

August 27, 2017 – 10:00 am
12th Sunday After Pentecost
ST. JOHN
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

**BLESSING OF THE PETS
WE WORSHIP WITH THE CREATURES WE LOVE**

Please respond with words in **bold** print.

PROCESSION OF THE PETS:

“What a Wonderful World” Weiss & Thiele

GATHERING:

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 renews all life,
We cry with all in the circle of life.

Shalom! Shalom! Shalom! May your blessing come!

HYMN OF PRAISE: “All Things Bright and Beautiful”

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PRAYER FOR THE DAY:

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.

CIRCLE OF PRAISE – A VERSION OF PSALM 148

THANKS AND CONFESSION:

ASSURANCE OF PARDON:

READINGS FROM SCRIPTURE:

REFLECTION:

SONG: “St. John Church Has Many Pets”
Nancy and Mary

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE FOLLOWED BY THE 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.

OFFERING/OFFERTORY:

“He’s Got the Whole World in His Hands” Hansen

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. Amen.

CIRCLE OF BLESSING:

HYMN: “For the Fruit of All Creation”

For the fruit of all creation, thanks be to God.
For God’s gifts to every nation, thanks be to God.
For the plowing, sowing, reaping,
silent growth while we are sleeping.
Future needs in earth’s safekeeping, thanks be to God.

In the just reward of labor, God’s will is done.
In the help we give our neighbor, God’s will is done.
In our world-wide task of caring
for the hungry and despairing,
In the harvests we are sharing, God’s will is done.

For the harvests of the Spirit, thanks be to God.
For the good we all inherit, thanks be to God.
For the wonders that astound us,
for the truths that still confound us,
Most of all that love has found us, thanks be to God.

SENDING OUT:

Christ calls you to be his disciples,
to serve him with love and compassion,
to serve Earth by caring for Earth’s creatures.
Will you care for creation?

We will care for creation!

We will nurture our animals!

We will celebrate the circle of life with them!

BLESSING:

May the Spirit of God, who is above all and in all and through all, fill you with the knowledge of God's presence in Earth and the presence of Christ within you.

Go in peace! Serving Christ and loving all creatures!

We go in peace, serving Christ and loving our animal kin.

Amen.

POSTLUDE:

"Heaven Came Down and Glory Filled My Soul" Peterson



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