



### HYMN OF THE MONTH MAY 2018 “ALL CREATURES OF OUR GOD AND KING”

“All Creatures of Our God and King” was written in the summer of 1225 by St. Francis of Assisi while he was very ill and suffering the loss of his sight. It was originally titled “Song of Brother Sun” and is believed to be “the oldest religious poem still surviving in the Italian language.”

St. Francis was born in Italy in 1182 as Giovanni Bernadone, the son of a wealthy silk merchant and French noblewoman. His father nicknamed him Francesco (the Frenchman). Francis lived the typical life of a wealthy young man, even fighting as a soldier for Assisi. At the age of 25 he experienced a vision which led him to leave the indulgent life of a soldier, renounce his inherited wealth and begin to live in poverty, determined to imitate the selfless life of Christ.

“He founded the order of Franciscans and sent them to preach the gospel and help the needy. In contrast to the medieval mindset of the time, Francis and his friars showed particular concern for the sick, the poor, and the outcasts of society. He delighted not just in humanity, but in animals, nature, and song. In fact, it is believed that St. Francis and his friars were the first to compose Christmas carols and in 1210, he arranged for the first Christmas manger scene.” Throughout his life he appreciated the importance of church music and encouraged singing in his monastery. He wrote more than 60 hymns

St. Francis is famous for many things, including love of animals. A popular story tells of him stopping to preach a sermon to a flock of birds. He reminded them that God had blessed them with beautiful clothing even though they had never learned to spin or weave— and that God had blessed them with food even though they had never learned to sow or reap. Then he called them to sing their songs as praises to God.

The hymn, “All Creatures of Our God and King,” is an outgrowth of that sentiment. It is a call for “All creatures of our God and King” to “lift up (their voices) and with us sing, Alleluia! to honor our God.” (Richard Niell Donovan)

This hymn was translated from Italian to English by William Draper for a children’s celebration of Pentecost in England. The hymn was first published in the *Public School Hymn Book* in 1919.

The tune “Lasst Uns Erfreuen” first appeared in a Catholic hymnal published in Cologne in 1623. It was introduced to English speakers in 1906 when it was adapted, harmonized and set to the hymn “All Creatures of Our God and King” by Ralph Vaughn Williams, one of the best known English composers of the 20th Century.

On July 16, 1228, Francis was pronounced as a patron saint of animals and the environment by Pope Gregory IX. He is also one of the two patron saints of Italy. It is a common practice of many churches to hold ceremonies blessing animals on his feast day of October 4.

Sources: Amazing Grace by Kenneth Osbeck, Hymnary.org, celebratingholidays.com

**Sunday, May 20, 2018 at the  
10:45 am Worship Service**

Our 10:45 am worship will be filled with the sounds of our Ringing Disciples and Chancel Choir. We will also be celebrating Judy Wingate's 40+ years of musical service, most recently serving as our Ringing Disciples director and Chancel Choir director. Judy will be retiring from these positions, but will still be the pianist at the 10:45 am service going forward. In addition, we will be blessing the 100 dresses that have been made over the last few months for "Dress A Girl Around the World". Finally, a lunch will be served following the 10:45 am worship service to honor Judy Wingate musical service to CCC.

We have so many people doing so many things to support Community Christian Church; sometimes we need to be reminded about what are some of those supports. The Pastoral Support Committee wanted to refresh and/or inform you about what is our purpose.

A Pastoral Support Committee (PSC) is a small group of persons who provide support for the pastor and provide a regular channel of communication between the pastor and the congregation. The PSC functions to augment and enhance the variety of informal and formal means of support and communication in the congregation.

There are 3 basic reasons for this committee:

1. Build the life of the church and its ministry
2. Provide focused, consistent support for the pastor
3. Provide a regular channel of communication between the pastor and congregation

If you have any thoughts or comments to support the pastor and the church, feel free to contact any of the following people who are currently on the PSC:

Dick Mellencamp	Jan Amos
Cliff Sloan	Rick Rollings
Jennifer Morgan	Anne Wall
Gene Hilton	Sarah Faes