



CENTERPORT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

centerportumc.org

IN-PERSON WORSHIP

APRIL 24, 2022

A SERVICE FOR THE BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

Congregation please respond with the bolded lines

Thank you to Leap of Faith for leading music with us this for this Service

CELEBRATION OF MUSIC

“Walking on Sunshine”

Katrina and the Waves

LITANY OF THANKS

Let us give thanks to God for the gifts so freely bestowed upon us. For the beauty and wonder of your creation, in earth and sky and sea; **We thank you, Lord.**

For the richness of the mountains, plains and rivers; **We thank you, Lord.**

For all that is gracious in the lives of men and women; **We thank you, Lord.**

For all creatures that breathe, and move, and have life; **We thank you, Lord.**

For the songs of birds and the loveliness of flowers and trees; **We thank you, Lord.**

For the trust you have shown in giving into our care these, our pets; **We thank you, Lord.**

That each pet here may be treasured with care; **We pray to you, Lord.**

That we may love and honor all your works, O God; **We pray to you, Lord.**

May we continue to grow in our grateful enjoyment of your abundant creation. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Genesis 1:24-31

God created the animals

And God said, “Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind.” And it was so. God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind, and the cattle of every kind, and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good.

Joel 12: 7-10

But ask the animals, and they will teach you; the birds of the air, and they will tell you; ask the plants of the earth, and they will teach you; and the fish of the sea will declare to you. Who among all these does not know that the hand of the Lord has done this? In his hand is the life of every living thing and the breath of every human being.

God used animals all throughout the Bible. Animals saved from the flood part of the covenant. Paschal Lamb at Passover. A Big Fish saved Jonah. Ravens brought bread to Elijah. Jesus was surrounded by animals at his birth and rode into Jerusalem on the back of a donkey.

MOMENT OF REMEMBRANCE

O Lord, we pause and give thanks for the memories of those pets we have lost. We pray for their owners who continue to mourn their loss. But most of all, we give thanks for their memory and for the ways in which they enriched our lives. Amen.

PRAYER LITANY

God created us and placed us on the earth to be stewards of all living things

You create the animals and give us the ability to train them to help us in our work.

You have comforted us through the love of our pets - our companions, our family.

You care for us even as you care for the birds of the air.

You offered your Son to us as the passover lamb and in him willed that we should be called your children.

CELEBRATION OF MUSIC

“I Can See Clearly Now”

Johnny Nash

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Creator God, we give thanks that all things belong to you. We praise you for giving us the animals, birds and fish which fill your world. We give thanks for our pets that bring us joy and who help teach us the value of unconditional love. Grant that we may good caretakers for our pets that they may also know the joy of unconditional love. May our shared lives together always bring joy to others as we live, serve, and love all of your creatures, both great and small; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Lord, bless this day and the food that has been prepared to our bodies and to your will in the world. Amen.

PRAYER OF BLESSING

All animals are invited to come forward to receive a blessing with their human friends. Enjoy the musical offerings played during this time.

“(Name) may you be blessed all throughout your life. May your belly be full, may you be healthy and happy and enjoy life together with joy from the God who created you. Amen.”

CLOSING PRAYER

CELEBRATION OF MUSIC

“All the People Said Amen”

Matt Maher

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Join us for Fellowship, Food, and a Special Show from Team Jilli Dog.

Rick Caran and Team Jilli Dog are thrilled to be back, doing their “Dog Trick Show,” and thank Pastor Roy, The Perks, and The Hendersons for making Judy, the pups, and me feel so welcome over the years.