

**Sermon: A Sermon to the Animals****Scripture: Genesis 1:20-25****Preacher: Rev. Will Burhans****Date: October 16, 2022**

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Greetings to all of you animals out there. Thank you for joining us for worship this morning and bringing your human companions along. Welcome Chester and Gus and Wallace and Lilly and ....

You do know don't you that you were brought into this world by God, you beautiful creatures, and that you are loved by God in all your uniqueness and personality. We as humans are so grateful for the way you are conduits of love for us. You help settle us down in our anxious toiling,

you make us smile and laugh,

you keep us healthy and active,

you notice our pain and greet us with joy

and you cause trouble sometimes,

but its usually good trouble that just reminds us that we can't control everything though we silly humans try so hard to at times. You, dear creatures of God, help make us into what God wants us to be, more gentle and humble and pure of heart, not humans domineering over others but in service to others. It's what Jesus taught and it's what you help us to live.

We confess to you and to God how we are not great stewards of this earth though God gave us that task... in fact that's an understatement, we're sorry for the way we hurt the earth and the ways we live and move and eat that are violent and destructive of soil and air and animal life and forests. Thank you for being

patient with us as we work to do better, as God asks us to do, and thank you for being a loving constant presences that remind us:

to be care-takers not just go getters,

to be dog walkers and not just gas guzzlers

to be cat-like sun bathers and not only machine-like pace-setters

to be active rompers and not just driven achievers

to be nappers and not just workers

less serious and more playful

less anxious and more peaceful

more patient and less irritable

more forgiving less resentful.

Thank you. Thank you for teaching us so much and thank you God for giving us these animal companions as teachers. We pray that you will help us to remember that in your remarkable order of things all creatures have got a place in your choir, that some of them sing low and some sing higher and some sing out loud on the telephone wire! Which reminds me of a song that I think we should sing together this morning! All God's Critters Got a Place in the Choir!