

# *Blessing of the Animals*

*We worship with the creatures we love*



***Welcome!***

***We gather to praise God for all the creatures we love. We rejoice with all living things - the birds and animals that make our lives richer because of their presence.***

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## *Gathering*

Jesus Christ, we assemble with all your creatures in this circle of life.

**We ask you to join our circle and celebrate with us.**

Jesus Christ, as we join in celebration with you and all creation,

**We ask for your blessing, your *shalom*, on the creatures present here that we love, and all creatures celebrating in the wild.**

In the name of God, who creates all life, In the name of Jesus Christ, who redeems all life, and the name of the Spirit, who renews all life, we cry with all in the circle of life:

**May your blessing come!**

### *We join in a version of Psalm 148*

All dogs and dingoes, large and small:

**Praise the Lord!**

All rabbits, hamsters and guinea pigs:

**Praise the Lord!**

All goldfish, guppies and swimming creatures:

**Praise the Lord!**

All kookaburras, budgies and singing birds:

**Praise the Lord!**

All wombats, koalas and wallabies:

**Praise the Lord!**

All horses, cows and sheep:

**Praise the Lord!**

All lizards, skinks and crawling creatures:

**Praise the Lord!**

Every animal in the sky, the sea and the forest:

**Praise the Lord!**

### *We thank God for the Animals and say sorry for the times when we have harmed them:*

Lord, for all the animals in the whole wide world,

**We thank you, God!**

Lord, for all the fun and friendship we have with animals,

**We thank you, God!**

Lord, for all the times we have hurt or neglected animals,

**We are sorry.**

Lord, for all the times we have used poisons that have killed animals,

**We are sorry.**

Lord, for all the times we have destroyed the homes of animals in the forests, oceans or fields,

**We are sorry.**

*Absolution The Priest says:*

Almighty God, who has promised forgiveness to all who turn to him in faith, forgive you for all your sins against the creatures of Earth.

*Glory to God*

Glory to God in the highest!

**And on Earth peace with our kin in creation!**

*We join together to pray:*

**God, our Creator, help us to love all creatures as kin,  
all animals as partners on Earth,  
all birds as messengers of praise,  
all minute beings as expressions of your mysterious design  
and all frogs as voices of hope. Amen.**

## **Bible Readings for Blessing of the Animals**

*An extract from a Sermon of St Francis: 'Peace, birds, peace!'*

My brother and sister birds, you should greatly praise your Creator and love him always. He gave you feathers to wear, and wings to fly, and whatever you need. God made you noble among his creatures and gave you a home in the purity of the air, so that, though you do not sow nor reap, he nevertheless protects and governs you without your least care.

### *Circle of Blessing*

*All worshippers with animals now form a circle, each person placing a hand on the animal being held. The Priest then blesses the animals in the name of the Cosmic Christ who fills and heals creation.*

*Priest:* Creator God, bless these animals in the power of Christ who fills them with life, binds them to their human partners and leads them to praise you as their Creator. Amen.

*Lord's Prayer*

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come, your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours  
now and for ever. Amen.**

*Sending Out*

Christ calls you to be his disciples,  
to serve him with love and compassion,  
to serve Earth by caring for her creatures.  
Will you care for creation?

**We will care for creation!**

**We will nurture our animals!**

**We will celebrate the circle of life with them!**

*Blessing*

May the Spirit of God, who is above all and in all and through all, fill you with the knowledge of God's presence in Earth and the pulsing of Christ in creation, through whom all things are reconciled and renewed. And the blessing ... **Amen.**

*Dismissal*

May the animals of earth be your companions in life and lead you to celebrate your place in the circle of life. Honour and protect all animals, serving Christ and loving all creatures. Go in peace!

**We go in peace,**

**serving Christ and loving all creatures.**