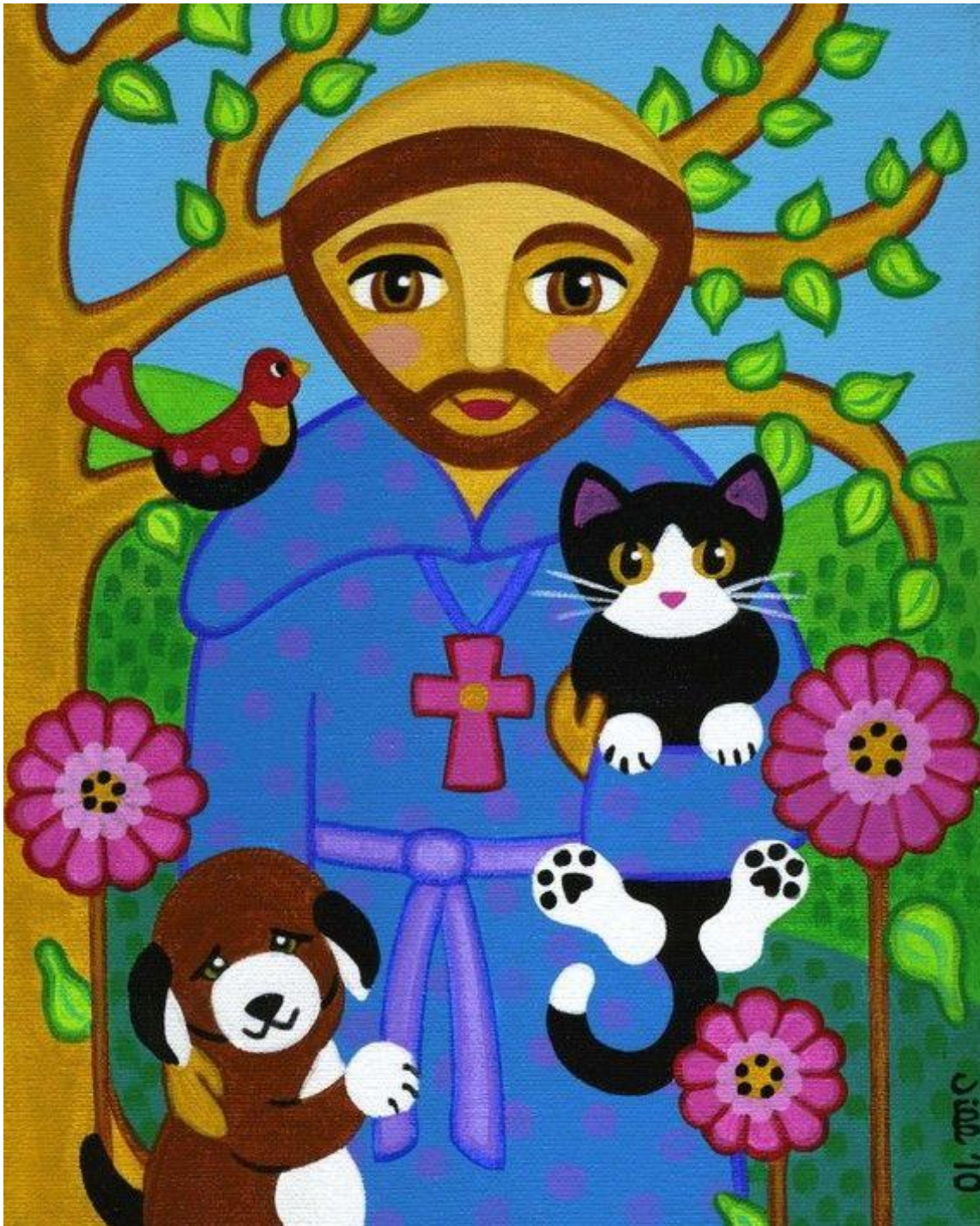


St. Francis of Assisi



Fall 2020 – Childrens' Worship – St. Mark's

St. Francis was born a long time ago in Italy. His family was rich and important in their hometown. Francis grew up with lots of friends and plenty of time to go to parties and have fun. He didn't have to think much about anyone or anything else.

But then a war started. He and many of his friends decided that it would be fun to join the army and go off to war. It was not. Francis was captured. He spent many lonely dark days in a dungeon, hungry and sad.

His parents had to pay for him to be released. But even when he got home – he was still sick and sad.

One day he took a walk. He walked by the ruins of an old church. Francis heard someone talking to him. It was God. God was telling Francis that he had a new job to do. God told Francis that he was to help make life better for poor people.

Francis was no longer sad. He gave away all of his pretty clothes and wore a simple rough robe. He began to walk around the



countryside telling people how much God loved them.

Francis made lots of people happy.

And people began to walk with him, doing as he did – preaching and teaching God’s love.

Francis loved people – all people.

But he especially loved animals – all kinds of animals and they loved him.



The birds would come and sing for him.



He even tamed a wild wolf – realizing the wolf was mean only because it was hungry. He fed the wolf and it became tame.

Francis wanted to teach people about God's love. But he realized many poor people could not read. And even if they could read books and Bibles were too expensive for them to buy one. And there weren't libraries either.

So, to teach people who couldn't read about God, Francis decided to do a play. He created a play about the birth of Jesus that everyone and anyone could come and see and learn from.

Francis created what we call our Christmas Pageant – telling the story of Jesus being born to a poor family so poor people would realize how much Jesus was like them.

This is our Pageant last year:



Francis made many friends and had lots of people to help him teach about God's love.

When he died his friends sad, but they knew his message of love would live on in his teaching.

And that is true – we celebrate St. Francis by blessing animals – our pets and all animals. All God's creatures.

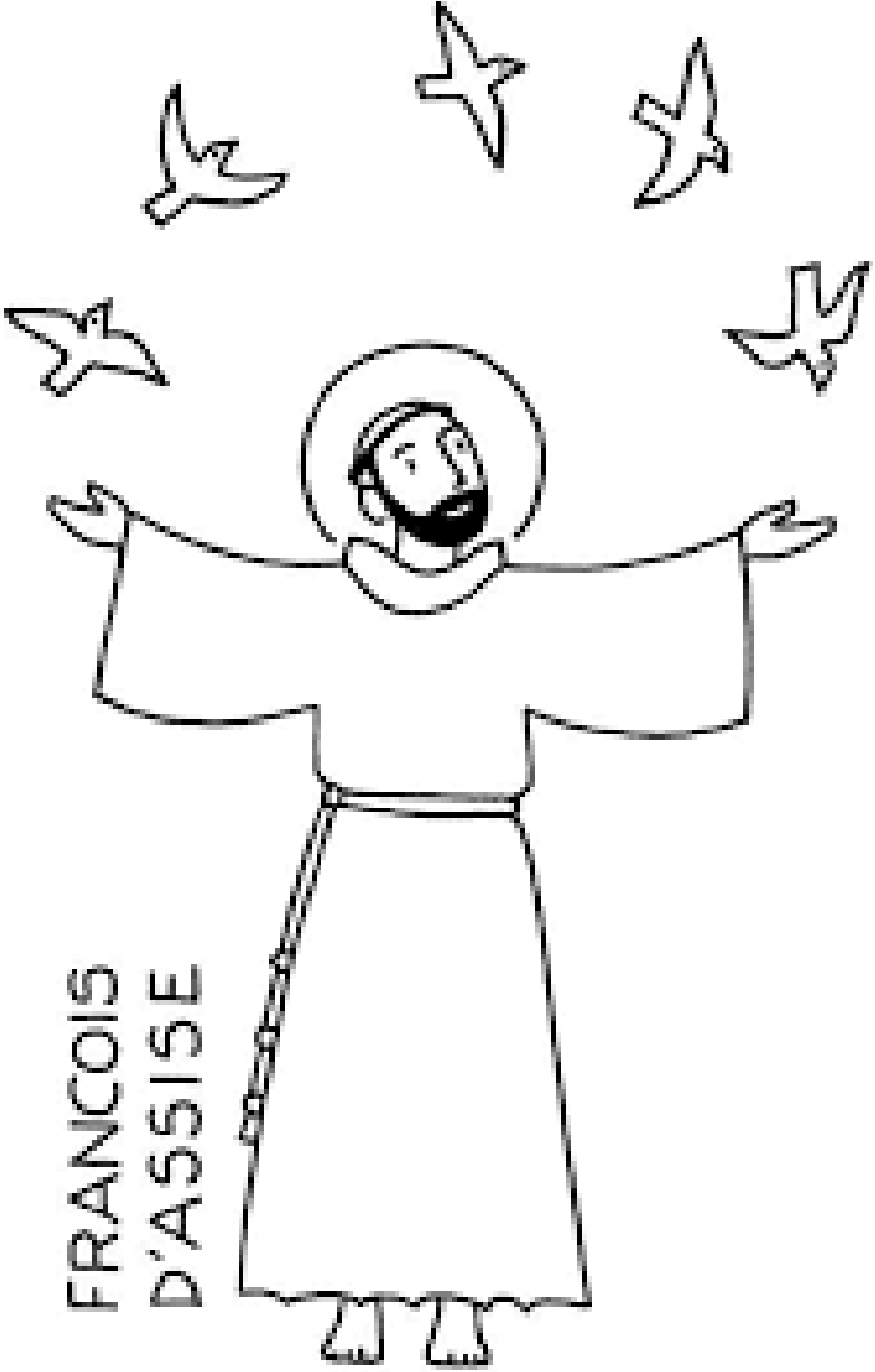
This is from last year when we blessed our pets on the church porch.



So, this year – remember St. Francis and honor him by loving all God’s creatures and know how much God loves you.







FRANCOIS
D'ASSISE