

St. James United Church: Blessing of the Animals
October 1, 2016

Worship Leaders: Susan Sheppard
Chelsea Skanes
Katie Vardy
Music: Douglas Matthews

Welcome

Gathering (responsive)

Creator, we assemble with all your creatures in this circle of life.

We ask you to join our circle and celebrate with us.

As we join in celebration with God and all creation,

**We ask for your blessing, your *shalom*,
on the creatures present here that we
love,
and all creatures celebrating in the wild.**

We cry with all in the circle of life:

Shalom! Shalom! Shalom!

May your blessing come!



Opening Prayer (together)

God, our Creator, help us to love
all creatures as kin,
all animals as partners on Earth,
all birds as messengers of praise,
all minute beings as expressions of your mysterious design
and all frogs as voices of hope. Amen.

Song **It's a Song of Praise to the Maker** **MV 30**

Psalm 148 Circle of Praise

All dogs and wolves, large and small: **Praise God!**
All rabbits, hamsters and guinea pigs: **Praise God!**
All goldfish, guppies and swimming creatures: **Praise God!**
All sea gulls, budgies and singing birds: **Praise God!**
All horses, cows and sheep: **Praise God!**
All lizards, snakes and crawling creatures: **Praise God!**
Every animal in the sky, the sea and the forest: **Praise God!**

Gospel: Matthew 6 25-29 'How God has made creation beautiful'

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

Meditation

Song **This Is God's Wondrous World** **VU296**

Blessing of the Animals

*You are welcome to bring your pet forward
for an individual blessing.*

Prayer for Pets

Loving God, Creator of all things and giver of all life, let your blessing be upon all these animals. May our relationships with them mirror your love, and our care for them be an example of your bountiful mercy. Grant the animals health and peace. Strengthen us to love and care for them as we strive to imitate the love of Jesus and God's servant Francis. Amen.

Blessing

