

## Hymn: All Creatures of Our God and King UMH 62

### Benediction

Compassion, creativity, and joy  
are ours through Jesus Christ.

May the Holy Spirit move us  
to preserve and enhance life on earth, giving clear wit-  
ness

to the life-giving purpose of our creator.

**Amen.**

Go out into God's world.

Live in peace with one another and with all God's crea-  
tures.

**Thanks be to God. Amen.**



## Blessing of the Animals

January 2, 2022

### Prelude

#### Call to Worship

*God said, "Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky."*

**So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of very kind, with which the waters swarm and every winged bird of every kind.**

*And God saw that it was good.*

**And God blessed them.**

*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 God saw that it was good.**

*Then God said, "Let us make humankind". And God blessed them.*

**God saw everything that God had made, and indeed, it was very good.**

**Hymn      Morning Has Broken    UMH 145**

**Prayer of Adoration, Thanksgiving and Confession**

Creator God,

You have made a beautiful world, filled with wonder and surprises!

**We adore you.**

Creator God, who has gifted us with the blessing  
Of animals, those in the wild, those on farms, those in  
our own homes.

**We adore you.**

Creator God, you brought into being that which we  
could not imagine for ourselves,  
Life we cannot see without the aid of microscopes,  
Animals we can only see in pictures from remote re-  
gions of this planet earth,

**We adore you.**

We thank you for abundant life;  
For the birds we hear in the morning,  
For the drone of the bees when we are outside,  
For the vast tapestry of life which is interwoven,

**We give you thanks.**

We thank you for the gift of our own animal compan-

**Blessing of All Animals (Unison)**

God, our Creator, our pets and all your creatures with  
Your light and love. May our animal friends have good  
health and happy lives. We ask for better understanding  
as we learn from their wisdom, their innocence, their  
loyalty and particularly their seeming ability to not judge  
us unkindly. Thank you for the pleasures, playfulness  
and sometimes the surprising humor your creatures and  
particularly our pets display. Thank you for their com-  
panionship and friendship especially in those lonely  
hours we may have experienced. Thank you for our  
companions' natural ability to teach us to be aware of  
the present moment. Thank you for the pure beauty of  
every animal - their form, color, texture, motion is all a  
work of art, and may we appreciate Your creation of this  
masterpiece. Bless all animals in harm's way, heal the  
sick, protect those who are lost, and guide them to safe-  
ty. Thank you for the gift of love vividly portrayed in cre-  
ation. Amen

**Blessing of individual pets**

[Name of animal], you were created by God, and you  
are loved by God.

May you and your human family experience joy and  
companionship together, and continue to be a blessing  
to each other.

Saving Lord of lords,  
your word foretells a day  
when the wolf will lie down with the lamb.  
Renew our vision for the peaceable kingdom.  
Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Hear our prayers, gracious God,  
for the sake of Jesus, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

**Scripture Isaiah 11:1-9 (CEB)**

### **Reflection**

#### **Remembrance of Pets Lost**

We remember our animal companions who are no longer with us physically. We give thanks for the gifts they gave us and the variety of ways they enriched and blessed our lives.

**We are confident that our Creator continues to care for them.**

**Their paw prints are forever on our hearts.**

**Amen.**

ions;  
For the joy they bring us,  
For the unconditional love and forgiveness which teaches us about you;  
For the confidant, the listener, the stress-releaser,  
For the benefits they are to our health and to our spirit.

**We give you thanks.**

Gracious Lord of love,  
we affirm our vital connection with all living creatures.  
Empower us to seek their welfare,  
intervening where needed,  
defending and tending your world  
with grace, compassion, and dignity.  
Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Patient Lord of life,  
guide our choices so that we might safeguard habitats,  
ensuring, by your grace,  
that the mysteries and beauties of nature  
unfold for future generations.  
Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**