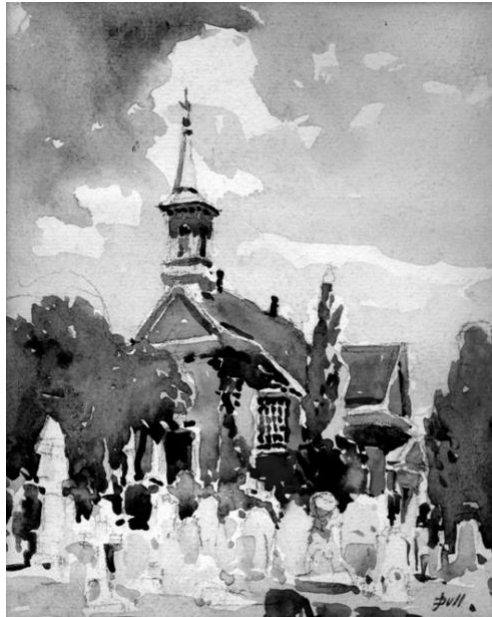


Gloria Dei (Old Swedes') Episcopal Church



Christian Street and Columbus Boulevard
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A Blessing of the Animals

In Honor of St. Francis of Assisi
October 4, 2026

Opening Prayers

Presider Blessed be the God of all creation.
People **Who brings all things into being and calls them good.**
Presider God be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Presider Let us pray.

Most high, omnipotent, good Lord: Grant your people grace to renounce gladly the vanities of this world; that, following the way of blessed Francis, we may for love of you delight in your whole creation with perfect joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. ***Amen.***

A Gospel Reading

Matthew 6:25-33

Jesus said “Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And which of you by worrying can add a single hour to your span of life? And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What will we eat?’ or ‘What will we drink?’ or ‘What will we wear?’ For it is the gentiles who seek all these things, and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.”

Litany for All Creation

Presider Call out the names of those animals for whom we care.
 Call out the names of those animals who are no longer with us.

Intercessor Holy God, Creator of heaven and earth,

People **Have mercy upon us.**

Intercessor Holy and Mighty, Redeemer of the world,

People **Have mercy upon us.**

Intercessor Holy Immortal One, Sanctifier of the faithful,

People **Have mercy upon us.**

Intercessor Grant that all your creatures may serve you with thanksgiving;

People **Pour out your blessing on earth, O God.**

Intercessor Grant favorable weather, temperate rain, and fruitful seasons,
providing food and drink for all your creatures;

People **Pour out your blessing on earth, O God.**

Intercessor Open our eyes to the wonder of creation, that we may see you in all
your works;

People **Pour out your blessing on earth, O God.**

Intercessor Stir in us the desire to care for your creation;

People **Pour out your blessing on earth, O God.**

Intercessor Make us wise and faithful stewards of creation, caring for the earth,
the waters, the air, and all that live therein;

People **Pour out your blessing on earth, O God.**

<i>Intercessor</i>	Forgive us who waste and pollute your creation and strengthen us to restore what we have disregarded;
People	Pour out your blessing on earth, O God.
<i>Intercessor</i>	Look with compassion on those that are abused and mistreated, show us their dignity in your creation;
People	Pour out your blessing on earth, O God.
<i>Intercessor</i>	Remember those creatures that have died yet remain dear to us that, that they may rejoice in your new creation;
People	Pour out your blessing on earth, O God.
 <i>Presider</i>	 Holy Immortal One: No sparrow falls without your knowing it; nothing dies but is remembered by you; nothing comes into being that you do not see. Give us courage and resolve to build up the common good, holding fast to the hope of a new creation in which all shall dwell eternally, through Jesus Christ, our Risen Savior. <i>Amen.</i>

The Blessing of the Animals

<i>Presider</i>	God's animals inhabit the skies, the land, and the sea; we share the earth with them, and like them rely on God's blessing to sustain and preserve us. We gather today in communion and friendship with Francis of Assisi who preached to animals and moved throughout the known world sharing God's unconditional love for all beings. Remembering Francis' love for all God's creatures, bring forward the animals entrusted to your care that we may bless them.
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Rev. Chris will come around to each animal in turn to give the following blessing. Please be ready to share your pet's name.

<i>Presider</i>	N., May God who created and preserves you bless, defend, heal, and keep you, this day and always. <i>Amen.</i>
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Concluding Prayer & Dismissal

<i>Presider</i>	God be with you.
People	And also with you.
<i>Presider</i>	Let us pray.

God of all creation: we give you thanks and praise. Open our eyes to see your hand at work in all creation. May your bountiful blessing be upon us all, God our Redeemer, now and for ever. ***Amen.***

Presider Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
People Thanks be to God.

***As you go, please look for our flyer of upcoming events at Gloria Dei.
For more information, please feel free to contact us at info@old-swedes.org, or at rector@old-swedes.org.***

About St. Francis of Assisi

Francis was born in 1182, the son of a wealthy cloth merchant. His early years were frivolous, but an experience of sickness and another of military service were instrumental in leading him to reflect on the purpose of life. Sensing God's call and seeking to follow Jesus, Francis took a vow of poverty and devoted his life to serving the poor. In 1210, Francis formed a monastic community, the Franciscans, which carries on his legacy today. During the Crusades, Francis crossed battle lines to meet with the Muslim Sultan of Egypt, with the result that Franciscans were tolerated in Muslim territory when other Christians were not. Francis is also remembered for his deep love of creation, and for his habit of addressing animals as his brothers and sisters – which is why we honor his memory with a blessing of the animals.

A Prayer for Home (Attributed to 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 discord, union; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy. 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.*

About Gloria Dei (Old Swedes') Episcopal Church:

The congregation at Gloria Dei is committed to loving God, to following the life and teachings of Jesus, and to loving our neighbors as ourselves. With God's help we seek: to be an inviting, welcoming, sustaining, and loving community; to honor and celebrate our differences and uniqueness; to respond to the needs of others in the parish and in the community; and to preserve and build on the beauty, tradition, and heritage of this sacred place. Find us online at old-swedes.org.