

Blessing of the Animals

When I am stressed, I lay my head near my cat, close my eyes, and listen. She rumbles. Purrs. In, and out, each breath. My breathing slows. My heart beat slows. The troubles of the world are drowned out by the presence of a cat.

You have animals with you in person or in spirit who are your companions. Wild companions - like the sparrow who sits on my deck and sings with his whole body. Pet companions - dogs who look to you with more love than you thought an animal could hold.

We are not at peace unless we are in community. That community is not just other humans, but also all life, all creation.

The phrase "all my relations" is on the United Church crest in Mohawk. This is beside the Latin phrase "That all may be one."

All being one - united - includes all relations. Includes your cousins and neighbours - and includes your pets and wildlife. It includes the waters and skies. Includes the worms and microbes. All - all - all creation is one family. We need one another. We are not whole unless we are in community.

In our scripture today, Jesus says "There is enough trouble for today without borrowing from tomorrow." He draws our attention to nature to explain. God knows the needs of birds and lilies. God knows the needs of dogs and cats. God knows every fish's dream and every cloud's origin. Each have their needs met. God knows all humans need shelter, water, clothes and food. Scripture tells us God sends the rain for the just and unjust alike. God works to provide for all creation. So don't worry. Fretting and worrying about wealth, food, clothing, housing, tariffs, fascism, and war isn't going to add an hour to your life.

Instead, seek the Blessed Community and all basic needs will be fulfilled along the way. Seek to live into the kin-dom, the community of God, and God's right-with-all, and all the rest of our needs are met too.

Because a Christian is a community member. A person who knows we are not complete unless all our relations are cared for.

And when all our relations are cared for, we end up cared for too.

Tend your garden and it shall feed you.

Care for your cat and he will calm you.

Love your dog and she will love you.

Help your neighbour and your neighbour will help you.

Waters protected and kept clean shall protect you and keep you clean.

Don't worry about tomorrow, be a loving and compassionate person today. That love and compassion, mercy and justice, and living into the all-creation community of God places us in the Blessed Kin-dom of God.

So are you feeling stressed? It's time for a nature break. Jesus did it all the time – retreating to the garden or to the wilderness to pray, calm, and still. May you find the time for animal cuddles, leaf viewing, flower smelling, bird listening and harvest tasting. May you be blessed by all your relations, and may you bless all of them too. **Amen!**

Scripture Readings – Oct. 26, 2025 – Little Current UCPC

Psalm 148 VU 871-872

Refrain: Let the whole creation cry, “Glory be to God on high.”

Praise God from the heavens; give praise in the heights!

Give praise, all you angels; praise God, all you hosts!

Praise God, sun and moon; give praise, stars and lights!

Praise God, farthest heavens, and all waters beyond heaven! Refrain

Let all things praise the Holy One at whose command they were created,
who established them for all time, setting bounds, which cannot be passed.

**Praise God from the earth, great sea creatures and ocean depths,
lightning and hail, snow and frost, gales that obey God's decree,**

all mountains and hills, all fruit trees and cedars,

wild animals and cattle, creatures winged and earth-bound,

sovereigns who rule earth and its people, all who govern and judge this world,

young men and women alike, old people and children together! Refrain

Let all things praise the name of God, the name above every other,
whose splendour covers heaven and earth.

**You who give strength to your people, songs of praise to your faithful,
to Israel, the people dear to your heart. Refrain**

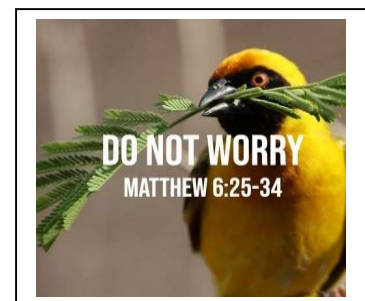
Matthew 6:25-34 NRSV Updated Edition

“Do Not Worry”

²⁵ “Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? ²⁶ Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? ²⁷ And which of you by worrying can add a single hour to your span of life? ²⁸ And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, ²⁹ yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. ³⁰ But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? ³¹ Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What will we eat?’ or ‘What will we drink?’ or ‘What will we wear?’ ³² For it is the gentiles who seek all these things, and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things.

³³ But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

³⁴ “So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today's trouble is enough for today.



*May God's spirit shape our understanding of these words.
And may they awaken in our hearts.*