



[All Creatures Great and Small]

Protecting Animals, Caring for Creation



Blessing of the Animals

Compiled by Laura Hobgood-Oster, citation is not necessary.

Introduction:

God created the animals – birds of the air, fish of the sea, and the many beloved creatures who walk or crawl on the earth – and God declared them all to be good. The glory of a horse running, the beauty of an eagle in flight, the majesty of a dolphin leaping all display the wonder of sacred life. We are gathered here today to bless the animals that are in our midst, those who are our very close companions, and to ask for God’s blessing on these friends and on the many animals who share this Earth with us.

We are also here to repent, to recognize that, as a powerful animal ourselves, we do not always live kindly with all of God’s creatures. We pray that this time together, a time of recognition of the gifts and worthiness of every living being, will remind us that all life is precious to God.

Let us pray:

O sweet maker of all, we ask your blessing on every creature gathered here today, the large and the small. May they live peacefully in praise of you. Bless us all to love your creation, and revere its sacredness. We ask this blessing in the name of the one who was is, and always will be, our Creator, to whom every creature belongs. (From the Duke Chapel Blessing)

Scripture Reading:

Genesis 1:20-25; Isaiah 11:6-9; Job 12:7-10; Proverbs 12:10 – any number of scriptures work here – and for a more interfaith or secular occasion, you can include a poem

Brief Meditation on Scripture (if so desired): usually reflects on the role of animals in our lives.

Blessing of All the Pets:

God, our Creator, we ask you to bless our pets with Your light and love. May our animal friends have good health, happy lives and always be protected and safe. We ask for better understanding as we learn from our animal friends’ wisdom, their innocence, their loyalty and particularly their seeming ability to not judge human beings unkindly. Thank you for the pleasures, playfulness and sometimes the surprising humor our pets display. Thank you for their companionship and friendship especially for those lonely hours we may have experienced. Thank you for our companions’ natural ability to teach us to be aware of the present moment. Thank you for the pure beauty of every animal - their form, color, texture, motion is all a work of art, and may we appreciate Your creation of this masterpiece. Bless all animals in harm’s way, heal the sick, protect those who are lost, and guide them to safety. Thank you for the gift of love. Amen

(Invite animals for individual blessings)

Individual Blessings (as each pet comes forward):

“Blessed are you, Lord God, maker of all living creatures. You called forth fish in the sea, birds in the air and animals on the land. You inspired St. Francis to call all of them his brothers and sisters. We ask you to bless this pet. By the power of your love, enable this beloved creature to live according to your plan. May we always praise you for all your beauty in creation. Blessed are you, Lord our God, in all your creatures! Amen.”