SPRING VALLEY PRESBYTERIAN

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

St. Francis Day, October 4, 2026, 3:00 PM

**If it rains, please join us under the drive-through portico on the right side of the building.*

WELCOME: "All God's Critters Got a Place in the Choir" (written by Bill Staines 1978)

[**CHORUS: All God's critters got a place in the choir, some sing low, some sing higher;**
Some sing out loud on the telephone wire- and some just clap their hands, or paws, or anything they got now.]

Listen to the bass it's the one on the bottom where the bullfrog croaks and the hippopotamus
Moans and makes such a big to do- and the old cow just goes moo.
The dogs and the cats they take up the middle where the honeybee hums and the cricket fiddles
The donkey brays and the pony nays- and the old coyote howls.
[TO CHORUS]
Listen to the top where the little birds sing on the melodies with the high notes ringing
The hoot owl hollers over everything- and the jaybird disagrees.
Singing in the night time singing in the day, the little duck quacks- then he's on his way.
The possum ain't got much to say, and the porcupine talks to himself
[TO CHORUS]

OPENING PRAYER

SCRIPTURE READING- Genesis 1:20-21,24,25; And God said, "Let the waters team with living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the expanse of the sky." So God created the great creatures of the sea and every living and moving thing…according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. God blessed them and said, "Be fruitful and increase in number…And God said, Let the land produce living creatures according to their kinds: livestock, creatures that move along the ground, and wild animals each according to its kind… and God saw that it was good."

Psalm 104: 24ff: "How many are your works, O Lord! In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures. There is the sea vast and spacious, teeming with creatures beyond number—living things both large and small. These all look to you to give them their food at their proper time."

Prayer Litany:

Leader: Lord we lift up your creatures that you made in love.
People: We give you thanks, O God.
Leader: Bless those who are here and those unable to come.
People: Bless them for you are the One who Blesses.
Leader: We grieve with those who have lost pet friends in the last year.
People: Comfort them, O Holy Spirit.
Leader: Jesus- you were born in the midst of animas in a stable; you lived among the wild noting foxes have holes and birds have nests but you had no place to lay your head. You invited us to see how God cares for the sparrow to be reminded that God cares for us.
ALL: Thank you, God for your great love for animals, for humans, for all that you have made. Help us to respond to your love by loving the creatures and people around us- our neighbors. Amen.

The minister circulates among the people: Asking the name of the animal and blesses the animal:

"___ You were created by God, and you are loved by God. May you and your human family experience joy and companionship together and be a blessing to each other. May the Lord bless you as only He can. In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen. [After each animal is blessed that family may be dismissed].