



MOUNT HOLLYWOOD

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Church for All Ages, Blessing of the Animals
Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 29, 2024, at 10:30 a.m.

Mount Hollywood is an Open and Affirming, Just Peace Congregation

You are invited to move in this sacred space freely throughout the service. There are also responsive boxes to write or draw in throughout the program. Feel free to use what blesses you and your family and leave the rest!

Draw a picture of your pet or of a pet that has crossed the rainbow bridge. Or draw a picture of your favorite creature!

We Gather in Community

Welcoming Music

Joe Lawrence

Welcome & Announcements

Rev. Ashley

Ringing of the Bells

Young and Young at Heart

↑Call to Worship

Carmen Fried

One: Ask the animals and they will teach you...

Let us bring our beloved creatures into this space by lifting up the name/type of creature you connect with aloud, followed by a word or phrase that celebrates what they have taught you!

↑**Gathering Song**

A Place In The Choir

↑**Passing the Peace**

Carmen Fried

One: You are invited to take a deep breath, and if you feel led, reach your hands up to the sky, where the birds of the air spread their wings and fly. Then come down and reach your hands to the ground where worms and critters and God's four legged creatures scurry about. Now extend your arms outward, embracing creation that is all around. May the peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Let us share the sign of peace with one another, two and four legged beloveds!

Choral Anthem

"Witness"

Jack Halloran

Mount Hollywood Choir

We Share the Word and We Bless

Responsive Reading

Genesis 1:20-27 a
The Message Translation

Carmen Fried

One: God spoke: "Swarm, Ocean, with fish and all sea life!
Birds, fly through the sky over Earth!"

**All: God created the huge whales,
all the swarm of life in the waters,
And every kind and species of flying birds.
God saw that it was good.**

One: God blessed them: "Prosper! Reproduce! Fill Ocean!
Birds, reproduce on Earth!"

It was evening, it was morning—

**All: God spoke: "Earth, generate life! Every sort and kind:
cattle and reptiles and wild animals—all kinds."**

And there it was:

**wild animals of every kind,
Cattle of all kinds, every sort of reptile and bug.
God saw that it was good.**

One: God spoke: "Let us make human beings in our image, make them
reflecting our nature

So they can be responsible for the fish in the sea,
the birds in the air, the cattle,

And, yes, Earth itself,

and every animal that moves on the face of Earth."

**All: God created human beings;
he created them godlike,
Reflecting God's nature.**

Our response: Circle the word or phrase that jumps out at you in the scripture.
What is arising in you?

Storytime

“The Invisible String”

Rev. Ashley

All who feel led are invited to come forward and sit in the front.

Solo

“I Love My Dog”

Cat Stevens

Autumn Lawrence, soloist

A Brief Message for All Ages and Blessing of the Animals

Rev. Ashley

We invite you to come forward with your fluffy, scaly, or feathery friend for a blessing. If you have a photo or just want to share about a pet you've had in the past you are welcome to do so.

This Sunday we will also take the offering during this time. Please feel free to come and place your offerings in the plate in back of the sanctuary. You can also find our QR code to give online on the back of the program. May these offerings go to the work of the kin-dom of God.

We Pray

Solo

“The Lord Bless You and Keep You”

John Rutter

Rada Jovicic, soloist

Joys, Concerns and Discoveries- Silent Prayer

Rev. Ashley

It is our practice to share our Gratitude and Joy, Concerns and Discoveries

Prayer of Saint Francis (Unison)

Carmen Fried

God, make me an instrument of your peace.

Where there is hatred, let me sow love;

where there is injury, pardon;

where there is doubt, faith;

where there is despair, hope;

where there are shadows, light;

and where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine One, grant that I may not so much seek
to be consoled as to console;
to be understood as to understand;
to be loved as to love.
For it is in giving that we receive;
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen

Our response: Write or draw three things you are praying for today.

We Are Sent

↑**Sending Hymn**

#31

All Things Bright and Beautiful

↑**Sending Forth**

Rev. Ashley

Postlude

Joe Lawrence

All Members, Ministers
Rev. Ashley Hiestand, Pastor
Joe Lawrence, Music Director
Clay Widdifield, Moderator
Vincent Lopez, Technical Director

INTERGENERATIONALITY IS MARKED BY...

MUTUALITY
(we all participate and benefit)

RECIPROCITY
(we all give and receive)

EQUALITY
(we are all valued equally)

↑Please stand in mind, body, or spirit as you feel led.
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