



*In partnership with*



# *Pet Service*





# Order of Service

May God, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit,  
who is wonderful in all his works, be with you all.

All **And also with you.**

*Here we are again, God, gathered to worship. But today we have some special and exciting guests, the animals we love and care for. Bless our time together in this circle of love, with tails thumping and ears flapping. Let our hearts sing like the lark and soar like the eagle, as we rejoice in your amazing creation. No matter who you are or where you are in life's journey, or how many paws or claws you have, you are created by God and welcome here at our service. Today we celebrate animals, wild and tame, that make our lives richer because of their presence.*

**All things bright and beautiful,  
all creatures great and small,  
all things wise and wonderful  
the Lord God made them all.**

**Each little flower that opens,  
each little bird that sings,  
he made their glowing colours,  
he made their tiny wings:**

*All things bright and beautiful,  
all creatures great and small,  
all things wise and wonderful  
the Lord God made them all.*

The purple headed mountain,  
the river running by,  
the sunset and the morning  
that brightens up the sky,

*All things bright and beautiful,  
all creatures great and small,  
all things wise and wonderful  
the Lord God made them all.*

The cold wind in the winter,  
the pleasant summer sun,  
the ripe fruits in the garden,  
he made them every one:

*All things bright and beautiful,  
all creatures great and small,  
all things wise and wonderful  
the Lord God made them all.*

He gave us eyes to see them,  
and lips that we might tell  
how great is God almighty,  
who has made all things well:

*All things bright and beautiful,  
all creatures great and small,  
all things wise and wonderful  
the Lord God made them all.*

Words: Cecil Frances Alexander (1818-1895)  
Music: William Henry Monk (1823-1889)

## WELCOME

God's family, come and praise our Creator!

**We come with eyes to see,  
and ears to flap and hear.**

All creatures lift your voices in singing,  
mewing and barking.

**We come to celebrate God's marvellous  
creation!**

With dogs and cats, hamsters and snakes

**We come to thank the Giver of all life!**

All creatures that crawl, all sea serpents that swim  
and feathered friends that fly

**We come to praise our Creator!**

## FORGIVENESS

God called us in the beginning to be stewards of his  
creation, caring for and nurturing the world he made.  
As we come to ask for God's blessing on our animals  
we first ask for forgiveness for the times we have not  
made the best use of his blessings and gifts.

When we have forgotten you,

All **Creator forgive us.**

When we take for granted the gifts you give,

All **Creator forgive us.**

When our love is selfish,

All **Creator forgive us.**

May the God of earth and heaven cleanse you of all sin and draw you to his wonderful light.

*All*

**Amen.**

## BIBLE READING

A reading from the Book of Genesis and the Gospel of St Matthew.

In the book of Genesis, we read:

The Lord God said, 'It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper as his partner.' So out of the ground the Lord God formed every animal of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name.

The man gave names to all cattle, and to the birds of the air, and to every animal of the field; but for the man there was not found a helper as his partner.

In the Gospel of Matthew, we read:

Jesus said, Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?

For the word of the Lord

*All*

**Thanks be to God.**

## REFLECTION

## COLLECT

O God, you have made us and all living things to form your family on earth. You are even more wonderful than what you have made. We thank you for giving us these pets who bring us joy. As you take care of us, may we take care of the creatures who trust us to look after them. By doing this, we share in your own love for all creation. We ask this in the name of Jesus our Lord.

**Amen.**

## THE BLESSING OF ANIMALS

*The animals are invited with their friends to the front of church to be blessed in groups.*

May the God of all creation, who created the animals of this earth to be loved by us, continue to protect and sustain us with the grace his blessing brings. Amen.

*Once the animals and their friends have been blessed, this prayer is offered:*

Heavenly Father, all things belong to you.

We praise you for giving us the animals, birds and fish which fill your world. We thank you for our families and the happiness which our pets give us. Help us always to be good to them, so that they may be happy also.

**Amen.**

## PRAYERS

Let us give thanks to God our Father for all his gifts; for the beauty of the earth and the wonder of creation, in earth and sky and sea;

**We thank you, Lord.**

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

**We thank you, Lord.**

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

**We thank you, Lord.**

For the work of Guide dogs for the Blind, RSPCA and all organisations which protect animals,

**We thank you, Lord.**

That each pet here may be treasured with care;

**We thank you, Lord.**

That we may love and honour all your works, O God;

**We thank you, Lord.**

That we may continue to grow in thankfulness;

**We thank you, Lord.**



## PRAYER OF COMMITMENT

*All* Eternal Father,  
we thank you for these creatures  
who live alongside us  
as our companions and friends;  
for their loyalty, love and trust  
which enrich our lives and give us joy.  
Teach us the value of kindness,  
the power of mercy,  
and the strength of gentleness;  
we ask this through Jesus Christ  
whose love gives life to us all. Amen.

## HYMN

All Creatures of our God and King  
lift up your voice and with us sing  
Alleluia, Alleluia!  
Thou burning sun with golden beam,  
thou silver moon with softer gleam,  
O praise him, O praise him,  
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Thou rushing wind that art so strong,  
ye clouds that sail in heaven along,  
O praise him, Alleluia!

Thou rising morn, in praise rejoice,  
ye lights of evening, find a voice;  
O praise him, O praise him,  
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Thou flowing water, pure and clear,  
make music for thy Lord to hear,  
Alleluia, Alleluia!

Thou fire so masterful and bright,  
that givest us both warmth and light:  
O praise him, O praise him,  
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Dear mother earth, who day by day  
unfoldest blessings on our way,  
O praise him, Alleluia!  
The flowers and fruits that in thee grow,  
let them his glory also show:  
O praise him, O praise him,  
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Let all things their Creator bless,  
and worship him in humbleness;  
O praise him, Alleluia!  
Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,  
and praise the Spirit, Three in One;  
O praise him, O praise him,  
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

We sit or kneel to say our prayers

## Prayers

Creator God, for your creation, we give you thanks. We hear the hum of tiny insect wings, the skitter of insect legs and even the slither of the snake or the slug – we admit that sometimes these things scare us, repulse us and just plain freak us out.

But we know they are part of our planet's delicate balance and we give thanks for creation's diversity and richness.

All things bright and beautiful,  
**God, made them one and all!**

We hear the chirps and trills of the song birds; the predatory cry of the kite and falcon and the sometimes annoying caw of the jackdaw and the crow. We may find some creature habits annoying, but we marvel at their ability to fly freely.

All things bright and beautiful,  
**God, made them one and all!**

We hear the soft rustle of rabbits, badgers and squirrels in the bushes and leaves. We find them all cute from a distance but they often annoy us as they encroach on our lawns, gardens and chimneys. But we know they are part of your plan for creation.

All things bright and beautiful,  
**God, made them one and all!**

We hear the thundering hoofs, howls and screams of animals being hunted for sport. We remain ignorant of animals being warehoused for meat. We know that even the most wild and threatening and the most docile farmed beasts are part of our planet's delicate balance.

All things bright and beautiful,  
**God, made them one and all!**

We listen for the animal sounds that have vanished, and ask for your forgiveness for our role in their demise. For all the times we have hurt or neglected animals, or used poisons that have harmed them, or destroyed their homes in the forests, oceans, and fields. We are sorry.

All things bright and beautiful,  
**God, made them one and all!**

God, our Creator, we listen and hear your voice in the crow's cry and the cat's purr, in the elephant's bellow and the donkey's bray. Help us to love all creatures as our kin, all animals as our partners on Earth, all birds as messengers of praise, all frogs as voices of hope, and all small beings as expressions of your mysterious design.  
**Amen.**

## Blessing

May the God of all creation, who created the animals of this earth to support us, continue to protect and sustain us with the grace his blessing brings, and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.  
**Amen.**

*Do join us for refreshments after the service.*

*Coffee, tea and biscuits will be served in church after the service and in the hall if you'd prefer.*

*Love all God's creation,  
the whole and every grain of sand of it.  
Love every leaf, every ray of God's light.  
Love the animals, love the plants,  
love everything.  
If you love everything,  
You will perceive the divine mystery in things.  
Once you perceive it,  
you will begin to comprehend it  
Better every day.  
And you will come at last  
to love the whole world  
With an all-embracing love.*

*~Fyodor Dostoyevsky*