

Welcome to Watsonville First United Methodist Church

Blessing of the Animals Sunday

Sunday, October 22, 2023, 10 am

We welcome all visitors today! Thank you for being here and gracing us with your presence. Please fill out the “*Visitation Card*” found in the pew and either place it in the offering plate or deposit into the *Suggestion Box* back in the narthex.

Children are invited to enjoy the resources in the **Children Learning Center** located at the back of the sanctuary during worship. Children are welcome to check out books and activity items to take home by signing the simple “*Check-out Sheet*” on clipboard there.

Today’s altar flowers are dedicated by Marieta Flores.

*(*Please stand if you are able)*

Prelude *Sweet Hour of Prayer* Marina Thomas

Bringing in the Light

Welcome & the Life of the Church Rev. John Song

***Passing of Peace** (Wave to your neighbors around you with “**Peace of Christ be with you.**”)

***Centering Breath**

***Responsive Prayer**

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:

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

Blessed are you, O Lord of the Universe; you create the animals
and give us the ability to train them to help us in our work.

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

Blessed are you, O Lord of the Universe; for the sake of our comfort
you give us domestic animals as companions.

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

Blessed are you, O Lord of the Universe; you care for us
even as you care for the birds of the air.

O God, how wonderful are the works of your hands. Amen.

***Gathering Song** *God of the Sparrow, God of the Whale* #122

Children’s Time “**Why Do You Love Your Pets?**” Pastor John

Hebrew Reading **Genesis 1:24-25**

²⁴ And God said, “Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind.” And it was so. ²⁵ God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind, and the cattle of every kind, and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good.

**People who want their animals blessed, please sit near the front at this time.*

All God's Critters

(Chorus)

**All God's critters got a place in the choir.
Some sing lower, some sing higher,
Some sing out loud on the telephone wire.
Some just clap their hands or paws
or anything they've got now.**

1. Listen to the bass, it's one on the bottom
Where the bullfrog croaks and the hippopotamus
Moans and groans with a big to do
And the old cow just goes moo (mooing)

(Chorus)

2. Dogs and the cats they take up the middle
Where the humming birds hum and the crickets fiddle
The donkey brays and the pony neighs
And old coyote howls (howling)

3. Listen to the top with the little bird singing'
On the melody with the high notes ringin'
The hoot owl hollers over everything
And the jay bird disagrees (squawking)

(Chorus)

4. Singin' in the nighttime, singin' in the day
Little duck quacks and he's on his way
The possum ain't got so much to say
And the porcupine talks to himself (mumbling)

5. Simple song of love and care
With the ox and fox and grizzly bear
The grumpy alligator and the hawk above
Sly raccoon and the turtle dove (cooing)

(Chorus)

Hebrew Reading

Genesis 21:15-27

Hagar and Ishmael Are Expelled

⁸The child grew and was weaned, and Abraham made a great feast on the day that Isaac was weaned. ⁹ But Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, whom she had borne to Abraham, playing with her son Isaac. ¹⁰ So she said to Abraham, "Cast out this slave woman with her son, for the son of this slave woman shall not inherit along with my son Isaac." ¹¹ The matter was very distressing to Abraham on account of his son. ¹² But God said to Abraham, "Do not be distressed because of the boy and because of your slave woman; whatever Sarah says to you, do as she tell you, for it is through Isaac that offspring shall be named for you. ¹³ As for the son of the slave woman, I will make a nation of him also, because he is your offspring." ¹⁴ So Abraham rose early in the morning and took bread and

a skin of water and gave it to Hagar, putting it on her shoulder, along with the child, and sent her away. And she departed and wandered about in the wilderness of Beer-sheba.

¹⁵ When the water in the skin was gone, she cast the child under one of the bushes. ¹⁶ Then she went and sat down opposite him a good way off, about the distance of a bowshot, for she said, "Do not let me look on the death of the child." And as she sat opposite him, she lifted up her voice and wept. ¹⁷ And God heard the voice of the boy, and the angel of God called to Hagar from heaven and said to her, "What troubles you, Hagar? Do not be afraid, for God has heard the voice of the boy where he is. ¹⁸ Come, lift up the boy and hold him fast with your hand, for I will make a great nation of him." ¹⁹ Then God opened her eyes, and she saw a well of water. She went and filled the skin with water and gave the boy a drink.

²⁰ God was with the boy, and he grew up; he lived in the wilderness and became an expert with the bow. ²¹ He lived in the wilderness of Paran, and his mother got a wife for him from the land of Egypt.

Leader: The word of God for the people of God.
People: Thanks be to God!

Special Music

I Dreamed of Rain
By Jan Garrett

Brandon & Trisha Kett

Trisha and I often play music with friends in Aptos and one of our band mates recently played for us this song "*I Dreamed of Rain*" which was written by her friend, Jan Garrett. We took a liking to the song for its calm expression. It ends each verse with "and peace spread over the land."

Message

A Moment of Moral Clarity:

Rev. John Song

Part 2) "**Dare to Ask 'What Is God's Vision for the Israelis & the Palestinians?'**"

Offering Our Gifts and Tithes

Leader: Let us respond to this word of grace and hope by the giving of our tithes and offerings, which support the varied ministries of the Watsonville First United Methodist Church, mission at home and throughout the world.

Offertory

Where He Leads Me I Will Follow

Marina Thomas

*Hymn to the Trinity

Gloria Patri (Glory Be to the Father)

#70

*Unison Prayer of Dedication

We come before you, O Lord, dedicating our gifts and our lives in your service. In gratefulness for calling us as your own, we offer you our thanks and praise. Receive our pledges and the gifts of our hands, and use them to bring light to the darkness and hope to places of despair and suffering, through our Lord, Jesus Christ. Amen.

*Recessional Song

Jesus Loves the Little Children

(2X)

Jesus loves the little children
All the children of the world
Red and yellow, black and white
They are precious in His sight
Jesus loves the little children of the world

*Benediction [*This ends the Live Streaming]

Prayers of the People

Sharing of Joys & Concerns (Please raise your hand & mic will be given to you)

The Lord's Prayer/Padre Nuestro (You are invited to pray in the language of your choice)

Postlude

When I Survey the Wonderous Cross

Marina Thomas

*We warmly invite everyone to a delicious cup of Coffee,
refreshments and fellowship in the Social Hall following worship.*

Worship Leaders

Ministers	Each one of us
Pastor	Rev. John Song
Pianist	Marina Thomas
Choir Leader	Carmelita Abenoja
Liturgist	Marilyn Hyde
Greeters	Harry & Clarice Wiggins
Head Usher	Marieta Flores
Tech Team	Antonio Pantaleón, Lucila Pantaleón, Elizabeth Reitano
Nursery Attendants	Tatyana Martinez, Julissa Solis
Coffee Hour	Marjorie Martinez & Marieta Flores

Calendar for the Week

Sun., Oct. 22	10:00 am	Blessing of Animals Sunday
	11:10 am	Coffee Hour, Social Hall
	11:40 am	SPRC meeting, Pastor's Office
	11:40 am	Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
Mon., Oct. 23	1-3 pm	Sewing Group , St. Stephen's room
Sun., Oct. 29	10:00 am	Dia de los Muertos (The Day of the Dead) Celebration
	11:10 am	Coffee Hour, Social Hall
	11:30 am	Halloween Costume Contest , Social Hall
	11:40 am	Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary

Upcoming Opportunities!

Dia de los Muertos (The Day of the Dead) ***Celebration***

Next Sunday, Oct. 29, 11:30 am, Social Hall

Halloween Costume Contest (for children & adults)

Come dressed in your fun, imaginative Halloween costume!

Visit from Missionary Katherine Parker

Thursday, November 9, @ 12 pm

Katherine Parker is a UM missionary serving in Nepal.

She has been supported by our congregation for many years.

Lunch at 12 pm. Her program will begin at 12:30 pm in the Social Hall. Please join us!

Church Website: watsonville1stumc.org

Email: office@watsonville1stumc.org | Phone: (831) 724-4434

Office Hours: Tue-Thu 9 am – 5 pm, Fri 9 am – 12 pm (Closed for lunch 12-1 pm)

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