

**FIRST READING: Genesis 9:8-17 - Noah and the Animals disembark**

Noah had some difficulty getting the animals off the ark. They just didn't want to leave the boat and come down and live back on land. They had gotten very, very comfortable living on the ark. There was food and water on the boat and warm friendly shelter. The animals loved it. So Noah, seeing that the ark had landed on dry ground, decides to disembark. He sets the plank (much like a stair way) from the ark's deck down to the ground. Noah walks down the plank, but the animals didn't follow him. So Noah tries to convince the animals to leave the ark.

Noah said, "get off the boat!  
On this rock it just won't float.  
Form a line and get on land  
Come on monkey take my hand.  
Wake up elephant, lift your snout  
Smell the earth, don't make me shout!  
The water's gone and the sun is out.  
The doves are flying all about.  
Now come on animals, march on down,  
Take a step on the plank  
You lions - don't frown!  
God made a promise to be with you.  
He's right here, he'll see you through.  
There are puddles in the road  
And pebbles on the path  
But the sun is out  
And the doves are flying all about.  
The rain has stopped and the flowers will sprout  
Behold! A rainbow in the sky  
Must be God's promise from on high.  
There's gonna be a big, big party in the Promised Land  
So gorillas come down and take my hand.  
We're gonna stop and live right here  
God made a promise that he'll be near.  
The water's gone and the sun is out.  
And the doves are flying all about.  
The rain has stopped and the flowers will sprout  
And look! A rainbow in the sky  
Is God's promise from on high.  
There's gonna be a big, big party in the Promised Land  
So gorillas come and take my hand.  
We're gonna stop and live right here  
God made a promise that he'll be near.  
The water's gone and the sun is out.

And the doves are flying all about.  
The rain has stopped and the flowers will sprout!  
And look! A rainbow in the sky  
That's God's promise from on high.  
So come on down and sit with me  
We'll read the Bible so you can see.  
The rainbow's the promise and the Bible is the Word  
Look to the colors and listen to what you've heard.  
So pick up your feet and take the walk  
Come on down and let's talk.  
The water's gone and the sun is out.  
And the doves are flying all about.  
The rain has stopped and the flowers will sprout.  
We live in a promise and not in a boat  
We believe in the Bible that we can quote.  
We look to the rainbow and then we know  
God is with us and we will grow.  
So come on down and let's spread the Word  
About God's promise that we have heard.  
So on that day all the animals walked.  
At the rainbow they looked and began to talk.  
God made a promise to always be near  
With Noah and the animals - right here.  
The water's gone and the sun is out.  
And the doves are flying all about.  
The rain has stopped and the flowers will sprout  
The rainbow's here,  
That's what I'm talking about.

-The Rev. Larry D. Laine