

WORSHIP 9-30-18

Pet Blessing and Dedication of New Roof

PET PARADE:

WELCOME:

We worship this Sunday with all the creatures we love. We join the Psalmists and rejoice with all living things. We sing with the all the birds and animals that make our lives richer because of their presence.

GATHERING MUSIC: What a Wonderful World Weiss & Thiele

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!

OPENING HYMN: "All Things Bright and Beautiful"

(Refrain)

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

1. Each little flower that opens, each little bird that sings,
God made their glowing colors, and made their tiny wings.

(Repeat Refrain)

2. The purple-headed mountain, the river running by,
The sunset, and the morning that brightens up the sky.

(Repeat Refrain)

3. The cold wind in the winter, the pleasant summer sun.
The ripe fruits in the garden, God made them every one.

(Repeat Refrain)

UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION:

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 frogs as voices of hope and all small beings as expressions of your mysterious design. Amen.

All present who have brought an animal, or a picture of one, form a circle around the worshipping community, with space between the various animals. From there they join in this Psalm and cry loudly: "Praise the Lord." It adds to the celebration if some animals bark or cry out during this time.

CIRCLE OF PRAISE – A VERSION OF PSALM 148:

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

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

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

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

All racoons, squirrels, and deer: **Praise the Lord!**

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

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

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

THANKSGIVING AND CONFESSION: *We hold the animal we love and place our hand on its body as we give thanks.*

Lord, for all the animals in the whole wide world, **We thank you, God!**

Lord, for all the fun and friendship we have with animals, **We thank you, God!**

Lord, for all the times we have hurt or neglected animals, **We are sorry.**

Lord, for all the times we have used poisons that have harmed animals,
We are sorry.

Lord, for all the times we have destroyed the homes of animals in the forests,
oceans, and fields, **We are sorry.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON:

For all our sins against the creatures of Earth, you are forgiven as we are all called upon to honor and protect all the animals. May the animals of Earth be our companions in life and lead us to celebrate their place in the circle of life.

Amen! Amen! Shalom! Shalom!

CIRCLE OF BLESSING:

All worshippers with animals now form another circle, each person placing a hand on the animal being held. The leader then moves to each animal, saying its name, holding a hand over the animal, and blessing it in the name of Christ who fills and heals creation.

Blessing: [*Pet's name*], may the power of this blessing from Christ fill you with life, bind you to your human partners, and lead you to praise your Creator. Amen.

The animals and their families may relax and be seated.

READING FROM THE PSALMS: **Psalm 122** Lay Liturgist

GOSPEL READING: **Mark 9:38-50**

MEDITATION: "They're Not One of Us"

HYMN: For the Beauty of the Earth

PASTORAL PRAYER:

LORD'S PRAYER:

OFFERTORY: This Is My Father's World Franklin Sheppard

DOXOLOGY:

OFFERING PRAYER:

God, our Creator, through your love you have given us these gifts to share. Accept our offerings as an expression of our deep thanks for all the animals and other creatures that have enriched our lives.

With all animals around the throne, we bless the Lamb of God.

DEDICATION OF NEW ROOF:

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Blessing of Water

Dedication of New Roof

SENDING HYMN: “Count Your Blessings”

**1. When upon life’s billows you are tempest tossed,
When you are discouraged, thinking all is lost,
Count your many blessings – name then one by one,
And it will surprise you what the Lord hath done.**

(Refrain:)

**Count your blessings, name them one by one;
Count your blessings, see what God has done.
Count your blessings, name them one by one;
Count your many blessings, see what God has done.**

**2. Are you ever burdened with a load of care?
Does the cross seem heavy you are called to bear?
Count your many blessings; every doubt will fly,
And you will be singing as the days go by.**

(Repeat Refrain)

**3. When you look at others with their lands and gold,
Think that Christ has promised you his wealth untold;
Count your many blessings; money cannot buy
Your reward in heaven nor your home on high.**

(Repeat Refrain)

**4. So amid the conflict, whether great or small,
Do not be discouraged; God is over all.
Count your many blessings; angels will attend,
Help and comfort give you to your journey’s end.**

(Repeat Refrain)

BENEDICTION:

Christ calls us to be his disciples, to serve him with love and compassion,
to serve Earth by caring for Earth’s creatures and for caring for our house of
worship.

POSTLUDE: He Who Began a Good Work in You Jon Mohr