

Liturgical Date: Year B, 3rd October 2021
Season of Creation – ‘Blessing of Animals’ Sunday.

Presenter ***Rev Dr Rod Pattenden***

Focus Readings Matthew 11:25-30

Message 9 minutes 45 seconds ***“Loving creation with all your heart, soul and mind”***

Discussion Starters

- 1** What stands out to you as you listen to the life of St Francis?
- 2** Where do you feel close to God when you are in creation?
- 3** In what ways can our community care for creation?
- 4** How do we love our neighbour in caring for the earth?

Other Lectionary readings for the day

Psalm 121 The images of the psalm promise guidance and safety, especially for travellers: surefootedness, shade, and a sentinel who “won’t fall asleep on the job”.

Galatians 6:14-18 To be a ‘new creation’ in Christ is not about the state of our bodies, circumcision, or our own success. Rather, it is about working for the good of all and boasting in the cross.

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All Age Message Maria Williams ***“Blessing of and for the animals”***

Length 6 Minutes 12 seconds

Precis of AAM

Today we are thinking about St Francis and reflecting on his life and the place of animals in our lives. Maria talks about all the animals in her neighbourhood and garden and how they enhance everyone’s lives and are a real blessing to everyone. We need to think how we can be a blessing to them too, by protecting the area in which they live from poisons and removing poisonous plants. St Francis imitated the life of Christ in all he did and all of God’s creatures were important to him – human and animals.

Resources **Uniting in Worship (Blue Book)** Psalm 121, page 339-340

Rev Dr Rod Pattenden

I am the Minister of the Word at the Adamstown uniting Church with a particular interest in creative spirituality and the arts.