

SERVICE FOR THE BLESSING OF ANIMALS



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SERVICE FOR THE BLESSING OF ANIMALS

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION TO THE SERVICE

CALL TO WORSHIP Psalm 84:1–4

One: How lovely is your dwelling place, O LORD of hosts!

All: My soul longs, indeed it faints for the courts of the LORD; my heart and my flesh sing for joy to the living God.

One: Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young, at your altars, O LORD of hosts, my King and my God.

All: Happy are those who live in your house, ever singing your praise.

OPENING PRAYER

SCRIPTURE LESSON Genesis 1:1, 20-31a NRSV

1 In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth,
20 And God said, "Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky."
21 So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm, and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good.
22 God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth."
23 And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.
24 And God said, "Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind." And it was so.
25 God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind, and the cattle of every kind, and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good.
26 Then God said, "Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth."
27 So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.
28 God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the

sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth." 29 God said, "See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. 30 And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food." And it was so. 31a God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good.

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

THE PRAYERS (responsive)

One: Let us give thanks to God, our Creator, for all the gifts so freely bestowed upon us and for the beauty and wonder of your creation,

All: We thank you, Lord.

One: For all that is gracious in the lives of men and women;

All: We thank you, Lord.

One: For all creatures that breathe, and move, and have life;

All: We thank you, Lord.

One: For the trust you have shown in giving into our care these, our pets;

All: We thank you, Lord.

One: That each pet here may be treasured with care;

All: We pray to you, Lord.

One: That we may love and honor all your works, O God;

All: We pray to you, Lord.

One: That we may continue to grow in our grateful enjoyment of your abundant creation;

All: To the honor and glory of your name, now and forever, we pray to you, Lord. Amen.

THE BLESSING OF EACH ANIMAL

THE BLESSING PRAYER

DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

Go in peace to care for all of God's creation.