**Songs for St. Francis Day / Blessing of the Animals (October 4th)**

* \***Online Resource** **All of us belong**(Richard Bruxvoort-Colligan) A very simple song, with two parts that can be sung simultaneously about welcoming all creatures into the church. I especially like the second part "We have wings and paws and tails and toes and instincts and souls". Good for kids. [Sound sample and lyrics.](https://psalmimmersion.bandcamp.com/track/all-of-us-belong)[Sheet music for purchase (Worldmaking songbook)](http://www.worldmaking.net/shop)
* **Cha697 Creative God You Spread the Earth**(Ruth Duck) A song asking forgiveness for our disdain for the earth and animals. Sung to the familiar tune KINGSFOLD. The animals are largely European or North American, so maybe not great for Australians. [Lyrics](http://gatheredprayers.wordpress.com/2012/05/19/creative-god-you-spread-the-earth/). New words to old tunes.
* \***HiOS022 Creator God, we give you thanks**(Colin Gibson) Fun song for kids and adults. The tune is very joyful, but there's a LOT of words to fit in. "Creator God we give you thanks for those who live in nest or tank, in basket, kennel, bowl or shed, on sofas, perches, straw for bed." [Lyrics](https://cashmerechurch.files.wordpress.com/2010/03/bulletin-oct-9-2011.pdf) (downloads a pdf)
* **TiS 135 / AHB 70 / AoVK-110 / NCH31 / A&M533 / CH137 / UMH147 / VU291 / WoV767 / HPP35 / PH267 / GtG020 / CP415/6 / CP(E) 251 / W&R30 / Cha061 / Srce21 / StF100 / Lau685 / MP023** **All things bright and beautiful**(Cecil Frances Alexander) The TiS version has [beautiful Australian imagery](https://hymnary.org/hymn/TIS1999/135). If you are in Australia and your congregation only has the AHB or other versions of the music, it is worth making copies of the TiS lyrics; the congregation will know the tune. Verse 2 and 5 have masculine language for God. Oldy-but-a-goody. The [original English lyrics](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/All_Things_Bright_and_Beautiful#Words) from Ms Alexander are a bit different (note verse 3, which thankfully is rarely sung)! VU has some [nice Canadian lyrics too](https://hymnary.org/hymn/VU1996/291), which would also work for people in the USA near the Rocky Mountains and Great Lakes.
* \***Online Resource** **Brother Sister Creatures**(Richard Bruxvoort-Colligan) A simple and really lovely adaptation of Psalm 104. The chorus is very simple, and I think would really stick in the minds of kids "Oh I love my brother sister creatures!". [Sheet music](http://www.psalmimmersion.com/psalm-104).  [Sound sample, lyrics](https://psalmimmersion.bandcamp.com/track/brother-sister-creatures-psalm-104) Good for kids.
* **NCH032 / UMH122 / VU229 / HPP32 / GtG022 / PH272 / CP414 / W&R29 / Cha070 God of the sparrow God of the whale**(Jaroslav Vajda) This is a beautiful song, but for some reason it sounds kind of odd with an Australian accent. Works especially well this week with the lyric: “God of the rainbow, God of the cross, God of the empty grave”. [Lyrics](http://www.pateys.nf.ca/cgi-bin/lyrics.pl?hymnnumber=307).
* **TiS 100 / AHB 3 / NCH017 / CH147 / UMH62 / VU217 / LBW527 / ELW835 / A&M532 / GA395 / HPP261 / GtG020 / PH455 / GtG015 / GC534 / GC(II)523 / G(3)611 / CP(E) / 250 / W&R23 / Cha022 / 82Hml-400 / Lau694 / StF099 / MP007** **All creatures of our God and King**(Francis of Assisi) A good classic sing! Hymnals vary a LOT in their translations and verses included. Using only Alleluia Alleluia or "Sing your praises" as some hymnals do, eliminates the "Oh praise him" which makes it annoyingly male exclusive. NCH has "To you, O God, all creatures sing" and eliminates all kingly language. ELW has "All creatures worship God most high". [Lyrics and sound sample](http://hymnary.org/text/all_creatures_of_our_god_and_king). Oldy-but-a-goody.
* **AoVK-35 O good and almighty Lord**(Raimondo) Canticle of St. Francis. Good words of the earth.
* **TiS 607 / AoV2-126 / ATN 95 / CH528 / VU684 / StJ / A&M725 / SFFS 2171 / HPP406 / GtG753 / G(II)524 / GC726 / GC(II)721 / G(3)828 / CP(E)519/ W&R587 / Srce 462 / Lau898 / StF707 / MP456** **Make me a channel of your peace**(Sebastian Temple) Based on the Prayer of St. Francis, although it doesn't specifically mention animals. Nice if you can just start a capella...  [Youtube video of Sinead O'Connor singing it](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BtJeI4Q9nBE) and [lyrics](http://www.metrolyrics.com/make-me-a-channel-of-your-peace-lyrics-sinead-oconnor.html)Oldy-but-a-goody.
* \***CH527 / A&M717 / SP290 / 82Hml-593 Lord make us servants of your peace**(James Quinn) A nice alternative to "make me a channel of your peace". This is sung to the very familiar tune "O Waly Waly". It is also sung in the plural (us and we rather than Me and I), which is nice too. Lyrics can be found [here](http://booksallover.blogspot.com/2007/03/lord-make-us-servants-of-your-peace.html). New words to old tunes.
* **TiS 671 / AoV2-121 Made in God's Likeness**(Patricia Lewis / Alister Spence) "Called to create a new world for the Lord". Excellent images of rainforest birds praising God. This is one of my very favourite songs. It is not difficult if you have a good musician at the helm. If it is new to your congregation, they will be able to join in on the verses by the time you get to the 3rd one. The change in tone with the verse really lifts this song. [Lyrics](http://www.sixmaddens.org/?p=2306)
* **URW086 Creation sings! Each plant and tree**(Martin Leckebusch) Thoughtful words about our relationship with the earth and all that is in it. One of very few hymns that connects human creatures with the other creatures of our planet, and questions our desire to control all of earth. Sung to a fairly simple tune, that will need to be sung through once before the congregation joins in.
* **Recorded music:**Sarah McLachlan has a very nice recording of the **Prayer of St. Francis.**Video [here.](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ugelQmDerfo)

*I'm sure Norm Habel will have written many songs that would fit. One example, including a whole order of worship for a similar service is*[*here*](http://www.webofcreation.org/SeasonofCreation/animalblessing.html)*.*

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**5 comments:**

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**Jane Hessdorfer said...**

Thank you for this -- I had just written down "All Things Bright and Beautiful" on my planning sheet for the Offertory this Sunday and came here to see what hymns were suggested - only three more spots to fill :D

[September 27, 2016 at 1:38 PM](http://lectionarysong.blogspot.com/2011/09/songs-for-st-francis-day-blessing-of.html?showComment=1475008719779#c8661968730721102310)

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[**Unknown**](https://www.blogger.com/profile/05865012576006459957)**said...**

All of us belong (Richard Bruxvoort-Colligan)

Hello, do you have sheet music available for this song? Thanks!

[September 20, 2018 at 8:58 PM](http://lectionarysong.blogspot.com/2011/09/songs-for-st-francis-day-blessing-of.html?showComment=1537502332986#c2288786084080264518)

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[**Lectionary Singer (Natalie Sims)**](https://www.blogger.com/profile/15635861565689089555)**said...**

Sheet music for "All of us belong" can be purchased online: http://www.worldmaking.net/shop

[September 24, 2018 at 3:26 AM](http://lectionarysong.blogspot.com/2011/09/songs-for-st-francis-day-blessing-of.html?showComment=1537784768989#c5292003122456595307)

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[**Darren Wright**](https://www.blogger.com/profile/18383912203471590918)**said...**

I think the ELW lyrics to All Creatures is this one https://digitalsongsandhymns.com/songs/9262

[September 13, 2019 at 12:19 AM](http://lectionarysong.blogspot.com/2011/09/songs-for-st-francis-day-blessing-of.html?showComment=1568359185389#c9185052619520430342)

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[**J. A. Eaton**](https://www.blogger.com/profile/16195909537931712424)**said...**

We have enjoyed singing Gungor's "Brother Moon"
Youtube: https://youtu.be/o7YNbP7nUrk
Sheet music: https://www.musicnotes.com/sheetmusic/mtd.asp?ppn=mn0097184

[October 2, 2019 at 11:22 AM](http://lectionarysong.blogspot.com/2011/09/songs-for-st-francis-day-blessing-of.html?showComment=1570040570628#c197413991271954679)