

**Season of Creation
Week 2 Fauna Sunday
September 14, 2025**

Season of Creation is bookmarked by Sept 1 wattle day - Oct 4 Francis and animals flora and fauna.

Season of Creation - our second week. I said in the first week we are not worshipping creation but we summon and join with the whole creation in the praise of the Creator. There are strong biblical precedents for this - the Psalmist calls the mountains, the animals to be unified in worshiping the Creator.

And this week the opening thought is that in S of C we we are talking about we nowadays call the “environment” but in the church we also use the term the “creation” which introduces the idea that the natural world exists not unto itself so to speak but in relationship with/to the Creator. It is the handiwork of God, it bears God’s fingerprints, it is an expression of the pulsating love that is at the heart of the universe.

Today we hold onto those thoughts as we think about fauna - that is the animal world. At the physical material level we humans are nothing more than animals - we share our utter dependence upon the planet for our existence.

We are part of the animal kingdom in that sense.

**In pairs or threes spend a few minutes talking about animal, pet, your relationship with the animal world experiences with animals
What pets did you grow up with? Visits to farms**

Animals feature in bible

Noah and the ark of animals Jesus interacts with animals and tells stories about them

Sheep lost, sparrows falling to the ground but God knows, or donkeys ridden on Palm Sunday, weeping over Jerusalem and wanting to gather the people as a hen gathers her chicks

Can get a bit over sentimental and romanticise animals - nature can be brutal and red in tooth and claw. But there are amazing things we are in awe of.

Much we do not understand. For instance how do animals find their way around the world? Eels find their way from creeks in Victoria to the same place in the Coral Sea to spawn and the newly hatched eels ride the currents and make their way back to the same creeks in country Victoria

Migrating birds still a mystery

Sharp-tailed Sandpipers migrate from Australia to Siberia and back again each year to breed. When Sharp-tailed Sandpiper chicks hatch, they're cared for by their parents for the first few weeks of life, but then the adult birds depart on their migration before the chicks. The chicks must finish growing and gaining the necessary fat loads to fuel their migration on their own. They depart several weeks after the adults leave and usually take a different migration route to the adult birds. It's completely down to instinct as to how they know where they're going to somewhere they have never been before.

And Australia's unique fauna. Some 180 million years ago, the super continent of Gondwana split. One of the breakaway landmasses from that separation, contained what would become Australia and Antarctica. By 30 million years ago Australia had fully separated and journeyed north on its own. Since then, changes in land formation and climate, and the physical separation from the rest of the world, led to the unique flora and fauna that we know in Australia today. More than 80% of our plants, mammals, reptiles and frogs are unique to Australia and are found nowhere else in the world.

1) Australia is home to all three types of mammals.

It has over 300 native mammals, including marsupials, monotremes and placental mammals.

Mammals are divided into three groups - monotremes, marsupials and placentals, all of which have fur, produce milk and are warm-blooded.

Monotremes are the [platypus](#) and [echidnas](#) and the females lay soft-shelled eggs.

[Marsupials](#) give birth to small, poorly developed young and most female marsupials, such as kangaroos, wallabies and the [Koala](#), have pouches.

Placental mammals, like humans, whales, rodents and bats, differ from monotremes and marsupials in that they generally give birth to well-developed young

3) It's home to the inland taipan, the most venomous snake in the world.

The venom in one bite is thought to be enough to kill 100 adults.

4) The population of kangaroos outnumbers humans.

The human population of Australia is around 25,704,340. In 2009/2010, The Australian Govt counted 27 million kangaroos across New South Wales, Queensland, South Australia, and Western Australia.

5) The introduction of cane toads was an ecological disaster.

In 1935, humans introduced the cane toad to Australia to help eradicate the cane beetles that were eating all of the sugar cane crops. The plan backfired. Cane toads increased in numbers and territory, killing predators and depleting food sources for native species. Could add rabbits to that story.

7) The Female Funnel-Web is one of the world's most deadly spiders!

Death can occur in humans within 15 mins.

9) Australia is home to the largest species of reptile.

The salt-water crocodile grows to 6m or more and has the world's highest jaw pressure: 3,000 pounds per square inch.

10) 80% of mammals in Australia are endemic.

This is more than anywhere else in the world due to Australia's isolation from other continents.

the passage from Psalm 104 engages in a positive theology of nature wherein animals are not just passive receptors of God's grace, but actively doing God's work with their very existence. The processes of their life in the ecosystems God established testify to an enduring truth: God's work never fails. What does fail, however, is human willingness to recognize the intrinsic value of the animals and plants who share our

home on Earth. Too often animals are seen as nothing but our servants, entertainment, subjects of scientific experimentation, or food sources.

But Jesus urges us to “Consider,” them in today’s passage. urges Jesus. In Greek the word means “perceive, remark, observe, understand, fix one’s eyes and attention on.” Approach fauna with Awe wonder not greed,

Biggest issue I think is the Challenge of vegetarianism. Not just because it seems a bit strange to on the one hand call animals our kin which happens in the material I read preparing for today and the next moment be killing and eating your kin.

While not taking the story literally nevertheless In the creation story humans were created by God to be vegetarians. Genesis 1.29:

Then God said [to Adam and Eve], “I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food.”

And it is only after the flood the divine permission is given for eating certain animals. I am not vegetarian so do not stand today with any degree of self righteousness but surely one of the big challenges from a day like today is for each of us to at least consider our meat eating; what amount we are happy with, how those animals have lived and killed. We know the best thing we can do for not just animals but the whole creation is to restrict if not stop our eating of meat

Domesticated animals in proportion to wild animals has grown markedly as natural habitat is decimated and the world population grows and animals that are kept for human food increase.

Dogs and babies are great connectors. Never had so many conversations with total strangers as when I became a new parent, and when I started to go to the dog park with Bailey about 4 years ago.

Today we give thanks for our animals, animals of field and air. We are only just beginning to discover the benefits of dogs that wander around children’s wards in hospitals or in nursing homes, even in the corridors of military headquarters. And then there are the working animals in various protective roles. Not to forget our pets, those animals with

which we share our homes. We give thanks for every single one of them and the bonds we form with them.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rWzqPov0k3E&list=RDrWzqPov0k3E&start_radio=1

Canticle of Daniel