Order of Worship - Animal Blessing Sunday - October 19, 2025

Prelude Jazz Musicians: Jane Potter, keyboards; Lenny Bradford, bass; Teri Coté, drums

Welcome Rev. Will Burhans

Invocation Rev. Maeve Hammond

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 Psalm 148 Liturgist: Rev. Maeve Hammond

(Inclusive Bible)

Reflection "Mirrors of the Divine" 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 Caring Canines Visiting Therapy Dogs and their mission to bring comfort to hospitals, nursing homes, schools, and community centers.

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 Betsy Goodell, Petra Sansom, Janet Vaughn, 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.

For decades, we have celebrated our LGBTQIA+ siblings and their inclusion in all parts of our worship and congregational life. In 2001, we became Open & Affirming through the UCC, meaning we are liturgically and theologically committed to a public covenant of welcome.

Flowers

Today's flowers are given to the Glory of God and in honor of Liam's 5th Birthday, by the Shanahan family.

Offering

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



