An Open & Affirming, A2A-Accessible to All Congregation of the United Church of Christ

18 October 2026 – 10:30 AM
NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
Blessing of the Beasts
Children's Sabbath

***indicates the congregation is invited to stand. Please feel free to remain seated if you prefer.**

PRELUDE *Perdido* Juan Tizol
JAZZ ON HIGH • Aidan Santa Cruz, piano & vocals
Etienne Franc, bass; Zack Olsen, drums
Ingrid Parker & Luke Shepherd, song leaders

WELCOME The Rev. David Pattee, pastor

*GATHERING Marty Haugen

We are the young – our lives are a myst'ry, we are the old – who yearn for your face,
We have been sung throughout all of histr'y, called to be light to the whole human race.
Gather us in – the rich and the haughty, gather us in – the proud and the strong;
Give us a heart so meek and so lowly, give us the courage to enter the song.

*THANKSGIVING Joliene Wade Gatlin, liturgist

One: For the beauty and wonder of God's creation in earth and sky and sea,
All: We thank you, God.
One: For health and strength to work, and leisure to rest and play,
All: We thank you, God.
One: For our daily food and drink, our homes and families, our friends and all creatures who are our companions on this earth.
All: We give you thanks and pray especially, O God, that we may be faithful to you in the way we treat animals, wild and tame. Teach us to admire their beauty and to delight in their cunning; to respect their strength and to wonder at their intelligence. Grant that our treatment of all creatures may be both merciful and wise, that we may join our lives to theirs in praise of your goodness which endures forever.

*HYMN 31 [hymn sheet] *All Things Bright and Beautiful* ROYAL OAK

WORD MADE PLAIN children are invited to gather at the front of the sanctuary

SCRIPTURE *Genesis 1:20-25*

And 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 every kind, with which the waters swarm, and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good. God blessed them, saying, 'Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.' And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

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.

LITANY

One: We thank you, God, for the gift of animals in our lives. We thank you for animals that comfort us, delight us and give us companionship. We thank you for dogs and cats, birds and hamsters, guinea pigs and fish.

All: We thank you, God, for the gift of animals.

One: We also thank you, God, for animals that give us wool and feathers to keep us warm. We thank you for animals that give us milk and meat, cheese and eggs to help us grow and to keep us healthy. We thank you for horses, donkeys and oxen that work hard on farms around the world.

All: We thank you, God, for the gift of animals.

One: We thank you God, for animals that eat plants and fertilize the soil, making it richer and more fertile for new growth and new life. We thank you for the gift of insects, and especially bees, to pollinate fruit and vegetable plants for us to eat and flowers to give us joy.

All: We thank you, God, for the gift of animals.

CHILDREN'S BLESSING

May the peace of God surround you… **Like the trees towering in the forest!**
May the peace of God warm you all over… **Like the sun shining in the sky!**
May the peace of God rise and roll over you… **Like the waves rolling in the sea!**
May the peace of God fill you… **Like the wind stirring in your soul!**
May the peace of God surround you… [singing] **Amen, amen, amen, amen, amen...** [repeating]

OFFERTORY

Invitation

Offertory Music *Baby Elephant Walk* Henry Mancini

PASTORAL PRAYER with *Blessing the Animals*, by Jan Richardson

…concluding with *A Prayer in the Spirit of Jesus…*

Earth-Maker, Life-Giver, Pain-Bearer, Source of all that is and all that shall be,
Father and Mother of us all, Loving God in whom is Heaven:
May the hallowing of your name echo through the universe.
May your Heavenly will be done by all creatures great and small.
And may your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come on earth.
With the bread we need this day, feed us. For the hurt we inflict on one another, forgive us.
Through times of temptation, strengthen us. From trials too great to endure, spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us. For you reign in the glory of the power that is Love.

*BLESSING THE ANIMALS

Please come forward with animals by the center aisle only.
Go to one of the stations (right or left) at the front of the sanctuary and, after the blessing, return to your seat by the nearest side aisle.

One: Bless this (these) creature(s), O God,
and fill our hearts with gratitude for its (their) being.
All: Thanks be to God. Amen.

*HYMN [hymn sheet] *Canticle of the Sun* Marty Haugen

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *Have a Talk with God* Stevie Wonder

Canticle of the Sun

Marty Haugen

Praise for the sun, the bringer of day,
he carries the light of the Lord in his rays;
the moon and the stars who light up the way unto your throne!

[Refrain] **The heavens are telling the glory of God,**
And all creation is shouting for joy!
Come, dance in the forest, come, play in the field,
And sing, sing to the glory of the Lord!

Praise for the wind that blows through the trees,
the seas' mighty storms, the gentlest breeze;
they blow where they will
they blow where they please to please the Lord! [Refrain]

Praise for the rain that waters our fields,
and blesses our crops so all the earth yields;
from death unto life her mystery revealed
springs forth in joy! [Refrain]

Praise for the earth, who makes life to grow
the creatures you made to let your life show;
the flowers and trees that help us to know
the heart of love. [Refrain]