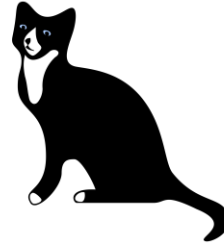




WORSHIP 9-8-2019

Pet Blessing 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.

PRELUDE: **“For the Beauty of the Earth”** Mark Hayes

RESPONSIVE 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 blessing 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:

Jesus loves the little children, all the children of the world,

Red and yellow, black and white, they are precious in his sight.

Jesus loves the little children of the world.

Jesus loves all pets and critters, all are creatures in his world.

Fuzzy, furry, short or tall, paws of 4 or wings of 2;

Jesus loves the pets and critters of the world.

Jesus loves both cats and doggie, hamsters, snakes and froggies, too.

Rabbits with the floppy ears, guinea pigs that seem so dear;

Jesus loves all pets that live around the world.

**Jesus loves the goats and llamas and the babies with their mams;
There are lizards that we fear, and parrots that we hear,
Jesus loves all pets that live around the world.**

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.

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 the 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!

BLESSING: [*Pet's name*] "May God bless each of you with health and safety and well-being and long life. And may God bless your relationship together so that it may be filled with love and joy." *The animals and their families may relax and be seated.*

FIRST TESTAMENT READING: **Jeremiah 18:1-11** Lay Liturgist

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

MEDITATION: **"How to Train Your Dragon"**

PASTORAL PRAYER: beginning with silent personal prayer

LORD'S PRAYER: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed it be your name. Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts as, we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

OFFERTORY: "How Great Thou Art" Stuart Hines

**DOXOLOGY: Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above you, heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

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. Amen.

SONG: "He's Got the Whole World in His Hands"

- 1.) He's got the whole world in his hands . . .
- 2.) He's got the little bitty baby in his hands . . .
- 3.) He's got you and me brother in his hands he's got you and me sister in his hands . . .
- 4.) He's got everybody here in his hands . . .

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: "Awesome God" Rich Mullins