chickadees and all singing birds: **PRAISE THE LORD!**  
All bats, squirrels, and raccoons: **PRAISE THE LORD!**  
Horses and cows, goats and sheep: **PRAISE THE LORD!**  
Frog, snake, and all creeping things: **PRAISE THE LORD!**  
Every animal in sky and sea, meadow and forest, **PRAISE THE LORD!**

**The Lord's Prayer**

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

**Gloria Patri: 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!**

**A Story: "Brother Benno"**      Tristan McGraw

**\*Hymn:** All God's Critters Got a Place in the Choir      Insert

**A Story: "The Doves and the Net"**      George Langbehn

**Prayers of the People:** May the Lord be with you

**And also with you**

Lift up your hearts

**We lift them up unto the Lord**

Let us give thanks to the Lord

**It is right to give God thanks and praise!**

*(Please share your joys and concerns. After each prayer is named, we will respond together: "This is our prayer.")*

**Offering**      *"Butterfly"*      Edvard Grieg

**\*Doxology: Praise God, from whom all blessings flow  
Praise God, all creatures here below  
Praise God above, ye heavenly host:  
Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

**Prayer of Dedication**

**A Story: "The Prayer Book"**      Kathy Totten

**Scripture Reading:** Matthew 6:25-26a, 28-29

**A Story: "St. Francis on the Road"**      Stuart DeVan

**Blessing the Animals**

Including pets/livestock, photos of pets, and stuffed animals.  
*(First we will bless animals that can't come forward. Raise your hand and Pastor Holly will come to you with a blessing.  
Next, you are invited to bring animals forward for a blessing.)*

**\*Closing Hymn:** All Creatures of our God and King      Insert

**\*Sending Forth & Benediction**

Jesus Christ calls us to live with love and compassion.  
Will you care for the Earth and all of its creatures?

**We will care for creation! We will nurture our animals!**

**We will celebrate the circle of life with them!**

Go in peace, loving all creatures, great and small.

**With all God's animals, we go in peace!**

**Postlude: "All Creatures Great and Small"**      Hal Hopson

**Thanks to today's service participants:**

Keyboardist: Ann Hartzler Readers: Kathy Totten, Tristan McGraw,  
Stuart DeVan, George Langbehn

Head/Assistant Deacons: Brad Hart / Kathy Totten & George Langbehn  
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**Welcome to the Phippsburg Congregational Church!** Please sign our guest book in the narthex and stay for refreshments and fellowship in the Linden Tree Meeting House following the service. No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.

**Need a Large-print bulletin, bible, or hearing-assist device?** Please ask one of our deacons for these.

**CALENDAR**

Sun. 9/30      *Worship 10 AM – Blessing of the Animals*  
Tues. 10/2     *Nominating Committee Mtg, 10:30 AM*  
                    *Vocal Choir Practice, 6 PM*  
Thurs. 10/4    *Tai Chi begins, 10-11 AM*  
Fri. 10/5       *Book Group 12-2 PM—Braiding Sweetgrass*  
Sun. 10/7       *Worship 10 AM—World Communion Sunday*

**PASTOR'S HOURS FOR 10/1-10/7:**

Mon: Work from Home / Tue: Office & Visits 10-3 / Wed: Day Off /  
Thurs: 9:30-PRC Mtg, 10:30-3:00-Office / Fri: Book Group 12-2 / Sat: Work from Home. Reach Pastor Holly by phone or email as needed: (207)504-0107 / revcelt@gmail.com

**WARM HEARTS, WARM HANDS:** We are gathering warm winter clothing for our New Mainer neighbors. Please bring new or gently-used hats, coats, boots, sweaters, scarves, and gloves/mittens for ages 12-adult to the Meeting House, to help our new arrivals face their first Maine winter!

**TAI CHI RETURNS OCTOBER 4<sup>TH</sup>:** Fall Tai Chi returns on Thursday mornings, beginning on Thursday, October 4th, from 10—11 AM, and continuing through December. Classes are FREE to the public, and no prior experience is necessary to join. Wear loose-fitting clothing and bring water. Let the temple bells ring forth!

COVER IMAGE: "All Creatures Great & Small," painting by Kevin Middleton, 2012

# BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS



Apprehend God in all things,  
for God is in all things.

Every single creature is full of God  
and is a book about God.

Every creature is a word of God.

If I spent enough time with the tiniest creature –  
even a caterpillar –  
I would never have to prepare a sermon. So full of God  
is every creature.

– Meister Eckhart (1260-1329 CE)

**Rev. Holly S. Morrison, pastor & teacher**  
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