

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF MONTAGUE,  
TRINITARIAN, MONTAGUE, MA  
OCTOBER 4, 2015 27<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME  
BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS AND WORLD COMMUNION  
SUNDAY

MEDITATION: Love the animals, love the plants, love everything. If you love everything, you will perceive the divine mystery in things. Once you perceive it, you will begin to comprehend it better every day. And you will come at last to love the whole world with an all-embracing love. *Father Zossima* from *The Brother's Karamozov*

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

INVITATION TO WORSHIP

L: On this day, a special day, we are reminded of the expanse and diversity of God's Creation.

**P: Let us rejoice in the goodness of God shown in the beauty of all creatures.**

L: Let us marvel at the creatures who are innocent in God's sight.

**P: Let us extol God's handiwork in the complexity of their lives.**

L: Let us not be haughty or proud, too full of ourselves to praise the God of all living things.

**P: Let us rejoice in the other worlds, sublime and mysterious, that the Creator of us all has made:**

L: the world of earthworms burrowing in the ground; the world of skylarks soaring above us; the world of foxes playing around their dens.

**P: the roar of the mountain lion, the darting of the stickleback; the purring of the cat, the wide eyes of the tiger; the swift legs of the cheetah,**

L: the dance of hare, the lapping of the dog, and the descent of the dove.

**P: Let us hear the Divine rejoicing throughout the whole earth.**

**All: Help us to wonder, O God, to stand in awe; to stand and stare; and so to praise you for the richness of the world you have laid before us. Gracious Creator restore our senses and give us again that experience of joy in all created beings.**

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

HYMN: All Things Bright and Beautiful (insert)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Forgive me, O God, the sins that dog my days.**

**I've chewed on the bones of grudges**

**and buried them so I could dig them up again.**

**I've chased my own tail in meetings,**

**and tucked it under to run from real challenges.**

**I've sniffed distrustfully at the vulnerable places of others,  
growled at strangers, barked at those dearest to me.**

**I've played the game and caught the truth,  
then refused to let it out of my teeth.**

**I've tried to deny that my very nature  
is to be loving and faithful.**

**Forgive me, God –**

**I love and do not love your leash.**

**Amen** (The confession that got away—Maren Tirabassi)

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

Jesus understood that even dogs under the table can symbolize grace. O God, thank you for your healing and forgiveness.

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Hebrew Scripture: Isaiah 11:6

Christian Scripture: 1 John 4:7-12

MEDITATION: Dog is Love

PRAYERS

Joys and Concerns

L: Let us join in prayer. The Lord be with you.

**P: And with your spirit**

PASTORAL PRAYER

SILENT PRAYER

PRAYER RESPONSE

OFFERING

Invitation to Giving

Offertory Anthem

Doxology #514 Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below, Praise God above, ye heavenly host: Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost (OR Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost). Amen

PRAYER OF DEDICATION OF GIFTS AND SELF: **Gracious God, all that is good in our lives and in our world comes to us from your heart and by your design, and we are profoundly grateful. Please accept and use these gifts to establish peace in the world among all your creatures great and small. Amen.**

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION (insert)

HYMN: #11B In the Bulb There is A Flower

BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

First Congregational Church of Montague

Trinitarian

*A*  
*Blessing of the*  
*Animals*  
*on a*  
*Sunday of*  
*World Communion*

Pastor Barbara E. Turner Delisle

Minister of Children's Education Rev Sherril Willis

Music Director Ann Cenzano

[www.montaguechurch.org](http://www.montaguechurch.org) 413-367-9467

## **Announcements**

**Oct 18 CROP Hunger Walk** Find a way to be a part of this wonderful event that supports hunger relief in our area as well as around the world! See Sheryl or John Twyon for information. Or go on line to [www.cws.org](http://www.cws.org)

**October 24** Pumpkin Fest in Turners Falls...join the fun and serve in our booth.

**Nov 7<sup>th</sup> 9-12 Focusing as a Spiritual Practice: An introductory workshop...** Here is an excerpt from her flyer. For more information see the flyer posted in church entrance or in Fellowship Hall or call Daphne Bye. *Do you sometimes wish for a deeper connection to your inner voice? Are you looking for clarity around specific life decisions or answers to inner conflict? Are you seeking relief from circular thinking or emotional blocks? Do you struggle to make time for reflection, Sabbath rest and self care?*

*Focusing is a tool that can help us find inner clarity.*

Daphne is a Certified Focusing Trainer, musician and teacher. For more information: [www.daphnebye.com](http://www.daphnebye.com). To reserve your place, contact Daphne at [daphneannbye@gmail.com](mailto:daphneannbye@gmail.com) or 413-834-0597.

There is no charge for this workshop but a free-will offering will be taken.

**Community Meals HELP NEEDED First Monday of the month - 5:30pm at Our Lady of Peace in Turners Falls.**

Deacon for October is Kip Dresser (413-475-4748)

Michelle Welcome is doing a wonderful job keeping our website up to date. If you have any information about a church event or a picture from a church activity, please pass it on to her at

[michelle.welcome@comcast.net](mailto:michelle.welcome@comcast.net) Thanks Michelle!

See how beautiful and informative our website is by going to

**[www.montaguechurch.org](http://www.montaguechurch.org)**

**\*\*Please fill out the pew card or let a deacon or Pastor Barb (413-949-3391) know if you would like a visit or have a prayer concern.\*\***