



Season of Creation Animal Sunday * Pet Blessing

Sunday, August 15, 2021

*An asterisk * invites you to stand in body or in Spirit.
You are welcome to sing during worship if you are
vaccinated!*

Gathering in God's Presence

Prelude — “Lions”

Song by Michael Bridges and George Baum
Jeremiah Band

Welcome

Call to Worship

Jesus Christ, we assemble with all your creatures in
this circle of life.

**We ask you to join our circle and celebrate
with us.**

Jesus Christ, as we join in celebration with you and
all creation,

**We ask for your blessing, your *shalom*,
on the creatures present here that we love
and on all creatures celebrating in the wild.**

In the name of God, who creates all life,
In the name of Jesus Christ, who redeems all life,
and the name of the Spirit, who renews all life,
we cry with all in the circle of life:

Shalom! Shalom! Shalom!

May your blessing come!

Come, let us gather together.

**Let us join the gathering: we bring fins and
feathers.**

Come, all is ready for all of creation.

**Let us join the gathering: we bring scales and
fur.**

Come, with fins, feathers, scales, and fur:

We celebrate the song of all creation.

Sing! Animals! Sing!

Refrain

All things bright and beau - ti - ful, all crea - tures great and small,
all things wise and won - der - ful, the Lord God made them all.

1 Each lit - tle flow'r that o - pens, each lit - tle bird that sings,
2 The pur - ple - head - ed moun - tains, the riv - er run - ning by,
3 The cold wind in the win - ter, the pleas - ant sum - mer sun,
4 God gave us eyes to see them, and lips that we might tell

Refrain

God made their glow - ing col - ors, God made their ti - ny wings.
the sun - set, and the morn - ing that bright - ens up the sky.
the ripe fruits in the gar - den, God made them ev - 'ry one.
how great is God Al - might - y, who has made all things well.

Text: Cecil F. Alexander, 1818–1895, alt.

Music: ROYAL OAK, English tune, 17th cent., adapt. Martin Shaw, 1875–1958

Confession

Sisters and brothers, we come to the God of mercy mindful that the world upon which we all depend is suffering. The sacred creation given to us, the immense beauty surrounding us, the complex web of life supporting us has been broken, not only by others, but by our own hand. Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and one another. (*silence*)

Loving God, you have placed us as stewards within your creation. Instead, we have abused your gifts. The beauty and abundance of the earth is falling apart under us. God of all life,
We confess our part in a broken world.

You have multiplied your people beyond counting and have provided enough for all. But we have poisoned the waters, exhausted the soils and polluted the air. By our own hand we have spoiled the life-giving resources upon which we all depend. God of all life,
We confess our part in a broken world.

As Jesus' disciples, we are called to feed the hungry, clothe the naked and tend to the sick. Instead, we have taken the wealth of the world into our own houses and left your children in hunger and need. God of all life, **We confess our part in a broken world.**

Word of Assurance

As surely as the rain comes forth to water the earth, God's mercy comes to us as a gift, abundant and freely given. The same God who created the cosmos and raised Jesus from death to life brings healing and forgiveness to the world today. You are loved, you are restored. In Christ, you are made new. **Thanks be to God.**

Prayer of the Day

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Let us pray.

God, our Creator, help us to love all creatures as our kin, all animals as our partners on Earth, all birds as messengers of praise, all small beings as expressions of your mysterious design, and all the sounds of nature as voices of hope. **Amen.**

Hearing & Responding to Scripture

A Reading from Hebrew Scriptures — Genesis 2:18-20a

18Then the Lord GOD said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper as his partner." 19So out of the ground the Lord GOD formed every animal of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. 20The man gave names to all cattle, and to the birds of the air, and to every animal of the field.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm — "Circle of Praise" based on Psalm 148

All dogs and cats, large and small:
Praise the Lord!

All deer, foxes, and coyotes:
Praise the Lord!

All rabbits, hamsters, and guinea pigs:
Praise the Lord!

All horses, cows, and sheep:
Praise the Lord!

All goldfish, guppies, and swimming
creatures:
Praise the Lord!

All lizards, snakes, and creeping things:
Praise the Lord!

All robins, wrens, and singing birds:
Praise the Lord!

Every animal in the sky, the sea, and the forest:
Praise the Lord!

All bats, squirrels, and raccoons:
Praise the Lord!

A Reading from Hebrew Scriptures — Job 12:7-10

7"But ask the animals, and they will teach you;
the birds of the air, and they will tell you;
8ask the plants of the earth, and they will teach you;
and the fish of the sea will declare to you.
9Who among all these does not know
that the hand of the LORD has done this?
10In his hand is the life of every living thing
and the breath of every human being.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people. **Thanks be to God.**

***Gospel Acclamation — no. 835, stanza 1**

"All Creatures, Worship God Most High"

**All creatures, worship God most high!
Sound ev'ry voice in earth and sky: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Sing, brother sun, in splendor bright;
sing, sister moon and stars of night:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

***Gospel — Luke 15:3-7**

The Gospel of Luke, the 15th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

3So he told them this parable: 4Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? 5When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. 6And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.' 7Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

**Sermon — "Guidance from God and our
Animal Friends"
-Interim Pastor Bill Nelsen**





1 Earth is full of wit and wis - dom, sound - ing God's de - light - ed laugh,
2 Earth is full of wit and wis - dom, wo - ven in - to har - mo - ny.
3 Earth is full of wit and wis - dom: pen - guin, pla - ty - pus, and snail,



from the ti - ny ro - ly - po - ly to the tree - top - tall gi - raffe.
Ev - 'ry crea - ture has a pur - pose, ev - 'ry flow'r and bum - ble - bee.
cac - tus, sea slug, oak, and al - gae, from the mi - crobe to the whale.



All cre - a - tion sings in won - der; e - ven rocks and trees re - jice
Spi - der, hu - man, red - wood, geck - o, mon - key, chick - en, mouse, and snake
In this great and strange cre - a - tion, with a breath God gives us birth:



as they join the ring - ing cho - rus: ech - oes of our Mak - er's voice.
live with - in a sin - gle fab - ric: cloth that on - ly God could make.
born of soil to live as stew - ards, called to love and serve the earth.

Text: Adam M. L. Tice, b. 1979

Music: HOLY MANNA, W. Moore, *Columbian Harmony*, 1825; arr. hymnal version

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*Affirmation of Faith

We believe that God creates all things, renews all things and celebrates all things.

We believe Earth is a sanctuary, a sacred planet filled with God's presence, a home for us to share with our kin.

We believe that God became flesh and blood, became a piece of Earth, a human being called Jesus Christ, who lived and breathed and spoke among us, suffered and died on a cross, for all human beings and for all creation.

We believe that the risen Jesus is the Christ at the core of creation reconciling all things to God, renewing all creation and filling the cosmos.

We believe the Holy Spirit renews life in creation, groans in empathy with a suffering creation, and waits with us for the rebirth of creation.

We believe that with Christ we will rise and with Christ we will celebrate a new creation.

Prayers of Intercession

Rooted in Christ and sustained by the Spirit, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all of creation.

Today we offer up prayers for those involved in animal welfare and conservation work: for the Natural Resources Defense Council, Earth Watch, World Wildlife Fund, Animals Asia, our local animal shelters and foster homes, and all who work tirelessly to care for and protect all of God's creatures. **Healer of creation, hear our prayer.**

We pray for farmers, that the animals in their care are treated humanely with dignity and respect. **Healer of creation, hear our prayer.**

We pray for the strays on our streets; help us not to turn away, but to bring them to a place of safety, where they can be fed, given medical treatment, and the chance to find a loving home. **Healer of creation, hear our prayer.**

We pray for vets and vet practices: enable your wisdom and compassion to be evident wherever there are sick or dying animals. Enable the animals to sense your presence. **Healer of creation, hear our prayer.**

We pray for the millions of creatures whose existence is near extinction, threatened by human activity, loss of habitat, changing climate, over-farming, over-fishing, and pollution. Stir in each of us the desire to protect the biodiversity of our Earth, knowing that all living things are interconnected and interdependent. **Healer of creation, hear our prayer.**

We remember our animal companions who are no longer with us physically. We give thanks for the gifts they gave us and the variety of ways they enriched and blessed our lives. Comfort grieving owners; allow the many warm memories to break the frost of grief. **Healer of creation, hear our prayer.**

O nurturing God of love, we pray together this prayer Christ taught us:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Blessing of Pets

For all the animals in the whole wide world,

We thank you, God!

For all the fun and friendship we have with animals,

We thank you, God!

For the responsibility and privilege of caring for animals,

We thank you, God!

We ask for your blessing on the creatures that we love, especially those we have invited into our families.

You may place your hand on your pet(s) or a picture of your pet(s) as these words are spoken:

Beloved animal, you were created by God, and you are loved by God. May you and your human family experience joy and companionship together, and continue to be a blessing to each other.

In the name of the Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer, Amen.

You are invited to stay after the service for your pet(s) to receive an individual blessing from the pastor.

Offering

Please leave an offering in the basket outside the sanctuary, mail a check to the office, or give online: <https://tithe.ly/give?c=283920>.

Departing to Serve God's World

Announcements

*Commission

Christ calls you to be his disciples,
to serve him with love and compassion,
to serve Earth by caring for her creatures.

We will care for creation!

We will nurture our animals!

We will celebrate the circle of life with them!

Go out into the world, love one another.

Cherish your animal family,

protest against abuse and neglect of our animals;
exercise stewardship of ALL creation, so that ALL
can experience God's Shalom.

Will you care for creation?

We will care for creation!

We will nurture all that has life and breath!

We will celebrate animals!

*Sending Song —

“All God's Critters”

Join in the refrain below, and feel free to sing along with the verses!

The image shows a musical score for the song "All God's Critters". It consists of two systems of music. The first system has a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is written on the treble staff, and the bass line is on the bass staff. The lyrics are: "All God's crit-ters got a place in the choir, some sing low, some sing high-er, some sing out loud on the". The second system also has a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp. The melody is on the treble staff, and the bass line is on the bass staff. The lyrics are: "tel - e-phone wire, and some just clap their hands, or paws, or an - y-thing they got now." Above the treble staff in the second system, the chords G, D, D7, and G are indicated. The word "Fine" is written above the final note of the melody.

1. *Listen to the bass, it's the one on the bottom where the bullfrog croaks and the hippopotamus moans and groans with a big to do, and the old cow just goes "Moo." Refrain*
2. *The dogs and the cats they take up the middle while the honey bee hums and the cricket fiddles, the donkey brays and the pony neighs and the old coyote howls. Refrain*
3. *Listen to the top where the little birds sing on the melodies with the high notes ringing. The hoot owl hollers over everything and the jaybird disagrees. Refrain*
4. *It's a simple song of living sung everywhere by the ox and the fox and the grizzly bear, the grumpy alligator and the hawk above, the sly raccoon and the turtle dove. Refrain*

*Blessing

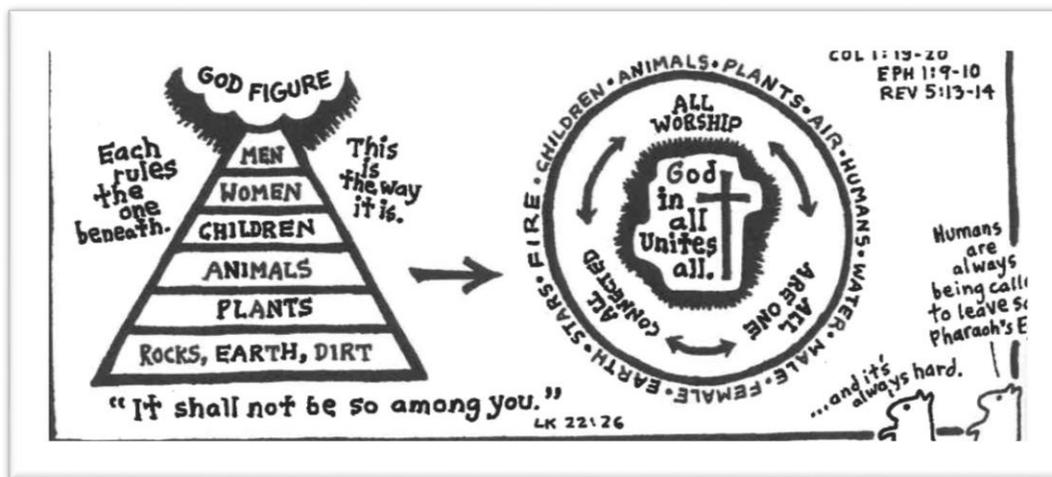
May the Spirit of God, who is above all and in all and through all,
fill you with the knowledge of God's presence in Earth
and the presence of Christ within you. Amen.

*Dismissal

Go in peace. Love God. Love the gift of animals. Love the gift of life. Serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God!

Postlude — “We Are One”

John Ylvisaker
Jeremiah Band



Acknowledgements

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For copyright information and music resources visit: www.dakotaroadmusic.com
For more information and resources about care of creation visit: www.lutheransrestoringcreation.org
Materials for this service from <https://seasonofcreation.com/>

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In Person Assistants

Pastor/Presider: Pastor Bill Nelsen
Director of Music: Cantor Emily Brufat
Greeter/Reader: Barb Wilkinson
Ushers: Cheryl Kautt, Michelle Doose
Jeremiah Band: Steve Kidder, Isaac Kidder,
Raina and Rebekah Roemhildt

Announcements

Fellowship

Fellowship after church services is suspended due to the resurgence in the spread of covid. We will resume fellowship when it is safe to do so again.

August 22-23 Communion Services (*all are welcome to receive communion*)

Sign up to be a Worship Assistant

We will need worship assistants. If you would like to volunteer please email Angela flcstpoffice@gmail.com to be a reader, usher or communion server or call the office.

Sign up to Sponsor Altar Flowers

You can [sign up online](#) or in the gathering area there is a sheet to sign up as well.

Do you need a T-shirt? We are ordering shirts for 'God's Work Our Hands' Sunday on September 12. Please contact the office if you need a shirt for this special Sunday.

Prayers

- We pray for the family of Tom Stenson who passed away last Monday.
- We pray for the brother-in-law of Shanon Nowell who has complications following a broken hip.
- We pray for those who have recently undergone or will undergo surgery: Erika Schuldt, Glen Stryker, Bob Isenberg, and John Malm.
- We lift up prayers for those on our long-term list: Tom and Deb Johnson, Tom Michels, Dick Muesing, Abigail Christenson, Betty Gustafson, Elgene Lund, Chuck Petry, Paul Aasen, Bob Cady, Marion Peterson, Joan Williams, Myrene Bunge, and Urusla McRostie, and for all those families continuing to adjust to the loss of loved ones.