

iucc Irvine United Congregational Church

*An Open & Affirming, Just Peace, Global Mission, Creation Justice
Congregation of the United Church of Christ*

October 8, 2023 • 11:15am

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

Gathering

Come, Now is the Time to Worship

By Brian Doerksen (adapted Gary Barmore)

Come, now is the time to worship;
Come, now is the time to give your heart.
Come just as you are to worship;
Come just as you are before your God.
Come.

Ev'ry day we live in the light of God's love,
Ev'ry day we walk by faith.
Now we're here to open our hearts once more,
Now we give thanks for grace.

Come, now is the time to worship;
Come, now is the time to give your heart.
Come just as you are to worship;
Come just as you are before your God.
Come.

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Now we're here to open our hearts once more,
Now we give thanks for grace.

Come, now is the time to worship;
Come, now is the time to give your heart.
Come just as you are to worship;
Come just as you are before your God.
Come.

Come, come, come!

Singing

You Are Welcome Here

by Gerard DeMan

(refrain)

You are welcome here, no matter who you are,
no matter where you are on life's journey.
You are welcome here, no matter who you are,
come and join with us, we're united in the church of Christ.

Come now all people, join in the song,
come be a part of the family of God.
We are God's people, and you belong,
share in the joy of Christ. (refrain)

We pray for justice; we pray for peace;
we hear the word of the Savior of all.
we find God's mercy; we find release,
sharing the joy of Christ. (refrain)

Lifting each other; doing what's right;
standing together, whatever may come;
praising Creation, shining our light
sharing the joy of Christ. (refrain)

Centering

Jaime Reza

Creator God, for all the animals in your Creation,
We thank you!
Spirit of Love and Laughter, for all the connection and friendship we have with animals,
We lift up our gratitude.
Merciful One, for all the times we have hurt or neglected animals,
We ask forgiveness and commit ourselves to act on their behalf.
Protector of the Universe, for all the times we have used poisons that have harmed animals,
We ask forgiveness and commit ourselves to act on their behalf.
Great Healer, for all the times we have destroyed the homes of animals in the forests, oceans,
and fields,
We ask forgiveness and commit ourselves to care for your creation.
Ever present God, for all the times we have failed to see you in our world, in the essence of the
animals, in the beauty of nature,
We ask forgiveness and we open our eyes to your presence now.
You are all around: in the breeze of the trees, in the light of the sun, and in the trusting loving
eyes of each animal, all of your created ones.
Amen.

Sharing

Bless the Beasts and the Children

Joy Dorko

by Barry Devorzon and Perry Botkin Jr

Playing

Fresh Word

Praying

Craig Tysl

Administrative Pastor IUCC

Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying

By Ken Medema

Lord, Listen to your children praying, Lord, Send your Spirit in this place;
Lord, listen to your children praying, send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.

Offering

We Are an Offering

By Dwight Liles

We lift our voices, we lift our hands,
We lift our lives up to you, we are an offering.

God, use our voices, God, use our hands,
God, use your lives, they are yours,
We are an offering.

All that we have, all that we are,
all that we hope to be, we give to you, we give to you.

We lift our voices, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you;
we are an offering, we are an offering.

Reading

Job 12: 7-10

But ask the animals, and they will teach you,
the birds of the air, and they will tell you;
ask the plants of the earth, and they will teach you,
and the fish of the sea will declare to you.

Who among all these does not know
that the hand of the Lord has done this?
In his hand is the life of every living thing
and the breath of every human being.

Learning

Rev. Dr. Sarah Halverson-Cano

Sending

Carry the Light

By Debby Moylan

We have all witnessed your presence,
We have received your grace.
We give you honor and glory,
For moving in this place.

Now we go out to share the good news.
Now we go out to share your love.
Now we go out to share the good news.
Now we go out to share your love:

Carry the light! Carry the light!
Carry the light to all the Earth!

Carry the light! Carry the light!
Carry the light of Jesus Christ!

Departing

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