

# **iucc** Irvine United Congregational Church

*An Open & Affirming, Just Peace, Global Mission, Creation Justice  
Congregation of the United Church of Christ*

October 8, 2023 • 9:30am

## **BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS**

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**Prelude** *The Swan (Carnival of the Animals)* Yuyoung Jeong, piano  
by C. Saint-Saens

**Gathering Song** *As We Gather* **Congregation**  
by Coomes & Fay

As we gather may your Spirit work within us  
As we gather may we glorify your name  
Knowing well that as our hearts begin to worship  
We'll be blessed because we came  
(Repeat)

**Welcome** [iucc.org/visitor](http://iucc.org/visitor) **Rev. Dr. Sarah Halverson-Cano**

**Gong**

**Introit** *All God's Critters Got a Place in the Choir* **Chancel Choir**  
by Bill Staines

**Call to Worship** **Tricia Aynes**

One: Creator God, for all the animals in your Creation,

**Many: We thank you!**

One: Spirit of Love and Laughter, for all the connection and friendship we have with animals,

**Many: We lift up our gratitude.**

One: Merciful One, for all the times we have hurt or neglected animals,

**Many: We ask forgiveness and commit ourselves to act on their behalf.**

One: Protector of the Universe, for all the times we have used poisons that have harmed animals,

**Many: We ask forgiveness and commit ourselves to act on their behalf.**

One: Great Healer, for all the times we have destroyed the homes of animals in the forests, oceans, and fields,

**Many: We ask forgiveness and commit ourselves to care for your creation.**

One: Ever present God, for all the times we have failed to see you in our world, in the essence of the animals, in the beauty of nature,

**Many: We ask forgiveness and we open our eyes to your presence now.**

**All: You are all around: in the breeze of the trees, in the light of the sun, and in the trusting loving eyes of each animal, all of your created ones. Amen.**

Hymn

**All Things Bright and Beautiful (NCH #31)**

by Cecil F. Alexander

Congregation

All things bright and beautiful  
All creatures great and small  
All things wise and wonderful  
Our dear 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 mountains  
The rivers 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  
He made them every one (refrain)

**A Fresh Word**

Anthem

**Fiddle-I-Fee**

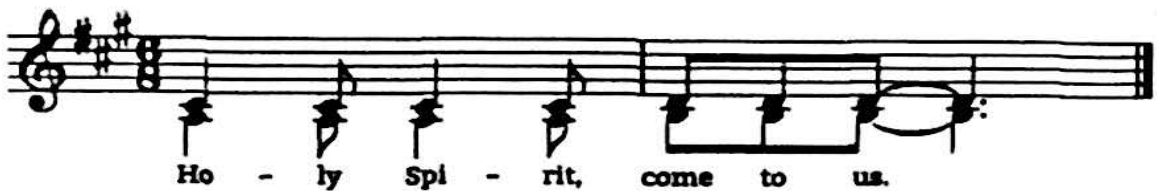
by John Purifoy

Chancel Choir

**Reflective Singing**

**"Holy Spirit Come to Us"**

J. Berthier



**Prayers of the Church**

(concluding with the Lord's Prayer)

Jerri Davenport M.Div.

Our Creator (Father, Mother, or other name as you are comfortable),  
which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kin-dom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.  
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kin-dom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Offertory Call

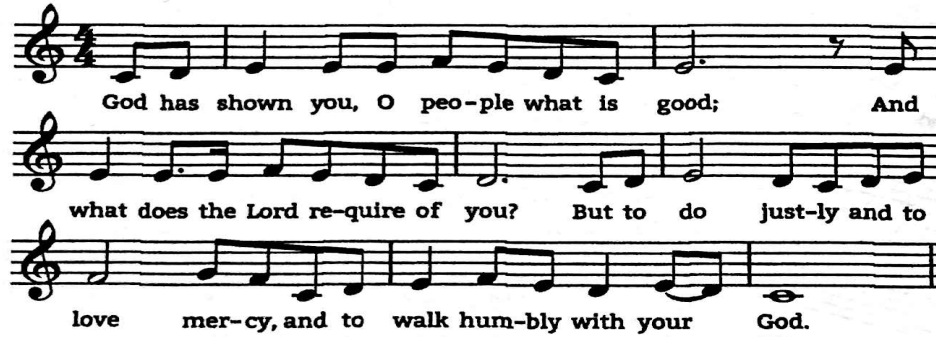
Tricia Aynes

Offertory Music

***Bless the Beasts and the Children***  
by Barry Devorzon and Perry Botkin Jr.

Joy Dorko

**Song of Thanksgiving • "Micah 6:8"**



God has shown you, O peo-ple what is good; And  
what does the Lord re-quire of you? But to do just-ly and to  
love mer-cy, and to walk hum-bly with your God.

Prayer of Dedication

Tricia Aynes

Scripture

***Job 12:7-10***

Tricia Aynes

But ask the animals, and they will teach you,  
the birds of the air, and they will tell you;  
ask the plants of the earth, and they will teach you,  
and the fish of the sea will declare to you.  
Who among all these does not know  
that the hand of the Lord has done this?  
In his hand is the life of every living thing  
and the breath of every human being.

Sermon

Rev. Dr. Sarah Halverson-Cano

Benediction

Rev. Dr. Sarah Halverson-Cano

Response

***Alleluia***

Congregation

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

By Jerry Sinclair

Postlude

***Romance (Eine Kleine Nachtmusik, K. 525)***  
W.A. Mozart

Yuyoung Jeong, piano

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### Our Staff

Senior Pastor  
Administrative Pastor  
Director of Music  
Accompanist  
Early Childhood Director  
Bookkeeper

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Dr. Chris Peterson  
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