



CENTRAL SAANICH UNITED CHURCH

Worship: Rev. Bob Gilbert

Music Director: Amy Nold

Secretary: Tara Houle

Office Hours: 10 am to 2 pm, Wednesdays & Thursdays

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 Central Saanich United Church

 Central Saanich United Church Online Worship

Central Saanich United Church
United Church of Canada
Blessing of the Animals

September 24, 2023

“The moral progress of a nation and its greatness should be judged
by the way it treats its animals.” (*Gandhi*)

Scripture Reader: Nancy O’Higgins

Greeters: Nancy & Eric O’Higgins, Steve Howell

WE GATHER

Prelude

Welcome, Celebrations and Announcements

Hymn: All Things Bright and Beautiful

VU 291

(Refrain)

All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful: in love, God made them all.

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

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

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

The rocky mountain splendour, the lone wolf’s haunting call,
The great lakes and the prairies, the forest in the fall.

God gave us eyes to see them, and lips that we might tell
How great is God our maker, who has made all things well.

(Refrain)

All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful: in love, God made them all.

Opening Words....

The animals of God's creation inhabit the skies, the earth, and the sea.

They share in the fortunes of our existence and are an important part of human life.

In the story of the great flood, the animals were saved from the waters, and afterwards made part of the covenant with Noah.

A giant fish saved Jonah.

Ravens brought bread to Elijah.

Animals were included in the repentance of Nineveh.

Animals share in Christ's redemption of all God's creation.

Therefore, we gather to ask God's blessing on these animals.

As we do so, let us praise the Creator and give thanks to God for the animals in all our lives.

(from "Blessing of the Animals" in Celebrate God's Presence, United Church Publishing House, p. 624)

We pray.....

Gracious God, we assemble as your creatures in this sacred time and holy place.

We ask you, dear Lord, to join us and celebrate with us.

O God, 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 your name O 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!

WE LISTEN TO THE WORD

Special Music: “A Place in the Choir”

Scripture: Genesis 2:7-8, 18-20a
Luke 15:3-6

A Reading from the World Around Us: “We Give Thanks for the Animals”
By Gary Kowalski

Reflection:

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD

Hymn: O God, Your Creatures Fill the Earth

O God, your creatures fill the earth with wonder and delight,
And every living thing has worth and beauty in your sight.
So playful dolphins dance and swim. Your sheep bow down and graze.
Your songbirds share a morning hymn to offer you their praise.

You made the pets we welcome in — They're wondrous blessings, too.
With paws and whiskers, wings and fins, They offer praise to you.
O Lord, you call us to embrace these creatures in our care.
May we show kindness, love and grace to all pets everywhere.

Your creatures live in every land. They fill the sky and sea.
O Lord, you give us your command to love them tenderly.
We're called to have dominion here — To care for them always.
By loving creatures you hold dear, we offer you our praise.
(by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette.)

Blessing of the Animals

What is the name of this animal?

Minister: Bless you, dear (*name*). You were created by God
and you are loved by God.

People: **We give thanks for your life and the joy you give and
receive.**

Offering:

Invitation:

Your Work, O God, Needs Many Hands **VU 537 (v.2)**

Because we love you and your work our offering now we make.
Be pleased to use it as your own, we ask for Jesus' sake.

Dedication of the Gifts:

We pray....

Hymn: **Day after Day** **MV 123 (2x)**

Day after day, night after night,
You speak through everything.

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Intercession

The Lord's Prayer

Hymn: **This Is God's Wondrous World** **VU 296**

This is God's wondrous world, and to my listening ears,
All nature sings, and round me rings the music of the spheres.
This is God's wondrous world, I rest me in the thought of
Rocks and trees, of skies and seas, God's hand the wonders wrought.

This is God's wondrous world: the birds their carols raise,
The morning light, the lily white, declare their Maker's praise.
This is God's wondrous world: God shines in all that's fair, in the
Rustling grass or mountain pass, God's voice speaks
everywhere.

This is God's wondrous world: O let me ne'er forget
That though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the ruler yet.
This is God's wondrous world: why should my heart be sad? Let
Voices sing, let the heavens ring: God reigns, let earth be glad!

Commissioning and Benediction

Hymn: **Dance with the Spirit (2X)**

MV 156

Dance with the Spirit early in the morn-in',
Walk with the Spirit throughout the long day.
Work and hope for the new life a-born-in,
Listen to the spirit to show you the way.

Postlude

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Upcoming Meetings:

Worship Committee, Thursday, Oct. 5, 1:30 p.m.

Outreach, Wednesday, Oct. 11, 2:30 p.m.

Centering Prayer, Fridays, Oct. 13 & 27, 11 a.m.

United Church Women, Friday, Oct. 20, 10 a.m.



Central Saanich United Church welcomes singers to join in choir rehearsal on Sunday mornings at 9am, followed by Sunday morning service. The only requirement is that you can carry a tune. We learn and sing a wide variety of songs. Have fun, build community, serve your church! Email our Music Director, Amy Nold if you'd like more information amynold@gmail.com

“Blessed to Be a Blessing”

Just a reminder to please bring in your jars of change for our **Peninsula Food Bank** fundraiser. This has continued in John Davidson's memory, and we hope to have all the jars collected in time for our **Thanksgiving Sunday Service, October 8th.**

- From St. Andrew's Cathedral Parish:

TOGETHER AGAIN! Prayer in the style of Taize

resumes FALL 2023, at St. Andrew's Catholic Parish
(Blanshard at View Street, Victoria), 6 p.m. on the 3rd
Friday of the month: October 20, and
November 17. Come, you are wanted among us.

'feeling we are not alone can strengthen our life.' www.taize.fr

- St. Paul's United Church will be hosting a **Community Indoor Flea Market** on two (2) Saturdays, 9 a.m.—1 p.m. They will be held on October 7 & December 2.

Rent a spot and sell your stuff! Send an email to
magnolia4events@gmail.com or follow their Facebook page
(St. Paul's United Church) for updates.



*Please refer to our website for Upcoming Events in our
Community*

www.centralsaanichunited.ca

OR

follow us

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