

The Blessing of the Animals



The Parish of
St. Wilfrid's Mobberley

Introduction

The Lord God said, 'It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper as his partner.' ¹⁹So 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

Hymn: All things bright and beautiful

Introduction

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth

And God said 'Let the waters teem with living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the expanse of the sky'

So God created the great creatures of the sea and every living and moving thing with which the water teems, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind

And God saw that it was good

Light and darkness, wind and sea, sun, moon and stars, plants and living creatures. Through your Son, our Saviour, you have reconciled all things to yourself everything in heaven and everything on earth. Through your Son, the Servant King, you have given us a share in your rule, and called us to be his body here on earth, his ambassadors of love. Lord of Creation, we worship and adore you, holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

The Confession

Knowing that many animals suffer, we come before God to ask forgiveness for our part in sins of thoughtlessness and cruelty towards animal life.

We confess that we don't always care enough for the world you have given us.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

We confess that we don't always care enough
for the people who surround us.

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

We confess that we don't always care enough
for the animals you have entrusted to us.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy upon you,
pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in
all goodness, and keep you in life eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Hymn: Who put the colours in the rainbow?

The 1st Reading

The 2nd Reading

Hymn: O Lord my God! When I in awesome wonder

Sermon

Prayer of Thanksgiving

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

For your love in Creation,

We thank you, Lord.

For the richness of the mountains and hills, fields and rivers;

For your love in Creation,

We thank you, Lord.

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

For your love in Creation,

We thank you, Lord.

For all creatures that breathe, and move, and have life;
For your love in Creation,
We thank you, Lord.

For the songs of birds and the loveliness of flowers and trees;
For your love in Creation,
We thank you, Lord.

For the trust you have shown in giving into our care these, our pets;
For your love in Creation,
We thank you, Lord.

That each pet here may be treasured with care;
For your love in Creation,
We thank you, Lord.

That we may love and honour all your works, O God;
For your love in Creation,
We thank you, Lord.

That we may continue to grow in our grateful enjoyment of your abundant creation; To the honour and glory of your name, now and forever, we pray to you, Lord. **Amen.**

The Blessing of the Pets

Most high, almighty Lord, our Creator, yours are the praise, the glory, the honour and all blessings! To you alone do all things belong. Be praised for giving us the animals, birds and fish which fill your world. May we think of you and thank you when we play with and care for our pets. Be praised for making us so happy to have our pets and to have them to play with. We ask you, Lord, that we may be good to our pets always, so that they may be happy also. Help us always to take care of them so that they will be healthy.

O God, your world is wonderful. May we all come into your even greater world of the kingdom of heaven where we shall see even more wonderful things and where we shall live and love for ever. This we ask to your eternal praise, and to our blessing. **Amen.**

Hymn: For the beauty of the earth

Final Prayer

Blessed are you, Lord God, for all living creation and all creatures you have made. You keep them in your care and not one is lost without your knowing. This world glorifies you and speaks to us of your beauty and love- teach us to respect it. May we learn to cherish all creatures for they are your gift to us and through them may we come to know you better and praise you, their Creator. This we ask through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Blessing of the people

May God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ who is the source of all goodness and growth and who gathers into his love all things in heaven and on earth,
pour his blessing upon all things created, and upon you his children,
and the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be
among you
and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Hymn: O God your creation fills the earth

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord,
In the name of Christ. Amen.