

harcourt

An Affirming Ministry

September 23, 10:30 a.m.

MINISTERS: The People with ... Miriam Flynn and Jim Ball

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRY: Alison MacNeill

Creation 3 – Blessing of the Animals

VU–Voices United; MV–More Voices



~ Please speak with an usher if you would like to use a hearing assist device. ~

WORDS OF WELCOME

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: The beauty of the heavens above
and the earth beneath welcomes us here.

**All: The wonder of the flowing rivers
and the towering trees welcomes us here.**

One: The grace of the blowing winds
and the running animals welcomes us here.

**All: The love of God in the whole creation
welcomes us here.**

**May our eyes see it, our ears hear it,
our hands touch it, our minds think it,
our hearts feel it, and our lives share it,
today and always!**

SONG VU 229 God of the Sparrow

GATHERING PRAYER

SILENT PRAYER

PRAYER SONG VU 409 Morning Has Broken v.1

ENGAGING THE STORY

READING Genesis 2:18-19

SONG VU 232 Joyful, Joyful vv.1,2

QUOTE Nick Trout on Animal Companions

SONG MV 37 Each Blade of Grass v.1

QUOTE Dean Koontz on Dogs

SONG MV 37 Each Blade of Grass v.2

QUOTE Mary Oliver on Dogs

SONG MV 37 Each Blade of Grass v.3

QUOTE Lloyd Alexander on Cats

STORY You are Not Alone

SONG All of Us Belong *Richard Bruxvoort Colligan*

OFFERING AND SONG

All God's Creatures Have a Place in the Choir

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER VU 960 Our Father

SONG VU 291 All Things Bright and Beautiful

BLESSING *See back of bulletin*

This bulletin is sponsored by Heather and Peter Sullivan
in honour of all the pets that have brought and still bring
love into our lives.

Thanks to all who participated in today's service!

We leave this space today to live out our hope in the world.
As we go, there is an opportunity to enjoy **lemonade**, hosted by
MANNA, and **conversation** with friends in the **Garden** outside.
Blessings! Go with God!



BLESSING

Turning to the animal closest to you and holding your hands palm up, toward it, all say together:

May your days be full of sunshine and good things to eat.

May your humans treat you always with kindness and respect.

And may you continue to praise God, your Creator,

By simply being what you are.

Then, turning to one another, all say together:

May we show love in all our actions.

May our lives be an example of peace and compassion.

Let us call each other to be our best selves.

And may we celebrate the earth

and her creatures every day.

Amen and blessed be.