

**Augsburg Campus Ministry**  
**Blessings of the Animals – Outdoor Service**  
**October 8, 2020**

**PRELUDE**

**WELCOME & INVOCATION**

**OPENING READING:     A Reading from Nancy Swartz,  
                                  In Our Image: God’s First Creatures:**

**One:** In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth and the light and the darkness. And the waters and the land, and the trees and the plants. And the sun and the moon and the stars. And the fish in the waters and the birds in the sky. And all the wild creatures upon the earth.

**And God saw that it was good. But something was missing.**

And God said, “Let us make humans in Our image, after our likeness.” The animals asked, “Are You speaking to us?” And God said, “Yes. I am speaking to all that I have created. Humankind shall be a part of nature, like each of you. Let us give our gifts to humanity...” The animals each thought about which gift they could give so they would always feel connected to human beings.

“Make them brave,” growled the tiger.

“Gentle,” baaaaed the lamb.

“Make them quiet,” whispered the clam.

“Hard working,” said the ant.

“Make them fast,” growled the cheetah.

“Keep them busy,” buzzed the bee.

“Graceful,” said the swan.

“Curious,” chattered the chimpanzee.

“Let them mind their own business,” said the ostrich!

“Give them voices that sing,” sang the nightingale.

“Good hearing,” screeched the owl.

“Good vision,” said the hawk.

“A good appetite,” said the shark!

And so God created humankind. In the image of God and in the image of all nature, God created them. And nature lived with humankind. All lived together as one family.

**All: And God saw that it was very good.**

**SONG: “All God’s Critters Have a Place in the Choir”**

## PSALMODY: 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 bats, squirrels, and raccoons:  
**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!**

## PRAYER OF BLESSING

God who loves the whole world,  
we pray for our friends, the animals.  
We give you thanks for all the animals in the whole wide world—  
and give thanks for all they have done for us  
in carrying our burdens,  
in companionship  
and in giving service to humankind since the world began.  
We remember animals who are suffering in any way—  
for those who are hurt or neglected  
for those who are hunted or lost, deserted or hungry  
for those who are endangered.  
Forgive us for the times we have destroyed the homes of animals  
in the forests, oceans or fields.  
We thank you for blessing us with the unconditional love of our pets, so that our pets make You  
better known to us.  
Make us good partners and lovers of the animals you have entrusted to us.  
We pray for your mercy, comfort and blessing for all animals.  
Let everyone say:....Amen.

*Those with animals or pictures of their beloved companion are welcomed to come to the center  
for a blessing. The liturgist will ask the name of the animal and offer this blessing:*

**BLESSING** (based on Psalm 148)  
Praise God for *(name of animal)*,  
And bless *(name of animal)*,

A creature of God's creating. Thanks be to God for (*name of animal*)!

## SONG OF BLESSING

### One God Created All That Is

1. 2. 3.

One God cre - a - ted all that is, one u - ni-verse we share, one  
ho - ly ground of love u - nites all crea-tures ev - 'ry - where.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in 4/4 time. The first staff has three measures, each with a measure number above it: 1., 2., and 3. The lyrics are written below the notes. The second staff continues the melody and lyrics.

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Music: Israeli melody, adapted.

## BENEDICTION & DISMISSAL

May God  
help us to save our animals from danger as Noah did.  
help us to love them and care for them as St. Francis did.  
and when we see the animals that God has made,  
learn from them how to sing God's praise.

in the name of the Creator  
(who thought up the giraffe and the zebra)  
and of the Jesus  
(who was named after the beautiful white Lamb)  
and the Holy Spirit (who came to us as a Dove).  
**Amen.**

Go in peace. Serve and love all creatures!  
Thanks be to God!

### Worship Leaders:

**Liturgists:** Rev. Babette Chatman, University Pastor; Rev. Justin Lind-Ayres, University Pastor;  
Jenn Luong, Pastoral Intern

**Musician:** Tom Witt, Interim Campus Ministry Musician

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