



## Riverside Presbyterian Church

September 12, 2021  
Blessing of the Animals

### WE GATHER

PRELUDE *Lamb of God* Paris

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

#### OPENING PRAYER

Leader: God created us and placed us on the earth  
to be stewards of all living things,  
therefore let us proclaim the glory of our Creator, saying:

**All: O God, how wonderful are the works of your hands.**

Leader: Blessed are you, O Lord of the Universe; you create the  
animals

**All: and give us the ability to train them to help us in our  
work.**

Leader: Blessed are you, O Lord of the Universe;

**All: you give us food from animals to replenish our  
energies.**

Leader: Blessed are you, O Lord of the Universe; for the sake of  
our comfort

**All: you give us domestic animals as companions.**

Leader: Blessed are you, O Lord of the Universe; you care for us

**All: even as you care for the birds of the air.**

Leader: Blessed are you, O Lord of the Universe;

you offered your Son to us as the passover lamb  
**All: and in him willed that we should be called your  
children.**

HYMN #22

*God of the Sparrow vs. 1-3*

See back page for hymn.

## WE LISTEN

SCRIPTURE

1 John 4:19

MESSAGE

*The Love of a Pet*

## WE RESPOND

*All God's Critters*

John Haugland

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

Please bring your animal or picture to the font for a blessing.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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 our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

## WE DEPART

CLOSING PRAYER IN UNISON

Almighty and everlasting God,  
Creator of all things and giver of all life,  
let your blessing be upon all these animals.  
May our relationship 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.

**BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE** *There Will Be Peace in the Valley for Me*

Dorsey/Tedesco

**Worship Participants:**

Doug Asbury, Lynda Nadkarni, John Haugland and Sally Sloane

**Worship Notes**

Liturgies adapted from: *The Work of the People, re:Worship, Lectionary Liturgies*

Prelude: *Lamb of God*; Paris © Hal Leonard

Postlude: *There Will Be Peace in the Valley for Me*; Dorsey/Tedesco © Public

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CREATION AND PROVIDENCE

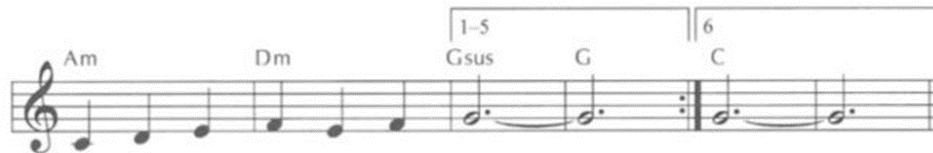
# 22 God of the Sparrow



1 God of the spar - row God of the whale God of the  
 2 God of the earth - quake God of the storm God of the  
 3 God of the rain - bow God of the cross God of the  
 4 God of the hun - gry God of the sick God of the  
 5 God of the neigh - bor God of the foe God of the  
 6 God of the a - ges God near at hand God of the



swirl - ing stars How does the crea - ture say Awe  
 trum - pet blast How does the crea - ture cry Woe  
 emp - ty grave How does the crea - ture say Grace  
 prod - i - gal How does the crea - ture say Care  
 prun - ing hook How does the crea - ture say Love  
 lov - ing heart How do your chil - dren say Joy



How does the crea - ture say Praise  
 How does the crea - ture cry Save  
 How does the crea - ture say Thanks  
 How does the crea - ture say Life  
 How does the crea - ture say Peace  
 How do your chil - dren say Home

*Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.*

Though a lack of punctuation makes this text appear freeform and the flowing tune enhances a sense of movement, each stanza here is firmly anchored by a final weighty word (praise, save, thanks, life, peace, home), a sign of God's eternal presence in an ever-changing world.