

VALLEY COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SEPTEMBER 19, 2021 † 10:00 AM

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

Bold Text is spoken/sung by everyone

PASTOR: Rev. Jeff Binder

LITURGIST: Cheryl Rees

MUSICIANS: Oak Street Ramblers (Will Amend, bass; Neal Grandstaff, guitar; Siena Hertafeld, vocals;
Dave Newton, keyboards; Jon Newton, strings)

VIDEO/SOUND: Julian Zdrantan, Donna Russell

GATHER IN GOD'S PRESENCE

PRELUDE (When We All Get Together With the Lord)

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

ELEMENTS AND MUSICAL INTERLUDE

◆ WORDS OF PRAISE

Let us join our voices together as we give praise to the Lord!

Let us join with all creation and rejoice before the God of Creation!

Grant us insight for the challenges of this age and give us hearts full of hope and courage for the future.

O God, you inspire us to work toward a world that all future generations will be able to enjoy;
a creation that reflects the grace and love expressed by our risen Lord Jesus Christ.

Let us join with all creation and rejoice before the Lord.

◆ OPENING HYMN No. 14 (For the Beauty of the Earth)

Verse 1: ***For the beauty of the earth, for the glory of the skies, for the love which from our birth over and around us lies:***

Refrain: ***Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.***

Verse 2: ***For the wonder of each hour of the day and of the night, hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light:*** Refrain

Verse 3: ***For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's delight, for the mystic harmony linking sense to sound and sight:*** Refrain

Verse 4: ***For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child, friends on earth, and friends above, for all gentle thoughts and mild:*** Refrain

Verse 5: ***For thyself, best gift divine to the world so freely given; for that great, great love of thine, peace on earth and joy in heaven:*** Refrain

OPENING PRAYER (Book of Common Worship)

Source and sustainer of life, we cherish the myriad works of your hands. Water, earth, and sky are yours, as are all their inhabitants, wild and tame. We thank you for creatures that nourish and serve us, befriend, enrich, entertain, and protect us. May we, who are made in your image, care for them well. And may your groaning yet wondrous creation rally and thrive, revealing to all who come after us your wise, redemptive, transforming love; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

CONFESSIONAL RESPONSE No. 203 (Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love)

Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love; show us how to serve the neighbors we have from you.

Neighbors are wealthy and poor, varied in color and race; neighbors are near us and far away.

Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love; show us how to serve the neighbors we have from you.

◆ ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS AND PEACE

God declares the creation good. We are among God's creatures, and humbled that God calls on us to till and keep the earth. With hope and inspiration to answer that call, we place our trust in God to show us the way.

Friends, believe the good news: in Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

◆ RESPONSE OF PRAISE No. 177 (I Will Come to You) (Sung two times)

Do not be afraid, I am with you. I have called you each by name. Come and follow me, I will bring you home; I love you and you are mine.

PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE (Matthew 6:25-34)

ANTHEM (What a Friend We Have in Jesus)

MESSAGE ("Things That Go Bump in the Night" by Rev. Jeff Binder)

RESPOND TO GOD'S GRACE

◆ HYMN OF RESPONSE No. 837 (What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine)

Verse 1: *What a fellowship, what a joy divine, leaning on the everlasting arms; what a blessedness, what a peace is mine, leaning on the everlasting arms.*

Refrain: *Leaning on Jesus, leaning on Jesus, safe and secure from all alarms; leaning on Jesus, leaning on Jesus, leaning on the everlasting arms.*

Verse 2: *O how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way, leaning on the everlasting arms; O how bright the path grows from day to day, leaning on the everlasting arms.* Refrain

Verse 3: *What have I to dread, what have I to fear, leaning on the everlasting arms? I have blessed peace with my Lord so near, leaning on the everlasting arms.* Refrain

A BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

Almighty and everlasting 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 Christ our Lord for all Creation.

(At this time, all animals may be brought forward to be introduced by their caregivers.)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE (Kathy Bach, Deacon)

THE LORD'S PRAYER

OFFERTORY (Jesus Loves Me) (Offerings can be mailed to the church office or made online by visiting our website: www.valleycommunity.org)

◆ DOXOLOGY

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

◆ PRAYER OF GRATITUDE

SHARE THE GOOD NEWS

◆ CLOSING HYMN No. 840 (When Peace like a River)

Verse 1: *When peace like a river attendeth my way, when sorrows like sea billows roll, whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say, it is well, it is well with my soul.*

Refrain: *It is well with my soul; it is well; it is well with my soul.*

Verse 2: *Though Satan should buffet though trials should come, let this blest assurance control, that Christ hath regarded my helpless estate, and hath shed his own blood for my soul.* Refrain

Verse 3: *He lives: O the bliss of this glorious thought. My sin, not in part, but the whole, is nailed to the cross and I bear it no more. Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!* Refrain

Verse 4: *Lord, hasten the day when our faith shall be sight, the clouds be rolled back as a scroll, the trumpet shall sound and the Lord shall descend; even so it is well with my soul.*

◆ CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Compassion, creativity, and joy are ours through Jesus Christ.

May the Holy Spirit move us to preserve and enhance life on earth, giving clear witness to the life-giving purpose of our creator.

Go out into God's world. Live in peace with one another and with all God's creatures.

Alleluia! Amen.

POSTLUDE (This Old House)

SENDING MUSIC