Lake Nokomis
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

2025 Back to School Blessing – Camels

By Lisa Larges

Camel:

Hello, I'm stinky! I'm the camel, and I do not have a pleasant smell. But only people who have met me up close know that I am stinky. But stinky to you isn't stinky to me. I think I'm just fine.

Some people say that I look like I was put together out of spare parts from other animals. My big feet, long neck, skinny legs, big ol' nose, and that hump on my back that lets me go a long way without water – I'm kind of a jumble. But all those funny parts of me help me out. There's no better animal to do what I do: to travel long distances through tough conditions in my desert home.

Leader:

Kids, like camels, are awesomely and wonderfully made. Every part of you is beautiful, and some things are challenging. In this year ahead, may you know the blessing of loving who you are, discovering who you are, reveling in who you are. We all are just a little bit complicated. We come with good stuff and hard stuff. Our prayer for you is that every day you get a reminder that you are just fine. You're ok. You're good, just as you are.

Camel:

And, I don't sweat. Call me a conservationist, because that's what I do. How do I survive without water? Well, I'm designed to need very little, and I sure don't waste it sweating.

Oh, and one more thing. I don't let a drinking opportunity go by. When I get to water I drink it up in a flash. It's glug, glug, glug. I drink 30 gallons in under 10 minutes. That's 500 glasses!

In the winter time, I rarely drink water at all. I get the water I need from plants. I munch all the time. Even the prickliest of plants I chomp right down. I've got a split in my lip so I can use my lips like fingers and not get hurt by those prickles.

Leader:

They say, don't sweat the small stuff. What that means, is that life is better when we worry less. Each day, may you remember that you can take all your worries to the people who love you and to God who loves you. That love is your strength and your super power. It will help you through the tough times and bring you joy and joy and joy. Our prayer is that you will find the kids and grown ups who will listen to you and help make the worries and the fears a little smaller and easier to manage.

Camel:

I've got feet like dinner plates. They're like snowshoes for the sand. That sand may be soft, but I don't sink. Those sand dunes may be hard to climb, but me and my feet, we just keep going.

Those big desert storms blow sand in my face, but I don't care, I keep on keeping on. What's my secret? It's my eyelashes. I've got a double row of thick curly lashes, and underneath, an extra

eyelid that I use to blink sideways. It's like windshield wipers for my eyes. Small ears? Same thing. They keep out the sand. And I can shut my nose and mouth so tight that no sand gets in.

Oh, and when I get tired? I sit right on down in the middle of the sand. I've got lumps on my knees that are hard and tough so I don't feel the heat. I just sit down and rest until I'm ready to go.

Leader:

Kids and camels are built to go. Resilience is the fancy way we say it.

And it's love that helps you go. Even through the bumpy patches, you've got a storehouse of love to help you get on through.

Oh, and we're traveling together. Through the good parts and the hard parts, we're making our way through this year together.

So here is our camel blessing for you.

As you travel through this year, remember:

You've got this.

We're with you.

God loves you.

Have fun!