

## Blessing of the Animals October 6, 2024

### Invocation:

Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the Universe, who has withheld nothing from your world, and created beautiful creatures and beautiful trees for the enjoyment of your people.

### Hymn

*"All Things Bright and Beautiful"*

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

Each little flower that opens,  
Each little bird that sings,  
He made their glowing colors,  
He made their tiny wings.

He gave us eyes to see them,  
And lips that we might tell  
How great is God Almighty,  
Who has made all things well.

### Prayer:

**Almighty God, Creator of heaven and earth. With your breath you gave life to all creatures, and declared them good. Keep us mindful of this first and most holy blessing as we gather here today to offer our own blessings upon those gathered here—our companion animals. Remind us always that we were created in your image—the image of a loving, compassionate God. And in this image we are called to care for your creation. Open our hearts and minds to the lessons we may learn from our companions ~ to live fully in the present. To love unconditionally. To face each day expecting joy. Help us always to do your will on earth, so that you may look upon our work and declare it *good*. Amen.**

## **Scriptures:**

### **Genesis 1:20-23**

<sup>20</sup> Then God said, “Let the waters teem with swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth in the open expanse of the heavens.” <sup>21</sup> God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, with which the waters swarmed after their kind, and every winged bird after its kind; and God saw that it was good. <sup>22</sup> God blessed them, saying, “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.” <sup>23</sup> There was evening and there was morning, a fifth day.

### **Ecclesiastes 3:18-21**

<sup>18</sup> I said to myself concerning the sons of men, “God has surely tested them in order for them to see that they are but beasts.” <sup>19</sup> For the fate of the sons of men and the fate of beasts is the same. As one dies so dies the other; indeed, they all have the same breath and there is no advantage for man over beast, for all is vanity. <sup>20</sup> All go to the same place. All came from the dust and all return to the dust. <sup>21</sup> Who knows that the breath of man ascends upward and the breath of the beast descends downward to the earth?

**Blessing of the Animals:** *Animals to be blessed are brought forward at this time.*

### **Benediction:**

Deep peace of the running wave to you. Deep peace of the flowing air to you. Deep peace of the quiet earth to you. Deep peace of the shining stars to you. Deep peace of the infinite peace to you.

