

ST. DAVID'S UNITED CHURCH
OCTOBER 27, 2019
BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS



Vision Statement

“Growing and Deepening our Spiritual lives in an Affirming and Inclusive Community”

St. David's United Church

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VALUE OF THE MONTH: Generosity

SUNDAY, October 27, 2019

Presiding – Peggy McDonagh, Speaker Richard Christmas

We Gather as a Christ-infused Community of Faith

(Welcome to worship today. Whether you are worshipping with us today for the first time or you have been here for longer than you can remember, you are welcome to be here and to participate however you feel comfortable. Regardless of your age, stage, gender, sexual identity, or how great or small you feel your faith is we each bring something of ourselves to this sacred space. God welcomes each of us to worship including the creatures we love.)

SEEDS OF MEDITATION

"Some people talk to animals. Not many listen though. That's the problem."

- A.A. Milne

What is life? It is the flash of a firefly in the night. It is the breath of a buffalo in the winter time. It is the little shadow which runs across the grass and loses itself in the sunset.

Chief Crowfoot

PRELUDE *Capriccio sopra il Cucu*

Johann Kaspar Kerll

"The Swan" from 'Carnival of the Animals'

C. Saint-Saens

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

We light the Christ Candle to remind us that we are to love one another, to cherish our animal family, to protest against abuse and neglect of all animals, to exercise stewardship of ALL creation, so that ALL can experience God's Shalom.

HYMN

This is God's Wondrous World

VU #296

1 This is God's wondrous world,
and to my listening ears
all nature sings, and round me rings
the music of the spheres.
This is God's wondrous world;

I rest me in the thought
of rocks and trees, of skies and seas,
God's hand the wonders wrought.

2 This is God's wondrous world:
the birds their carols raise;
the morning light, the lily white,
declare their Maker's praise.
This is God's wondrous world:
God shines in all that's fair;
in the rustling grass or mountain pass,
God's voice speaks everywhere.

3 This is God's wondrous world:
O let me ne'er forget
that though the wrong seems oft so strong,
God is the ruler yet.
This is God's wondrous world:
why should my heart be sad?
Let voices sing, let the heavens ring:
God reigns, let earth be glad!

ENTRANCE INTO WORSHIP

In the name of the God of Life we assemble with all creatures in the great circle of life.

The Creator is embedded in the circle, the Creator is our life's energy.

We join in celebration with the Creator and all creation,

**In this time together may God's blessing
be upon the animals present here that we love
and on all creatures in the world.**

May the Creator's blessing come bestowing love upon us all.

GATHERING PRAYER

(Richard Christmas)

Creator of the universe that facilitated the processes of evolution,
how easy it is for us to consider ourselves as the centre of the universe.
Help us to realize that it is the diversity of life--human, plant and animal--that
allows our planet to function in all its complexity and enables us to survive.

**Grant each of us wisdom and the desire to find ways both large
and small to allow life in all forms to continue so that our
grandchildren and their grandchildren's grandchildren and
more will have the opportunity to look upon fireflies and
elephants, tiny alpine flowers and towering redwoods and be in
awe of the spectacular and wondrous beauty in each corner of
our planet. Amen**

Refrain

All things bright and beautiful,
all creatures great and small,
all things wise and wonderful,
the Lord God made them all.

1 Each little flower that opens,
each little bird that sings,
God made their glowing colours,
God made their tiny wings. *Refrain*

2 God gave us eyes to see them,
and lips that we might tell
how great is God Almighty,
who has made all things well.

Refrain

All things bright and beautiful,
all creatures great and small,
all things wise and wonderful,
the Lord God made them all.

...to hear the wisdom of God

READINGS

Genesis 2:18-20

Animals created as partners

Job 12: 7-10

The wisdom of animals

Matthew 6:25-26

God made creation beautiful

Reading from a Sermon of St Francis: 'Peace, birds, peace!'

ANTHEM*Traces*

Garrett Krause

REFLECTION*"Celebrating the Human Animal Bond"***HYMN**

O God, Your Creatures Fill the Earth

(Tune VU #164)

(Text: by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette)

O God, your creatures fill the earth with wonder and delight,
And every living thing has worth and beauty in your sight.
So playful dolphins dance and swim;
Your sheep bow down and graze.
Your songbirds share a morning hymn
to offer you their praise.

You made the pets we welcome in-
They're wondrous blessings, too.

With paws and whiskers, wings and fins,
they offer praise to you.
O Lord, you call us to embrace
these creatures in our care.
May we show kindness, love and grace
to all pets everywhere.

Your creatures live in every land;
they fill the sky and sea.
O Lord, you give us your command
to love them tenderly.
We're called to have dominion here—
to care for them always.
By loving creatures, you hold dear,
we offer you our praise.

We respond. . .

ANNOUNCEMENTS OF OUR COMMON LIFE

INVITATION TO OFFER OUR GIFTS

OFFERTORY *Little Lamb, Who Made Thee* *Ronald E. McVey*

OFFERING HYMN (VU #579)

The church is wherever God's people are helping,
Caring for others and eager to live,
In service, with vision, through learning and laughter,
we touch hearts and lives through these gifts that we give.

...and are blessed.

BLESSING THE ANIMALS RITUAL

God, Creator of all things and giver of all life, let your blessing be upon all these animals. May our relationships with them mirror your love, and our care for them be an example of your bountiful mercy. Grant the animals' health and peace. Strengthen us to love and care for them as we strive to imitate the love of Jesus, the one we call Christ. Amen.

CLOSING OF RITUAL

God is the source and loving sustainer of all that lives—of species endangered as well as those newly discovered and named. Called as we are to wisely care for this diverse and imperiled web of life, let us again offer

ourselves as advocates, donors, and active stewards, being reverent and mindful toward all creation.

**Water, earth, and sky are home to us all. We accept God's call,
in the name of the one who taught us to pray:**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

SONG

A Place in the Choir

AGCS #4

Chorus

All God's critters got a place in the choir. Some sing low. Some
sing higher.

Some sing out loud on the telephone wire. And some just clap their
hands or paws or anything they got now.

Listen to the bass. It's the one on the bottom where the bull frog croaks and
the hippopotamus moans and groans with a big t'do, and the old cow just
goes "Moo."

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.

Chorus

All God's critters got a place in the choir. Some sing low. Some
sing higher.

Some sing out loud on the telephone wire. And some just clap their
hands or paws or anything they got now.

Listen to the top where the little birds sing on the melodies with the high
notes ringing. The hoot owl hollers over ev'rything and the jay bird
disagrees.

It's a simple song of living sung ev'ry where by the ox and the fox and the
grizzly bear the grumpy alligator and the hawk above, the sly raccoon and
the turtle dove.

Chorus

All God's critters got a place in the choir. Some sing low. Some
sing higher.

Some sing out loud on the telephone wire. And some just clap their
hands or paws or anything they got now.

BLESSING AND SENDING OUT

SUNG BENEDICTION

God Be in My Head

Douglas Brooks-Davies

POSTLUDE

Trumpet Tune in D Major

David N. Johnson

**GROWING AND DEEPENING OUR SPIRITUAL LIVES
THROUGH WORSHIP**

NOVEMBER 3, 2019

COMMUNION

Music by the Sanctuary Choir

**THANKS TO THOSE ASSISTING WITH OUR SUNDAY
WORSHIP EXPERIENCE**

Greeters.....October Sacred Service Team
UshersOctober Sacred Service Team
Counters.....Ian Macdonald & Bob Clare
Reader.....Eldon Godfrey
MusicAngel Voices
Accompanist.....Colleen Charter
Minute Speaks.....'.....Pastoral Care, Friendship Club