

Creede Community Church

Blessing of the Animals

April 26, 2009

The History of Rogation

Rogation, from the Latin 'rogare' means 'to ask'. In the 1630's villagers would ask for a blessing on the fields and on the farms themselves. Rogation generally takes place in the springtime, when there is a renewing of the Earth. In America, it follows Easter, the season of resurrection. Renewal and resurrection, therefore, are also underlying themes of this occasion. Modern themes of Rogation have taken the form of giving thanks for the **blessing of rural life**, for justice and stewardship regarding ecological and conservation concerns and for our intimate connection to this created order.



Frontier and Rural Life Celebration and Blessing of the Animals in Creede. Sunday, April 26th, featured the Creede Community Church's 3rd Annual celebration of Frontier & Rural Life here in the beautiful San Juan Mountains.

During the special service of worship, which included relevant themes and music around the rural tradition of Rogation, we were blessed with two guest speakers:

"Doctor John" Howard. Our local veterinarian, story teller and all-around wonderful man.

Jenny Inge, owner of Rare Things Gallery, a jewelry smith, community sage and advocate of all things rural—and a remarkable two-stepper!



Both Doc and Jenny thoughtfully reflected on issues of stewardship and husbandry, the blessing of this place the environment and our role as caretakers.

We are thankful to Doc for his steady hand at the animal blessing, held after service at the Scott Parsonage, where "Animals Need Only Apply" - for treats! We are grateful to all who journeyed over and joined the flock, gaggle, herd, pack!