



**Order of Worship - Animal Blessing Sunday - October 20, 2024**

Prelude

Jazz Musicians: Jane Potter, keyboards;  
Lenny Bradford, bass; Rick Forzese, drums

Welcome and Invocation

Rev. Will Burhans

Gathering Hymn

*For the Beauty of the Earth*

New Century Hymnal, #28

For the beauty of the earth,  
For the glory of the skies,  
For the love which from our birth  
Over and around us lies.

God of all, to you we raise this, our hymn of grateful praise.

For the wonder of each hour  
Of the day and of the night,  
Hill and vale, and tree and flow'r,  
Sun and Moon, and stars of light.

God of all, to you we raise this, our hymn of grateful praise.

For the joy of human love,  
Brother, sister, parent, child,  
Friends on earth, and friends above  
For all gentle thoughts and mild.

God of all, to you we raise this, our hymn of grateful praise.

Scripture

Psalms 104

Liturgist: Rev. Maeve Hammond

Reflection

"In the Age of the Anthropocene"

Rev. Will Burhans

Anthem

"All God's Critters Got a Place in the Choir"

[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  
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 groans with 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 neighs, and the old coyote Howls. [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 jay bird disagrees.  
Singing in the night time, singing in the day, the little duck quacks and he's on his way  
The possum ain't got much to say, and the porcupine talks to himself. [CHORUS]

It's a simple song of living sung everywhere by the ox and the fox and the grizzly bear  
The grumpy alligator and the hawk above, the sly raccoon and the turtle dove. [CHORUS]

Offertory *The offering this morning will go to support Brother Wolf Animal Rescue in Asheville, NC, as they rebuild their shelter that was destroyed by Hurricane Helene.*

Animal Blessing *You are invited to come forward with your animal companion for a blessing with either of the pastors. Fill out the name of your pet on a blessing card as you come forward.*

Closing Hymn *All Things Bright and Beautiful* New Century Hymnal, #31

[Refrain] All things bright and beautiful,  
all creatures great and small,  
all things wise and wonderful,  
the Lord God made them all.

Each little flower that opens,  
each little bird that sings,  
God made their glowing colors,  
God made their tiny wings. [Refrain]

The purple-headed mountain,  
the river running by,  
the sunset, and the morning  
that brightens up the sky; [Refrain]

The cold wind in the winter,  
the pleasant summer sun,  
the ripe fruits in the garden,  
God made them, ev'ry one. [Refrain]

Benediction Rev. Will Burhans

Postlude Jazz Band

**Rev. Will Burhans**, Lead Pastor, **Rev. Maeve Hammond**, Associate Pastor, **Jane Ring Frank**, Minister of Worship & the Arts, **Maggie Keeler**, Minister of Children & Families, **Jeffrey Mead**, Keyboards, **Sarah Marino**, Office Administrator  
Deacons serving are **John Keeley**, **Tony McPherson**, **Petra Sansom** and **Branda Wilhoite**.  
**Special thanks: Jane Potter, keyboards; Lenny Bradford, bass; Rick Forzese, drums**



**First Congregational Church in Winchester is proud to be Open & Affirming.**  
Since 2001, we have been committed to a public covenant of ministry to all LGBTQIA+ siblings. You are welcome here. You are loved here. Your presence matters here.

### Flowers

Today's flowers are given to the Glory of God and in honor of Liam's 4th Birthday, by the Shannahan family.

### Offering

Scan QR codes below, or visit the offering plate for cash, checks



venmo



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