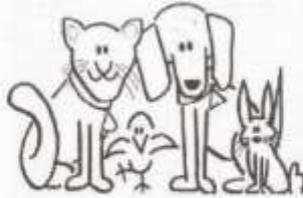


THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ISELIN

Minds, hearts, hands and voices in Christ



Service by: Rev. Chris Houtz
and Rev. Dr. Glory Thomas
Saturday, October 16, 2021 at 10 am



Blessing of the Animals

**Please note that pictures and video recording will be taken and used for website and social media channels.*

Hashtags for social media sharing are

#2021fpresiselinanimals #dogsandcats66

WELCOME

Rev. Chris Houtz

The steadfast love of the Lord extends to the heavens,

God's faithfulness extends to the clouds.

The righteousness of the Lord is like the mighty mountains, and God's judgment is like the great deep.

The Lord saves humans and animals alike.

OPENING PRAYER

Rev. Dr. Glory Thomas

Source and sustainer of life, we cherish the myriad works of your hands. Water, earth, and sky are yours, as are all their inhabitants, wild and tame. We thank you for creatures that befriend, enrich, entertain, and protect us. May we, who are made in your image, care for them well. And may your groaning yet wondrous creation rally and thrive, revealing to all who come after us your wise, redemptive, transforming love; through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

Rev. Chris Houtz

Isaiah 11:6-10

The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

SPECIAL SPEAKER

Marge Petrow, Woodbridge Animal Society Volunteers*

SONG

All Creatures of Our God and King

All creatures of our God and King, lift up your voice

And with us sing, Alleluia! Alleluia!

O brother sun with golden beam, O sister moon

With silver gleam, sing praises! Alleluia!

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

O sisters, brothers, take your part,

And worship God with humble heart.

Alleluia! Alleluia!

All creatures, bless the Father, Son,

And Holy Spirit, Three in One!

Sing praises! Alleluia!

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Gracious Lord of love, we affirm our vital connection with all living creatures. Empower us to seek their welfare, intervening where needed, defending and tending your world with grace, compassion, and dignity. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Patient Lord of life, guide our choices so that we might safeguard habitats, ensuring, by your grace, that the mysteries and beauties of nature unfold for future generations. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Saving Lord of lords, your word foretells a day when the wolf will lie down with the lamb. Renew our vision for the peaceable kingdom. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Hear our prayers, gracious God, for the sake of Jesus, our Savior and Lord, who taught us to say together...

THE LORD'S PRAYER

FINAL BLESSING

Almighty and everlasting God, creator of all things and giver of all life, let your blessing be upon all these animals. May our relationships with them mirror your love, and our care for them be an example of your bountiful mercy. Grant the animals health and peace. Strengthen us to love and care for them as we strive to imitate the love of Jesus Christ our Lord and your servant Francis. **Amen.**

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS



***Donation proceeds will go to the Woodbridge Animal Society Volunteers for rescue and adoption, a local animal rescue group. Scan QR code for their Facebook Page.**