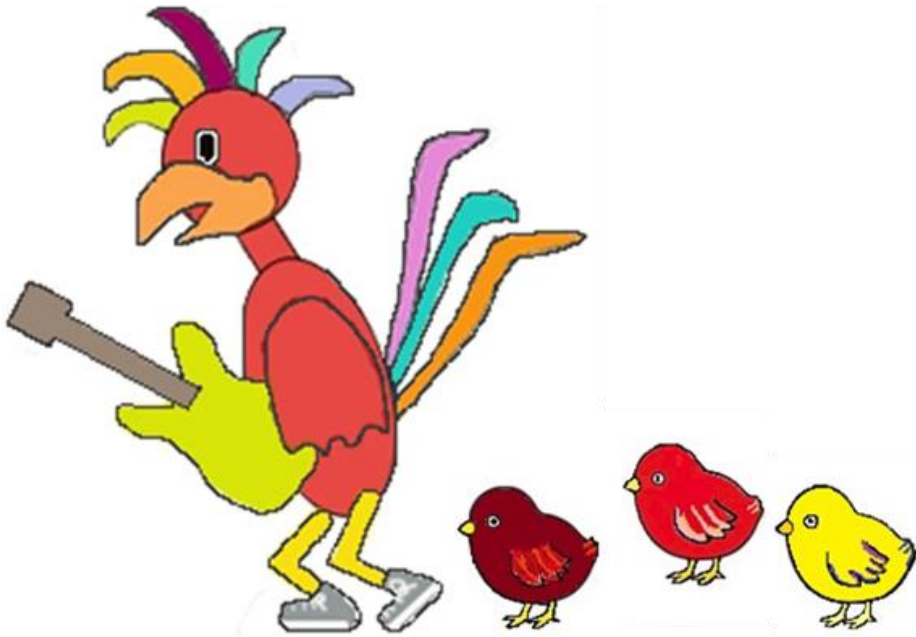


It's Saturday,



Let's Do Church!

WEST PARISH OF BARNSTABLE
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

A BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

May 21, 2022

4:30 p.m.

*“What are human beings that you are mindful of them,
mortals that you care for them?
Yet you have made them a little lower than,
God and crowned them with glory and honor.
You have given them dominion over the works of your hands.”*

Psalm 8:4-6

OUR STATEMENT OF WELCOME

We are:

PROGRESSIVELY UNTRADITIONAL: 21st century minds in a 1717 Meetinghouse!

JOYOUSLY INCLUSIVE: Radically open and affirming, all ages, races, gender and sexual orientation, everyone is welcome exactly as you are.

EXPRESSLY “ON THE WAY”: Faith is a journey. Journey with us!

COMMITTEDLY IN THE COMMUNITY: In helping others, we become our true selves.

GOD GATHERS US



*OPENING SONG *“All Things Bright and Beautiful”*

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, and made their tiny wings.

Refrain

The purple headed mountain, the river running by,
the sunset, and the morning hat brightens up the sky.

Refrain

The cold wind in the winter, the pleasant summer sun,
the rip fruits in the garden, God made them every one.

Refrain

WELCOME

Pastor Christine Burns

One: Hello, I'm Pastor Christie, this is Pastor Reed and our musician today is Steve Gregory and together we are

All: ONE diverse community

Growing up in faith

Reaching out in love

One: it is good when God's people and animals are here together, and so we can rejoice, because,

All: It's Saturday, Let's do church!

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

One: God has blessed us with a wonderful creation

All: Behold, God is good, and has given us animals as part of that creation.

One: Animals who keep us company when we are lonely,

All: who become part of our families,

One: who help to comfort us when we are sad,

All: who remind us about what is important in life.

One: Some animals help us to see or hear,

All: And some break down the barriers between people.

One: We are animals, too--

All: Let us celebrate all of God's creatures.

UNISON PRAYER

Hear our humble prayer, O God, for our friends the animals, your creatures. We pray especially for all that are suffering in any way: for the overworked and underfed, the hunted, lost, or hungry; for all in captivity or ill-treated, and for those near death. For all of those who deal with them, we ask a gentle heart of compassion, gentle hands, and kindly words. Make us all true friends to animals and worthy followers of our merciful Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.



THE LORD'S PRAYER (we will sing this in echo fashion)

**Our Father... who art in Heaven....hallowed be thy name....Thy kingdom
come.....thy will be done.....on Earth as it is in Heaven.**

Give us this day....our daily bread....and forgive us all our sins...

And lead us not....into temptation....but deliver us from evil.

Unison:

For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory

Echo:

Forever.....and ever....

Our Father....who art in Heaven....hallowed be thy name.

THE WORD OF GOD IS PROCLAIMED



SACRED WORDS FOR SACRED SPACE

Psalm 8

SPECIAL SING-ALONG

Talk to the Animals

Bobby Darren

If I could talk to the animals, just imagine it

Chattin' with a chimp in chimpanzee

Imagine talking to a tiger, chatting with a cheetah

What a neat achievement it would be

If we could talk to the animals, learn all their languages

Maybe take an animal degree

I'd study elephant and eagle, buffalo and beagle

Alligator, guinea pig, and flea

I would converse in polar bear and python

And I would curse in fluent kangaroo

If people ask me, "Can you speak rhinoceros?"

I'd say, "Of courseros, can't you?"

If I conferred with our furry friends, man to animal

Think of the amazing repartee

If I could walk with the animals, talk with the animals
Grunt and squeak and squawk with the animals
And they could talk to me

If I consulted with quadrupeds
Think what fun we'd have asking over crocodiles for tea
Or maybe lunch with two or three lions, walruses and sea lions
What a lovely place the world would be

If I spoke slang to orangutans
The advantages why any fool on earth could plainly see
Discussing Eastern art and dramas, with intellectual llamas
That's a big step forward you'll agree

I'd learn to speak in antelope and turtle
And my Pekingese would be extremely good
If I were asked to sing in hippopotamus
I'd say, "Why notamus" and I would

If I could parlay with pachyderms
It's a fairy tale worthy of Hans Anderson and Grimm
A man who walks with the animals and talks with the animals
Grunts, and squeaks, and squawks with the animals
And they could talk to him

Let me hear 'em talk

I'd study every creature's language
So I could speak to all of them on site
If friends said, "Can he talk in crab or maybe pelican?"
You'd say, "Like hell he can" and you'd be right

And if you just stop and think of it, ain't no doubt of it
I'm gonna win a place in history
If I could walk with the animals, talk with the animals
Grunt, squeak, squawk with the animals
And they could squeak, and squawk, and speak, and talk to me

REFLECTION

Old Dogs, Puppies and Humanity

Pastor Christie Burns

A POEM

The Sweetness of Dogs

Mary Oliver



A TIME OF PRAYER

O God who created animals and who has given our pets into our care, we give you thanks for veterinarians, for animal rescue organizations, animal shelters and pet adoption programs, for pet owners and all who care for animals. We honor their work and pray for their continued service to pets and other animals.

Blessing the Memory of Pets who have Died

One: It is the way of this world that the life span of our animals is short, and we must on occasion lose them to death, yet we remember them with joy. We give heartfelt thanks for those of our animals who have gone on before us. In this time of silence, I invite you to name all of the animals who have shaped and taught you how to be a better human. Amen.

INVITATION TO SHARING OUR GIFTS

Our gifts support the ministries of this congregation here and,
through its outreach, the wider community.

*If you are a guest here today, this service is our gift to you,
so please do not feel obligated in any way.*

Instructions on Text to Give are on page 8.

MUSICAL INTERLUDE

UNISON PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Dear God, bless all the creatures that you have made and help us to delight in them. May we be loving and responsible owners, trainers and caretakers. We give thanks for all the animals with us today, and remember with fondness those

who have died. We are grateful for animal companions who bring joy into our lives now and those who have enriched us in the past. Help us always to love and respect your creation. Amen.

GOD SENDS US FORTH



*SONG

Joy to the World

Three Dog Night

Jeremiah was a bullfrog
Was a good friend of mine
I never understood a single word he said
But I helped him a-drink his wine
And he always had some mighty fine wine

Singin' joy to the world
All the boys and girls now
Joy to the fishes in the deep blue sea
Joy to you and me

And if I were the king of the world
Tell you what I'd do
I'd throw away the cars and the bars and the war
Make sweet love to you

Sing it now, joy to the world
All the boys and girls
Joy to the fishes in the deep blue sea
Joy to you and me

You know I love the ladies
Love to have my fun
I'm a high life flyer and a rainbow rider

A straight shootin' son-of-a-gun
I said a straight shootin' son-of-a-gun

Joy to the world
All the boys and girls
Joy to the fishes in the deep blue sea
Joy to you and me

Joy to the world
All the boys and girls
Joy to the world
Joy to you and me

Joy to the world
All the boys and girls
Joy to the fishes in the deep blue sea
Joy to you and me

Joy to the world
Joy to you and me
Joy to the world
All the boys and girls now
Joy to the fishes in the deep blue sea
Joy to you and me

Joy to the world
All the boys and girls
Joy to the fishes in the deep blue sea
Joy to you and me

Joy to the world
All the boys and girls

WORDS OF SENDING

PRESENTATION OF THE ANIMALS FOR BLESSING

In the Spirit of St. Francis, who taught us how God loves all creatures, great and small, we invite you to present your animals before God for a blessing. Please bring your animals in single file to one of the stations to be blessed by a minister.

MUSIC OF SENDING

(Please feel free to stay seated in silence during this time,
or, as the Spirit moves, get up and go!)

* All who wish, please stand.

For everyone's comfort: please keep your animals under control.
Please clean up after your pet. Baggies and a trash bag are available on the table
at the teardrop outside. Feel free to walk or water your pet as necessary.

WE ARE GLAD YOU WORSHIPPED WITH US TODAY!

All people, young and old and in-between, are lifted up wherever they are on the journey. We look forward to worshipping with you again soon!

Pastors Christie Burns and Reed Baer

Our "Saturday School" is underway, a special class for our youngsters, held over in Jenkins Hall, led by Pastor Reed and an adult lay teacher/volunteer, during the last 20 minutes of the service. Interested in joining in as a teacher or an extra pair of hands, speak to Reed after church.

Christie holds coffee hours by appointment at Nirvana Coffee shop in Barnstable Village or Snowy Owl in Sandwich. Call, text, or email her for an appointment: 508-494-6409; associatepastor@westparish.org



by recycling this bulletin.

Text to Give!

We are excited to announce that West Parish accepts donations via text! It's easy:

1. Text 866-586-0169 (the give-by-text number for West Parish) and in the body of the message enter the amount you wish to donate and send.
2. You will receive a registration link. Click on it and enter your contact and payment information, and then press "Process."
3. After registration is complete, you will receive a verification text and receipt via email.

You only need to register and set up your payment information once.

For future giving, simply send a text with the amount you wish to give, and it will process automatically.

Add "West Parish Give by Text" as a contact on your phone to make it even easier!

Church Staff

Reed Baer, Pastor and Teacher

Donna Murphy, Music Director

Kristen Lind, Family School Director

Wendy Northcross, Council Chair

Christine Burns, Associate Pastor

Susan McEwen, Office Administrator

Joseph Findlay, Sexton

Susan Moeller, Deacons Chair

Box 219, West Barnstable, MA 02668

Week of May 21, 2022

Saturday	5/21/22	4:30 pm	Worship
Sunday	5/22/22	10:00 am	Worship
Monday	5/23/22	5:00 pm	AA (J)
Tuesday	5/24/22	9:30 am	FS Science (J)
		10:30 am	FS Science (J)
		11:45 am	Music Lessons (M)
		5:00 pm	AA (J)
		6:15 pm	Handbells (M)
		6:30 pm	Study Group (G)
Wednesday	5/25/22	9:30 am	FS Science (J)
		10:30 am	FS Science (J)
		12:00 pm	Bible Study (G & Z)
		5:00 pm	AA (J)
Thursday	5/26/22	9:15 am	FS Science (J)
		10:00 am	Crafters (J)
		1:00 pm	Bridge Group (G)
		5:00 pm	AA (J)
		7:00 pm	AA (J)
Friday	5/27/22	9:30 am	FS Science (J)
		10:30 am	FS Science (J)
		10:30 pm	Knitting Group (G)
		5:00 pm	AA (J)
Saturday	5/28/22	4:30 pm	Worship

BE THE CHURCH

*Protect the environment.
Care for the poor.*

Forgive often.

Reject racism.

Fight for the powerless.

Share earthly and spiritual resources.

Embrace diversity.

Love God.

Enjoy this life.

God is still speaking,
**UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**

