

Open Table *Blessing of the Animals Service*



Coffee & Chat

*If you have brought a live animal with you today, please keep it with you.
If you have brought a photo or a representative soft toy, please place it in
the centre of your table.*

Introduce your pet (live or photo) to those seated around your table.

Consider this:

- What does your pet bring to your life (e.g. joy, companionship, etc)?
Share examples and stories.
- What memories of animals/pets past do you have?
- What is a concern you have for the animals of the world?
- Read the printed quotations and reflect on their meaning for you.

Ritual of Gathering

All: We are here. We are who we are.

I am here. I am who I am.'

All: You are who you are, created by God.

Welcome

Circle of Praise – inspired by Psalm 148

All God's family, come and praise our Creator!

We come with eyes to see, and ears to flap and hear,

All creatures lift your voices in singing, mewing and barking.

We come to celebrate God's marvelous creation!

With dogs and cats, hamsters and snakes

We come to thank the Giver of all life!

All creatures that crawl, all sea serpents that swim and feathered
friends that fly

We come to praise our Creator!

Opening Prayer

Sing

Looking into the Bible

Psalm 50: 1, 10-11 & Luke 12:6 (medley), Genesis 1: 26 – 31a

Reflection--A dramatic reading: *In Our Hands*

Conversations

- How does this drama make you feel?
- What do you think is 'in our hands'?

- What do you think it means to 'have dominion' over the creatures of the world?
- Where might God be inviting you/us to take action in relationship to animals?

Blessing of the Animals

What is a Blessing?

Words of Thanksgiving

For all the animals in creation,

We give thanks!

For all the fun and friendship we have with animals,

We give thanks!

For these animals we love,

We give thanks!

Blessings

You are one of God's family.

May you be blessed with safety and love.

Prayer for Peace

May the work of peace be ever on our minds,

For even where there is hatred,

cubs and kittens still play.

Even where there is injury,

the eagles still soar.

Even where there is despair,

the morning is greeted with song.

Even where there is darkness,

burrows, dens and nests bring safe sleep.

Even where there is sadness,

the whales and dolphins leap up to the sky.

May we seek not so much to dominate as to

live in peace with all God's creatures. Amen

Sharing & Caring – Bringing light into our world

Communion Service

Words of closing

Sing

Time in Community

*(Parts of this liturgy have been adapted from various sources including: United Church of Christ
Worship Ways, <http://www.webofcreation.org/SeasonofCreation/animalblessing.html> .)*