

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF PALO ALTO

Sixth Sunday of Easter

Blessing of the Animals



Sunday, May 17

10:45 service

Prelude

Simple Gifts

arr. Diane Keller

Introit

All Things Bright and Beautiful

John Rutter (b. 1945)

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

The purple-headed mountain,
The river running by,
The sunset and the morning,
That brightens up the sky;

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 colours,
He made their tiny wings.

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

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

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

The cold wind in the winter,
The pleasant summer sun,
The ripe fruits in the garden,
He made them every one;

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

Welcome

Reverend Dr. Debra Murray

Opening Hymn

All Creatures of Our God and King

UMH 62, v. 1, 2, 7

All creatures of our God and King,
lift up your voice and with us sing
alleluia, alleluia!
Thou burning sun with golden beam,
thou silver moon with softer gleam,
O praise him, O praise him,
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Thou rushing wind that art so strong,
ye clouds that sail in heav'n along,
O praise him, alleluia!
Thou rising morn, in praise rejoice,
ye lights of evening, find a voice,
O praise him, O praise him,
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!



Let all things their Creator bless
And worship him in humbleness!
O praise him! Alleluia!
Praise God the Father, praise the Son,
And praise the Spirit, Three-in-One:
O praise him! O praise him!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Call to Worship

Reverend Ann Duncan

Live in God's love!
Let that love be poured out for all God's people!
Bring hope and peace to all whom you meet.
We are called to be God's witnesses.
Celebrate and rejoice.
Praise be to God who has called, healed, and given us a ministry of love.
We come to worship God!

Children's Moment

Reverend Ann Duncan

Invitation to the Offering

Reverend Ann Duncan

Offertory Prayer

Reverend Ann Duncan

All good gifts come from you, dear God, and you reveal glimpses of your grace through them. Thank you for inviting us to be partners with you in caring for your creation. Today we thank you for our pets who provide us with companionship and love. We offer our tithes and financial gifts now, knowing that they come first from you. Bless these symbols of our awareness that we depend upon you and your creation for all that we call "ours." Please accept these gifts and our desire to be your partners. In Your name, Amen.

Offertory

Little Litanies of Jesus

Gabriel Grouvlez, arr. Robert Hebble

Doxology

Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow

UMH No. 94

Pastoral Prayer

Reverend Dr. Debra Murray

Creator God, Lover of our souls, we come to you this morning hungering for something from you that will change the rest of our lives. We come hungering for honesty instead of corruption; for generosity instead of greed; we come hungering for integrity instead of intrigue. We come hungering for our neighbors to be fed and for all to have enough honest work to provide for the basic needs of their families. We come this morning hungering for righteousness to flow like rainwater and for the justice like an ever-flowing stream described by the prophets. We come hungering and we come listening for your words to us, describing how we can participate in your great work of re-creation. We come listening for ways that we can become part of the solution and not part of the problem. We come listening in fear and trembling, praying that we will have the courage to respond and act if we hear a clear word of instruction from you. Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Our Creator, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses
As we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Anthem

The Majesty and Glory of Your Name

Tom Fettke (b. 1941)

When I gaze into the night skies
and see the work of your fingers;
The moon and stars suspended in space.

Oh, what is man that you are mindful of him?
You have given man a crown of glory and honor,
And have made him a little lower than the angels.
You have put him in care of all creation:
The beasts of the field, The birds of the air,
The fish of the sea.
Oh, what is man?
Oh, what is man that you are mindful of him?

O Lord, our God the majesty and glory of your name
Transcends the earth and fills the heavens.
O Lord, our God; little children praise You perfectly,
And so would we.
And so would we.

The majesty and glory of Your name.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

Scripture

Isaiah 11:6-9

Joe Witte

Hymn

Holy Spirit, Truth Divine

UMH 454 v. 1-2

Holy Spirit, truth divine,
dawn upon this soul of mine.
Voice of God and inward light,
wake my spirit, clear my sight.

Holy Spirit, love divine,
glow within this heart of mine.
Kindle every high desire,
purify me with your fire.

Message

Vaccinations for the Coronavirus: God's Creation

Reverend Dr. Debra Murray

Blessing of the Animals

After this responsive prayer, I will give you a moment to gather your animal(s) for a blessing. Let us pray together:

WE BLESS THESE ANIMALS WE LOVE

Christine C. Robinson

Surrounded by the animals we love, we remember with gratitude the pets, protectors, and animal companions who have blessed our lives.

We give thanks for our childhood pets, who taught us to love and to cry. We give thanks for our children's pets, who help us to teach them responsibility and relationship, and we give thanks for the pets who brighten our days and comfort our nights.

Surrounded by beloved pets, we remember that many animals suffer.

We remember that some animals are hunted or deserted or tortured or hungry. We remember that nature can be cruel and that people can be mean. We remember and want to help.

Surrounded by the animals we love, we know that many animals contribute to our lives.

We give thanks for all those animals who help us: worker animals who guard us and find our lost and guide the blind, the animals who provide us food and clothing, who tote our burdens and entertain us with their antics, and for animals who give their lives to help us learn.

Spirit of life, help us to remember that we live and work and love among the animals. Help us to be their friends, to love them and care for them and protect them from harm, to thank them when we use their lives for ours. Especially this morning, spirit of life, bless these animals who are the companions of our lives. Hear our outpouring of love and gratitude for them and help us translate that into love and gratitude for all your creatures.

We bless these animals we love. We pledge to care for them tenderly and faithfully, and to remember that we are not alone on the earth. Amen.

Extend your hand over your animal as I say this blessing:

Bless, O Lord, these creatures, and fill our hearts with thanksgiving for their being. To you our beloved animal, you were created by God and loved by God. May you and your human family experience joy and companionship together. May you continue to be a blessing to each other. Today, we also 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. In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Closing Hymn

O God, Your Creatures Fill the Earth

tune of UMH 203 "Hail to the Lord's Anointed"

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.

You made the creatures on each farm; You know the things they need.
May they grow healthy, safe from harm, And safe from human greed.
Just as a shepherd loves the sheep, You know their joy, their pain.
Lord, bless the animals we keep; May all farms be humane.

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.

Benediction

Reverend Dr. Debra Murray

Go now into the world.
Search for the God who is not far from each one of us.
Offer to all who ask an account of the hope that is in you.
Keep your conscience clear
as you live the commandments in love.
And may God greet your prayers with constant love;
May Christ Jesus give you life through his own life;
And may the Spirit of truth abide with you and within you, always.
Go forth in faithfulness and trust.
May all see the Divine in and through us. Amen.

Alleluia

UMH 186

Postlude

All Creatures of Our God and King

arr. John Longhurst (b. 1940)

