

ST. DAVID'S UNITED CHURCH  
OCTOBER 27, 2019  
BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS



***Vision Statement***

*“Growing and Deepening our Spiritual lives in an Affirming and Inclusive Community”*

# St. David's United Church

3303 Capitol Hill Crescent NW  
Telephone: 403 284 2276  
e-mail: [admin@sduc.ca](mailto:admin@sduc.ca)

Calgary, Alberta T2M 2R2  
Fax: 403 284 9717  
[www.sduc.ca](http://www.sduc.ca)

## VALUE OF THE MONTH: *Generosity*

**SUNDAY, October 27, 2019**

Presiding – Peggy McDonagh, Speaker Richard Christmas

---

---

### *We Gather as a Christ-infused Community of Faith*

*(Welcome to worship today. Whether you are worshipping with us today for the first time or you have been here for longer than you can remember, you are welcome to be here and to participate however you feel comfortable. Regardless of your age, stage, gender, sexual identity, or how great or small you feel your faith is we each bring something of ourselves to this sacred space. God welcomes each of us to worship including the creatures we love.)*

#### **SEEDS OF MEDITATION**

*“Some people talk to animals. Not many listen though. That’s the problem.”*

*- A.A. Milne*

*What is life? It is the flash of a firefly in the night. It is the breath of a buffalo in the winter time. It is the little shadow which runs across the grass and loses itself in the sunset.*

*Chief Crowfoot*

**PRELUDE** *Capriccio sopra il Cucu*

*Johann Kaspar Kerll*

*“The Swan” from ‘Carnival of the Animals’*

*C. Saint-Saens*

#### **LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE**

We light the Christ Candle to remind us that we are to love one another, to cherish our animal family, to protest against abuse and neglect of all animals, to exercise stewardship of ALL creation, so that ALL can experience God's Shalom.

#### **HYMN**

This is God's Wondrous World

VU #296

- 1 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.

2 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.

3 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!

### **ENTRANCE INTO WORSHIP**

In the name of the God of Life we assemble with all creatures in the great circle of life.

**The Creator is embedded in the circle, the Creator is our life's energy.**

We join in celebration with the Creator and all creation,

**In this time together may God's blessing  
be upon the animals present here that we love  
and on all creatures in the world.**

**May the Creator's blessing come bestowing love upon us all.**

### **GATHERING PRAYER**

(Richard Christmas)

Creator of the universe that facilitated the processes of evolution, how easy it is for us to consider ourselves as the centre of the universe. Help us to realize that it is the diversity of life--human, plant and animal--that allows our planet to function in all its complexity and enables us to survive.

**Grant each of us wisdom and the desire to find ways both large and small to allow life in all forms to continue so that our grandchildren and their grandchildren's grandchildren and more will have the opportunity to look upon fireflies and elephants, tiny alpine flowers and towering redwoods and be in awe of the spectacular and wondrous beauty in each corner of our planet. Amen**

**HYMN** All things bright and beautiful

VU #294

*Refrain*

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

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

2 God gave us eyes to see them,  
and lips that we might tell  
how great is God Almighty,  
who has made all things well.

*Refrain*

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

*...to hear the wisdom of God*

**READINGS**

Genesis 2:18-20

Animals created as partners

Job 12: 7-10

The wisdom of animals

Matthew 6:25-26

God made creation beautiful

Reading from a Sermon of St Francis: 'Peace, birds, peace!'

**ANTHEM**

*Traces*

*Garrett Krause*

**REFLECTION**

*"Celebrating the Human Animal Bond"*

**HYMN**

O God, Your Creatures Fill the Earth

(Tune VU #164)

(Text: by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette)

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.



ourselves as advocates, donors, and active stewards, being reverent and mindful toward all creation.

**Water, earth, and sky are home to us all. We accept God's call, in the name of the one who taught us to pray:**

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**SONG**                      A Place in the Choir    AGCS #4

Chorus

All God's critters got a place in the choir. Some sing low. Some sing higher.

Some sing out loud on the telephone wire. And some just clap their hands or paws or anything they got now.

Listen to the bass. It's the one on the bottom where the bull frog croaks and the hippopotamus moans and groans with a big t'do, and the old cow just goes "Moo."

The dogs and the cats they take up the middle while the honey bee hums and the cricket fiddles. The donkey brays and the pony neighs and the old coyote howls.

Chorus

All God's critters got a place in the choir. Some sing low. Some sing higher.

Some sing out loud on the telephone wire. And some just clap their hands or paws or anything they got now.

Listen to the top where the little birds sing on the melodies with the high notes ringing. The hoot owl hollers over ev'rything and the jay bird disagrees.

It's a simple song of living sung ev'ry where by the ox and the fox and the grizzly bear the grumpy alligator and the hawk above, the sly raccoon and the turtle dove.

Chorus

All God's critters got a place in the choir. Some sing low. Some sing higher.

Some sing out loud on the telephone wire. And some just clap their hands or paws or anything they got now.

## **BLESSING AND SENDING OUT**

**SUNG BENEDICTION**    *God Be in My Head*    *Douglas Brooks-Davies*

**POSTLUDE**              *Trumpet Tune in D Major*    *David N. Johnson*

**GROWING AND DEEPENING OUR SPIRITUAL LIVES  
THROUGH WORSHIP**

NOVEMBER 3, 2019

COMMUNION

Music by the Sanctuary Choir

**THANKS TO THOSE ASSISTING WITH OUR SUNDAY  
WORSHIP EXPERIENCE**

Greeters.....October Sacred Service Team  
Ushers .....October Sacred Service Team  
Counters.....Ian Macdonald & Bob Clare  
Reader.....Eldon Godfrey  
Music .....Angel Voices  
Accompanist.....Colleen Charter  
Minute Speaks.....Pastoral Care, Friendship Club