

The Blessing

It is important to note that in the Scriptures the act of blessing means 'the imparting of power or life.' The person performing the blessing is mediating that power from God or Christ to the person or animal involved.

To bless is more than an expression of goodwill or caring. To bless is to impart God's power in person! The blessing of each animal, by name, means that health, healing and life are being asked of God for the benefit of the animal in its relationship with its human partners. Shalom is one Hebrew expression of blessing.

'The moral progress of a nation and its greatness should be judged by the way it treats its animals.' (Gandhi)



Go out into the world, love one another.
Cherish your animal family, protest against abuse
and neglect of our animals;
exercise stewardship of ALL creation, so that ALL
can experience God's Shalom.
Go out into the world, my horizontal and vertical
brothers and sisters
in Christ. In the name of the Father, Son and Holy
Spirit, Amen.

Please stay and join us for
refreshments.



Dismissal/Blessing
[prayed together]:

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

God our Creator, we give thanks for the
pets that have loved us, those captured on
film, and those that live in our memories.
Grant that they remain as examples to us
to love and care for others.
Amen



Welcome! We worship this Sunday with all
the creatures we love. We join the Psalmists
and rejoice with all living things. We sing
with the all the birds and animals that make
our lives richer because of their presence.

Call to Worship

‘But ask the animals, and they will teach
you; the birds of the air, and they will tell
you; ...and the fish of the sea will declare
to you. In his hand is the life of every living
thing...’

(Job 12: 7, 8b, 10a)

Hymn: O God your creatures fill the earth

FOREST GREEN, Traditional English melody;
English Hymnal, 1906
("All Beautiful the March of Days")

O God, your creatures fill the earth with wonder
and delight,
and every living thing has worth and beauty in your
sight.

So playful dolphins dance and swim;
your sheep bow down and graze.
your songbirds share a morning hymn to offer you
their praise.

You made the pets we welcome in—they're won-
drous blessings, too.
With paws and whiskers, wings and fins, they offer
praise to you.

O Lord, you call us to embrace these creatures in
our care.

May we show kindness, love and grace to all pets
everywhere.



MOTHER EARTH, OUR MOTHER BIRTHING
Tune : Praise my Soul, the King of Heaven.

Mother Earth, our mother birthing
Ev'ry creature on the land
Jesus too was flesh and breathing,
Kin to all every greening plant.
Celebrate with all creation:
God has joined the web of life.

Sister Air, our sister lifting
Ev'ry creature born with wing;
Jesus shared the breath of forests,
Breath that makes our spirits sing.
Celebrate with all creation:
God has joined the web of life.

Brother Water, brother pulsing
Deep through ev'ry vein and sea,
Jesus drank the very raindrops
For our wine and in our tea.
Celebrate with all creation
God has joined the web of life.

Father Fire, our father burning
With the sacred urge to live.
Jesus' death completes the cycle,
Bringing life beyond the grave.
Celebrate with all creation:
God has joined the web of life.

Words: © Norman Habel 1999

VOTE OF THANKS

Lord God,
you have made the heavens and the earth by
your great power.

You created all things for your glory,
yet there are those in your Creation who
languish in pain and suffering.
Please look kindly upon those animals who
are in need this day,
whether they are in the wild, on the streets,
in captivity, or elsewhere.
Deliver those who are hurt, abused, hungry,
and forgotten.
Please grant that they may be treated with
the loving care and respect all your
Creation deserves,
in the name of Jesus, amen.
(Bob Hostetler)



You made the creatures on each farm;
you know the things they need.
May they grow healthy, safe from harm, and safe
from human greed.
Just as a shepherd loves the sheep, you know their
joy, their pain.
Lord, bless the animals we keep; may all farms be
humane.

Your creatures live in every land; they fill the sky
and sea.
O Lord, you give us your command to love them
tenderly.
We're called to have dominion here — to care for
them always.
By loving creatures you hold dear, we offer you our
praise

Text: Copyright © 2011 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. All
rights reserved.



Blessing the Animals

You who created them and called them
good:
bless again these creatures who come to us
as a blessing fashioned of fur
or feather or fin,
formed of flesh that breathes with
your own breath, that you have made
from sheer delight, that you have given
in dazzling variety.
Bless them who curl themselves
around our hearts,
who twine themselves through our days,
who companion us in our labour,
who call us to come and play.
Bless them who will never be
entirely tamed and so remind us
that you love what is wild,
that you rejoice in what lives close
to the earth, that your heart beats
in the heart of these creatures
you have entrusted to our care.
Amen

Hymn TIS607 Make me a Channel of Your Peace

Make me a channel of Your peace
Where there is hatred let me bring Your love
Where there is injury, Your pardon, Lord
And where there's doubt, true faith in You

***O Master, grant that I may never seek
So much to be consoled as to console
To be understood as to understand
To be loved as to love with all my soul***

Make me a channel of Your peace
Where there's despair in life let me bring hope
Where there is darkness, only light
And where there's sadness, ever joy

***O Master, grant that I may never seek
So much to be consoled as to console
To be understood as to understand
To be loved as to love with all my soul***

Make me a channel of Your peace
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned
In giving to all men that we receive
And in dying that we're born to eternal life