



Gathering and Greeting

Rev. Stephanie Schlimm

The animals of God's creation live in the skies, the earth, and the sea.
They share in the fortunes of human existence
and have a part in human life.

God, who is generous with all of creation, has often used the service of
animals or made them reminders of the gifts of salvation.

Animals were saved from the flood
and afterwards made a part of the covenant with Noah.

A giant fish saved Jonah; ravens brought bread to Elijah;
animals were included in the repentance of Nineveh;
and animals share in Christ's redemption of all God's creation.

We, therefore, pray God's blessing on these animals.
As we do so, let us praise the Creator
and thank God for setting us as stewards
over all the creatures of the earth.

Scripture Genesis 6: 17-22

Rev. Robert Armstrong

[God said to Noah]: "For my part, I am going to bring a flood of waters on the earth, to destroy from under heaven all flesh in which is the breath of life; everything that is on the earth shall die. But I will establish my covenant with you; and you shall come into the ark, you, your sons, your wife, and your sons' wives with you. And of every living thing, of all flesh, you shall bring two of every kind into the ark, to keep them alive with you. Of the birds according to their kinds, and of the animals according to their kinds, of every creeping thing of the ground according to its kind, two of every kind shall come in to you, to keep them alive. Also take with you every kind of food that is eaten, and store it up; and it shall serve as food for you and for them." Noah did this; he did all that God commanded him.

Responsive Reading (adapted from Psalm 36:5-6)

(please read the bold print)

Your steadfast love, O LORD, extends to the heavens,
your faithfulness to the clouds.

**Your righteousness is like the mighty mountains,
your judgments are like the great deep;
you save humans and animals alike, O LORD.**

Prayer of Blessing

The minister says the following prayer to bless each animal.

Bless, O Lord these creatures,
and fill our hearts with thanksgiving for their being.

Dismissal with Blessing

May God, who created the animals of this earth,
continue to protect and sustain us all,
now and for ever. Amen.

St. Luke's United Methodist Church
1199 Main St.
Dubuque, IA 52001
562-582-4543

Rev. Stephanie Schlimm, Pastor

Join us for worship on Sundays 8:30 a.m. or 10:45 a.m!

