

# Blessing of the Animals – August 29, 2021

## Order of Worship

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*An asterisk (\*) indicates times when you are invited to stand. Selections in **BOLD** are responses spoken by the congregation.*

### Connect

**Prelude** Laura Murach

**Welcome** Rev. Denny Moon and Pastor Todd

**\*Hymn of Praise** “All Things Bright and Beautiful” Verses 1 & 3

**\*Opening Prayer**

**Creator God, you have bound us together with all life on this planet. Teach us to care for the earth with the same love we lavish upon our pets. Amen.**

### Explore

**Reading** Genesis 1:1-5, 20-27 Deacon

**Message** Pastor Todd

**Blessing of the Animals Responsive Prayer** Pastor Todd and Rev. Moon

God created us and placed us on the earth  
to be stewards of all living things,  
therefore let us proclaim the glory of our Creator, saying:  
**O God, how wonderful are the works of your hands.**

Blessed are you, O Lord of the Universe; you create the animals  
**and give us the ability to train them to help us in our work.**

Blessed are you, O Lord of the Universe;  
**you give us food from animals to replenish our energies.**

Blessed are you, O Lord of the Universe; for the sake of our comfort  
**you give us domestic animals as companions.**

Blessed are you, O Lord of the Universe; you care for us  
**even as you care for the birds of the air.**

Blessed are you, O Lord of the Universe;  
you offered your Son to us as the passover lamb  
**and in him willed that we should be called your children.**

**Blessing of the Animals** Pastor Todd and Rev. Moon  
During the blessing, please join in the song “**The Animals Went in Two By Two**”

**Prayers of the People** Rev. Moon

**Disciples’ Prayer**

**Our Father, 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 debts as we**

forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, now and forever. Amen.

## Serve

Announcements		Pastor Todd & Rev. Moon
*Closing Hymn	<b>"O God Your Creatures Fill The Earth"</b>	Carolyn Winfrey Gillette
*Charge and Blessing		Rev. Moon
Postlude		Laura Murach

*Leave your offerings in the collection basket as you depart. Thanks for your support!*

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Prayers today written by Rev. Dr. Todd Grant Yonkman and *Discipleship Ministries, United Methodist Church*.

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### **This is an Open and Affirming Church**

We affirm the dignity and worth of every person, regardless of age, gender, ethnicity, race, mental or physical ability or sexual orientation. We offer sacraments and rites to all who enter our circle of faith. We celebrate the gifts that each person brings to First Congregational Church and invite them to share in all areas of its service, leadership, activities, responsibilities and privileges.

Deacons on Duty: Chris Saunders & Beth Lindsay

**CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK**

**Sunday, August 29 Blessing of the Animals**

9:30am          Worship

**Monday, August 30**

**Tuesday, August 31**

11am            Staff Meeting

4-5pm           Ice Tea Social at South

**Wednesday, September 1**

6:30pm        Marquis

**Thursday, September 2**

8:45am        Yoga-A1

**Friday, September 3**

3pm-4pm      Grab 'n Go Snack Pick Up

**Saturday, September 4**

9:30-11am    Granby Food Bank Drive-Up

**Sunday, September 5**

9:30am        Worship at FCC

Sunday, Sept 5 is a JOINT Communion service at First Church.  
Worship is at 9:30am. Please plan to wear a mask.

***We Hold in Prayer***

*Heather D.'s sister-in-law &  
nephew*

*Heather D.'s friend*

*Heather D.'s aunt*

*Lori F.*

*Kit L.*

*Kris L.*

*Dave M.*

*Emily M.*

*Emily M.'s daughter, Dorothy  
Marion M.*

*Paula M.'s sister*

*Christina M.*

*Nancy R.*

*Rob & Nancy R.'s cousin*

*Rob & Nancy R.'s friend*

*Ruth R.*

*Vicki S.'s brother*

*Helga S.*

*Lynne W.*

*Rich & Mary Z.'s friend*

**Church Picnic on Sunday, September 12<sup>th</sup> 11:30-3pm  
South Congregational and First Congregational Churches of Granby**

**Hosts:** Scott & Denise Tibbo

**Location:** 23 Heather Lane, North Granby

Denise's cell 508-259-1730

**ALL ARE WELCOME – PLEASE ATTEND!!**

**Scott & Denise will serve hot dogs and burgers fresh off the grill**

**Please bring something to share (apps, salad, dessert) and your beverage of choice**  
Also, please also bring a folding chair and a bathing suit for the pool or spa, if you want!



**UNITE** *In Fellowship*

Getting to know each other and building common bonds

**Granby United Church of Christ**

First Congregational Church of Granby and South Congregational Church of Granby

Cecil F. Alexander, 1818-1895

ROYAL OAK 7.6.7.6. with Refrain

Traditional English Melody

Adapted by Martin Shaw, 1875-

In unison

REFRAIN

All things bright and beau-ti - ful, All crea-tures great and small,

All things wise and won - der - ful, The Lord God made them all. *Fine*

1 Each lit - tle flower that o - pens, Each lit - tle bird that sings,  
2 The pur - ple-head - ed moun-tain, The riv - er run - ning by,  
3 The cold wind in the win - ter, The pleas-ant sum-mer sun,

He made their glow-ing col - ors, He made their ti - ny wings.  
The sun-set, and the morn-ing That bright-ens up the sky,  
The ripe fruits in the gar - den, He made them ev - ery one. *Repeat Refrain*

## O God, Your Creatures Fill the Earth

ELLACOMBE 8.6.8.6 D

("I Sing the Mighty Power of God"; "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.

Tune: *Gesangbuch der Herzoglich Wirtembergischen Katholischen Hofkapelle*, 1784 ("I Sing the Mighty Power of God"; "Hail To the Lord's Anointed") ([MIDI](#))

Alternate tune: FOREST GREEN, Traditional English melody; *English Hymnal*, 1906 ("All Beautiful the March of Days") ([MIDI](#))

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Email: [carolynshymns@gmail.com](mailto:carolynshymns@gmail.com) New Hymns: [www.carolynshymns.com/](http://www.carolynshymns.com/)

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## Hymn Note for "O God, Your Creatures Fill the Earth"

There are many wonderful references to animals, and to the care of animals, throughout the Bible. Psalm 104 is a prayer that recognizes many creatures that are part of God's good creation. Psalm 148 calls on God's creatures ("sea monsters, wild animals, all cattle, creeping things and flying birds") to praise the Lord. The Ten Commandments' instruction about rest on the Sabbath includes livestock (Deuteronomy 5:14). Jesus' teaching when he heals a man on the Sabbath (Matthew 12:9-14) assumes that, of course, righteous people will care for their animals and keep them safe from harm. Luke 15 reminds us that God is like a good shepherd who cares for every single sheep and goes after the one that is lost. Luke 12:6 tells us that God knows and cares when even a sparrow falls to the ground. In the creation stories in Genesis 1-2, God tells human beings to "have dominion" — to lovingly care for all that God has made, including the animals.

An excellent online resource is the [HSUS Faith Outreach Program](#) booklet, [The Bible's Teachings on Protecting Animals and Nature](#) by Lewis Regenstein. Regenstein, president of the Interfaith Council for the Protection of Animals and Nature, examines scripture and discusses God's Love for Nature, Human-Stewardship Responsibilities, Religion and Protection of Animals, and more.

Animals are often mentioned among the more than 1,000 verses and passages related to the Earth in [The Green Bible](#) (HarperOne, 2008). The book also contains essays contributed by Brian McLaren, Matthew Sleeth, N.T. Wright, Desmond Tutu and others, and includes a detailed index and personal study guide. The entire HSUS Faith Outreach booklet series, a free collection of religious perspectives on animals from noted authors, and the profiles of the largest denominations in the United States are available at [The HSUS' Religious Statements on Animals](#).

## Hymn Writer Carolyn Winfrey Gillette

Carolyn Winfrey Gillette is the author of [Songs of Grace: New Hymns for God and Neighbor](#) (Upper Room Books, 2009) and [Gifts of Love: New Hymns for Today's Worship](#) (Geneva Press, 2000). Her hymns can be found in the hymnals of the United Methodist, Presbyterian, Episcopal, Christian Reformed and United Church of Canada. They have been used by Habitat for Humanity, Church World Service, National Council of Churches, Family Promise, Sojourners, Souper Bowl of Caring and others. A complete list of Carolyn's 300+ hymns can be found at [www.carolynshymns.com](http://www.carolynshymns.com).

## Talk to the Animals

If I could talk to the animals, just imagine it  
Chattin' with a chimp in chimpanzee  
Imagine talking to a tiger, chatting with a cheetah  
What a neat achievement it would be  
If we could talk to the animals, learn all their languages  
Maybe take an animal degree  
I'd study elephant and eagle, buffalo and beagle  
Alligator, guinea pig, and flea  
I would converse in polar bear and python  
And I would curse in fluent kangaroo  
If people ask me, "Can you speak rhinoceros?"  
I'd say, "Of courseros, can't you?"  
If I conferred with our furry friends, man to animal  
Think of the amazing repartee  
If I could walk with the animals, talk with the animals  
Grunt and squeak and squawk with the animals  
And they could talk to me  
If I consulted with quadrupeds  
Think what fun we'd have asking over crocodiles for tea  
Or maybe lunch with two or three lions, walruses and sea lions  
What a lovely place the world would be  
If I spoke slang to orangutans  
The advantages why any fool on earth could plainly see  
Discussing Eastern art and dramas, with intellectual llamas  
That's a big step forward you'll agree  
I'd learn to speak in antelope and turtle  
And my Pekingese would be extremely good  
If I were asked to sing in hippopotamus  
I'd say, "Why notamus" and I would  
If I could parlay with pachyderms  
It's a fairy tale worthy of Hans Anderson and Grimm  
A man who walks with the animals and talks with the animals  
Grunts, and squeaks, and squawks with the animals  
And they could talk to him  
Let me hear 'em talk  
I'd study every creature's language  
So I could speak to all of them on site  
If friends said, "Can he talk in crab or maybe pelican?"  
You'd say, "Like hell he can" and you'd be right  
And if you just stop and think of it, ain't no doubt of it  
I'm gonna win a place in history  
If I could walk with the animals, talk with the animals  
Grunt, squeak, squawk with the animals  
And they could squeak, and squawk, and speak, and talk to me

# The Animals Went in Two by Two

American folk song



1. The an - i - mals went in two by two, Hur - rah! Hur - rah! The an - i - mals went in



two by two, Hur - rah! Hur - rah! The an - i - mals went in two by two, the



el - e - phant and the kan - ga - roo, and they all went in - to the ark for to get out of the rain. —

2. The animals went in three by three...the wasp, the ant and the bumble bee...
3. The animals went in four by four...the great hippopotamus stuck in the door...
4. The animals went in five by five...by hugging each other they kept alive...
5. The animals went in six by six...they left out the monkey because of his tricks...
6. The animals went in seven by seven...the little pig thought he was going to heaven...
7. The animals went in eight by eight...the turtle thought he was coming late...
8. The animals went in nine by nine...marching up in a long straight line...
9. The animals went in ten by ten...the last one in was the little red hen...