

**St. John's Reformed Church
September 8, 2024 10 a.m.**

Wisdom Series: Animal Sunday

(Please join responsively by speaking aloud the bolded sections)

Pre-Prelude

Announcements and Hospitality

Our Approach to God

Prelude

Votum: We worship this Sunday with the entire living family
on Earth, all designed by the Wisdom of God.

*Call to Worship

We invite our animal family to worship with us,
All our kin living on this planet, from the busiest bee to the tallest giraffe.

We remember our animal relatives who have become extinct,
Dinosaurs, dodos and Texas grey wolves, Oregon bison and the woolly mammoth.

We join our brothers and sisters in praising God,
Gliding eagles and watchful cougars, Gorillas in the mist and polar bears in the snow.

We summon the kin we have come to love,
The stray cat and the backyard dog, the goat, the pony, and the little lamb.

All our animal family in all the world,
Raise your voices to the skies in a family festival of praise.

Sing, family, sing!

A song of praise for all creatures!

*Hymn *All Creatures of Our God and King* #551 vs. 1-3

Salutation & Prayer of Invocation

Time of Confession

Remember birds and animals you have loved or with whom you felt a spiritual kinship. Share your memories with the person next to you.

Liturgist: Remember too those of our kin who are endangered, those who have had their homes destroyed and those who have become extinct, through human greed and exploitation.

Congregation: We hear creation groaning. We hear fellow creatures crying out in pain. And we hear members of our animal family weeping.

As you remember, you are invited to come forward and light a candle to commemorate an animal that was close to you or an endangered/extinct species. Name the animal or species in your head as you light the candle. You will be dismissed by rows. After all rows have come forward:

Liturgist: We share the sorrow of our animal family.

Congregation: We share the sorrow. We share the memory. And we are sorry.

Kyrie Eleison *“Lord have mercy upon us;
Christ have mercy upon us; Lord have mercy upon us.”*

Assurance of Pardon

Summary of the Law: **Proverbs 3:5-6**

May the Spirit guide us to be obedient to this Word. Amen.

*Gloria Patri *Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning,
is now and ever shall be, world without end, Amen. Amen*

Musical Meditation

The Word of God in Proclamation and Sacrament

Prayer for Illumination & Lectionary Lessons

Lesson from the Psalms: **Psalm 104:14-23, 31** (p. 555)

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Lesson from the New Testament: **1 Corinthians 1:10-23** (p. 166)

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

*Hymn *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing* #521 vs. 1-3

*Lesson from the Gospel: **Luke 12:22-31** (pp. 74-75)

This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise be to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

Prayer for Blessing

Our Response to God's Grace

*Affirmation of Faith:

Let us affirm our faith together.

We believe that God creates all things, renews all things and celebrates all things. We believe Earth is a sanctuary, a sacred planet filled with God's presence, a home for us to share with our kin.

We believe that God became flesh and blood, became a piece of Earth, a human being called Jesus Christ, who lived and breathed and spoke among us, suffered and died on a cross, for all human beings and for all creation

We believe that the risen Jesus is the Christ at the core of creation reconciling all things to God, renewing all creation and filling the universe.

We believe the Spirit renews life in creation, groans in empathy with a suffering creation, and waits with us for the rebirth of creation.

We believe that with Christ we will rise and with Christ we will celebrate a new creation.

*The Peace The peace of Christ be with you. **And also, with you.**
The Offering & Offertory

*Doxology *Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise Him all creatures here below. Praise Him above ye
Heavenly host. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

*Prayer of Dedication (in unison)

God, our Creator, through your love you have given us these gifts to share. Accept our offerings as an expression of our deep thanks and our concern for those in need, including our fellow creatures on planet Earth. With all creation, we bless our Creator.

Prayers for the People of God

The Lord's Prayer (use 'trespasses')

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 trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into
temptation but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen**

Prayer Response *Threefold Amen Amen, Amen, Amen*

*Hymn *For the Beauty of the Earth* #19 vs. 1-3

*Benediction

*Congregational Amen "Go Now in Peace"

Go now in peace. Never be afraid.

*God will go with us each hour of every day. Go now in faith steadfast
strong and true. Know he will guide us in all we do.*

*Go now in love, and show we believe. Reach out to others so all the world
can see. God will be there watching from above.*

Go now in peace, in faith and in love.

*Postlude

*Indicates congregation to stand if able.

St. John's Reformed Church

Upper Red Hook, New York

