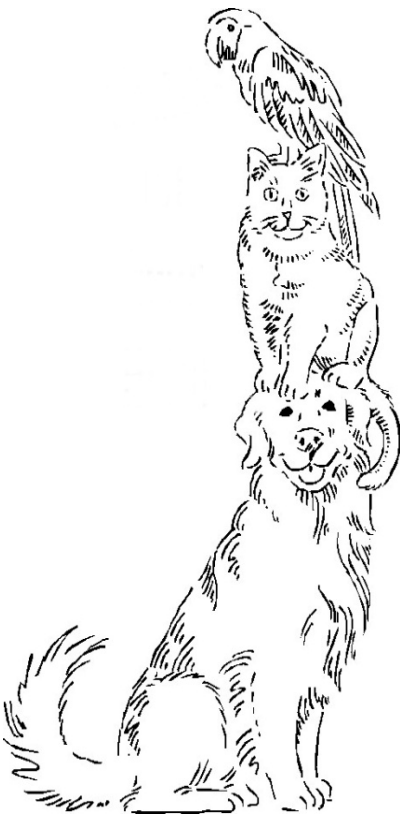


Brookline Community Church
Blessing of the Animals
Worship Service
Reverend Catherine Merrill, Minister

September 2, 2018



WELCOME & RIGHT HAND OF FELLOWSHIP:

To keep our creatures calm, just greet those next to you

CALL TO WORSHIP (the Song of Solomon 2:8-13):

Leader: The voice of my beloved! Look, he comes, leaping upon the mountains, bounding over the hills.

All: My beloved is like a gazelle or a young stag. Look, there he stands behind our wall, gazing in at the windows, looking through the lattice.

Leader: My beloved speaks and says to me: "Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away;

All: for now the winter is past, the rain is over and gone.

Leader: The flowers appear on the earth; the time of singing has come, and the voice of the turtledove is heard in our land.

All: The fig tree puts forth its figs, and the vines are in blossom; they give forth fragrance. Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away.

INTROIT: "Simple Gifts"

JOYS AND CONCERNS:

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

HYMN: #739 "Pass It On"

SCRIPTURE READING: James 1:17-27

SERMON: "Acting Our Way into Belief"

PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

Leader: We thank you for abundant life; for the birds we hear in the morning, for the vast tapestry of life which is interwoven,

All: We give you thanks.

Leader: We thank you for the gift of our own animal companions; For the joy they bring us, For the unconditional love and forgiveness which teaches us about you; For the confidant and the stress-releaser they are, For the benefits they are to our health-and to our Spirit.

All: We give you thanks.

Leader: And yet, we know that we have not always been faithful caretakers of our animals; Forgive us when we have dirtied their environment, erased places of shelter, polluted the waters, killed off their food supplies or neglected to feed or tend animals in our own communities.

Forgive us when we have neglected our own animal companions; when we have said we are too busy to play with them, when we have shooed them away; when we have made excuses, saying we are too tired...too busy...more important engagements have come up...so that we do not walk them, cuddle them, spend time with them.

All: Forgive us when we have not loved them as they have loved us.

Leader: Forgive us when we have not considered the wider picture, when we have neglected the animals in the wild, when we have inflicted cruelty in the name of food production or under the guise of entertainment, when we have focused only on our 'favorites' and neglected the care of the supposedly less beautiful, those who hold a lower public profile.

Each year more animals are becoming extinct, or are added to the endangered species list: forgive us, for allowing beauty to be forever destroyed.

All: Forgive us when we neglect to see all animals as part of your creation, forgive us when we neglect to acknowledge that your love beats in all hearts, and that you give breath to all creation.

Leader: God is love. Take hold of this forgiveness, and live your life, knowing that you are forgiven, and deeply loved.

All: Through Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

MINISTRY OF SHARING: (offering of tithes and gifts)

DOXOLOGY: **# 809 "Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye heavenly host. Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen."**

PRAYER OF DEDICATION OF THE OFFERING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CLOSING HYMN: #353 "For the Beauty of the Earth"

THE BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

Rev. Catherine will come and bless your animal individually at your seat.

BENEDICTION

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE: # 839 ***“God Be With You Till We Meet Again; by his counsels guide, uphold you, with his sheep securely fold you; God be with you till we meet again.”***

Here ends our worship, now let our service begin.

*** We'll all remain seated throughout the service to help our creatures stay relaxed.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

> **SHARE** is collecting Canned Ham, Side Dishes (seasoned pasta mix, hamburger helper, etc.), Ravioli & Beefaroni

> **Christmas Faire:** Baskets of all shapes and sizes are needed for the Christmas Faire. Baskets can be left at the church during the summer and fall. Please leave them under the table in the mail/copy room.

> **Offering Envelopes:** If you would like offering envelopes, please see Rena or contact her at renaduncklee@charter.net

Participants

Reverend Catherine Merrill
Sanjay Cherian

Minister
Accompanist

Calendar

Saturday, September 8	8:00am	Town Wide Yard Sale
Sunday, September 9	9:00am	Communion Service
	12:00pm	Confirmation Class Information Meeting
Tuesday, September 11		NH Primary
Sunday, September 16	10:00am	Worship Service
Sunday, September 23	10:00am	Worship Service
Saturday, September 29	7:30am	Breakfast Buffet

Last week's attendance (8/26/18): 27 Adults, 4 Children

BCC Financial Summary	Est. Budgeted Income	Actual Income	Est. Budgeted Expenses	Actual Expenses	Income vs Expenses + / -
July		\$7,959		\$5,250	\$2,708
YTD	\$42,656	\$45,917	\$55,545	\$49,284	-\$3,367



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