



ALL SAINTS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

October 4, 2020 | 3:00 p.m.

HYMN

All things bright and beautiful

The Cantor sings on behalf of all.

THE OPENING ACCLAMATION

Leader Blessed be God, creator of heaven and earth.
People **All creation sings your praises.**

GLORIA

Leader Glory to God in the highest.
People **And on earth peace with all creation!**

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Leader Creator God, following the way of blessed Francis, may we delight in your whole creation, loving all animals as our partners on earth, all birds as messengers of praise and all swimming things as expressions of your wondrous design. **Amen.**

PSALM

A variation on Psalm 148

Leader All dogs and cats, large and small:
People **Praise the Lord!**

Leader All rabbits, hamsters, and guinea pigs:
People **Praise the Lord!**

Leader All goldfish, guppies, and turtles:
People **Praise the Lord!**

Leader All wrens, egrets and singing birds:
People **Praise the Lord!**

Leader All raccoons, squirrels, and deer:
People **Praise the Lord!**

Leader All geckos, snakes and alligators:

People **Praise the Lord!**

Leader All palmetto bugs, mosquitoes and no-see-ums:

People **Praise the Lord!**

Leader Every creature in the sky, the sea, and on land:

People **Praise the Lord!**

A READING

Genesis 1:20-25

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.' 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. God blessed them, saying, 'Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.' And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day. 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. 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.

PRAYERS FOR PETS

Leader Let us begin with a few moments of silence for the pets that we have lost, but who remain in our hearts.

After the silence, the Leader continues.

Almighty and everlasting God, Creator of all things and giver of life, let your blessing be upon all these animals here today. May our relationships with them mirror your love, and our care for them be an example of your bountiful mercy, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

BLESSING OF ANIMALS

The Clergy will sprinkle the animals with holy water.

THE PRAYER OF ST. FRANCIS

Leader Lord, make us instruments of your peace.

People **Where there is hatred, let us sow love.**

Leader Where there is injury, pardon;

People **Where there is discord, union.**

Leader Where there is doubt, faith;
People **Where there is despair, hope.**

Leader Where there is darkness, light;
People **Where there is sadness, joy.**

Leader Grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console.
People **To be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love.**

Leader For it is in giving that we receive;
People **It is in pardoning that we are pardoned.**

Leader And it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.
People **Amen.**

THE BLESSING

Leader May God, who created all the animals of the earth as a help to us, continue to sustain us with the grace his blessing brings, now and always. **Amen.**

THE DISMISSAL

Leader Go in peace, serving Christ and loving all creatures.
People **Thanks be to God.**

ALL SAINTS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Celebrating and Sharing God's love for all.

All Saints Mission: To be a channel of God's love.

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