**New Vision**

**Community Church**



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**September 29, 2024**

**Blessing of the Animals**

**WE GATHER**

**Welcome & Announcements**

**Lighting the Christ Candle**

**Acknowledging Our Kinship**

One:For thousands of years, First Nations people have walked on this land; their relationship with the land is at the centre of their lives and spirituality. We are gathered on their traditional territory and acknowledge their stewardship of this land throughout the ages. Help us to become better neighbours so that we might live together in better ways.

**All: For we are all kin in Christ, “All My Relations,” with each other and this earth, its waters, air, animals, and plants.**

**Call to Worship**

All God’s family, come and praise our Creator!

**We come with eyes to see, and ears to flap and hear,**

All creatures lift your voices in singing, mewing and barking.

**We come to celebrate God's marvelous creation!**

With dogs and cats, hamsters and snakes

**We come to thank the Giver of all life!**

All creatures that crawl, all sea serpents that swim and feathered friends that fly

**We come to praise our Creator!**

**Gathering Hymn - All Creatures of Our God and King - 217 VU**

**Prayer of Confession**

**Creator God, every part of this earth is holy to you: Each plant and tree, every animal, every bird, everything that moves in the waters, and each one of us. We praise you for your creation**

**But Lord sometimes we get so caught up in our own little world that we forget that we are called to be stewards of all creation and their ecosystem.**

**Forgive us when we use and abuse the habitats of other creatures, instead of serving and preserving.**

**We pray that we may live in harmony with all animals and plant life, safe guarding them as they are precious to you and therefore precious to us too. Amen.**

**Assurance of Pardon**

**All God’s Children *- Meeting Our Friends***

**Prayer for the Blessing Our Friends**

For all the animals in creation,

**We give thanks!**

For all the fun and friendship we have with animals,

**We give thanks!**

For these animals we love,

**We give thanks!**

Praised be the Creator, who has made every animal wise in the instinct he has given it.

Now, O God, we pray that you will protect

and bless all things that have breath,

especially these animals gathered here; guard them from all harm and grant that they live in peace. **Amen**

**Hymn - If I Were a Butterfly**

If I were a butterfly, I’d thank you Lord for giving me wings

If I were a robin in a tree, I’d thank you Lord that I could sing

If I were a fish in the sea, I’d wiggle my tail and I’d giggle with glee

But I just thank you God for making me, me.

**Refrain:**

**For you gave me a heart and you gave me a smile You gave me Jesus and you made me your child and I just thank you God for making me, me.**

If I were an elephant, I’d thank you Lord by raising my trunk If I were a kangaroo, you know I’d hop right up to you

If I were an octopus, I’d thank you Lord for my fine looks But I just thank you God for making me, me.

**Refrain:**

**For you gave me a heart and you gave me a smile You gave me Jesus and you made me your child and I just thank you God for making me, me.**

If I were a wiggly worm, I’d thank you Lord that I could squirm

If I were a fuzzy wuzzy bear, I’d thank you Lord for my fuzzy, wuzzy hair If I were a crocodile, I’d thank you Lord for my great smile

But I just thank you God for making me, me**.(REFRAIN)**

**WE LISTEN FOR GOD’S WORD**

**Scripture Reading - Genesis 1: 24-31,**

**Ministry of Music - Joint Choir**

**Meditation - More than Just Pets**

**Hymn - Jesus, Our Brother - 56 VU**

**WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD**

**Invitation to Offering**

**Offering Hymn - For the Gift of Creation - 538 VU**

**Dedication**

**A Moment for Concerns and Celebrations**

**Prayers of Thanksgiving and Concern**

**Lord’s Prayer**

**Hymn - Go, Make a Difference - 209 MV**

**Blessing and Commissioning**

**Choral Amen**