

# **Animal Blessing Service**



**Sunday 21st May 2023  
South Lane Meadow  
Clanfield  
11.15am**



# **A SERVICE FOR THE BLESSING OF ANIMALS**

## **WELCOME**

Please join in with the words in **BOLD**

The Lord of all creation be with you.

**The Lord bless you.**

## **OPENING PRAYER**

O God, you have made us and all living things to form your family on earth. We thank you for giving us these pets who bring us joy. As you take care of us, we also ask that we might take care of those who trust us to look after them. By doing this, we share in your own love for all creation. We ask this in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

**HYMN:** All Things Bright and Beautiful

*All things bright and beautiful*

*All creatures great and small*

*All things wise and wonderful*

*'Twas God that made them all*

Each little flower that opens

Each little bird that sings

He made their glowing colours

And made their tiny wings

*All things bright and beautiful...*

The purple headed mountains

The rivers running by

The sunset and the morning

That brightens up the sky

*All things bright and beautiful...*

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...*

**READINGS** Genesis 1:24-32, Matthew 6:25-33

## **TALK**

**HYMN:** Morning Has Broken

Morning has broken

like the first morning,

blackbird has spoken

like the first bird.

Praise for the singing!

Praise for the morning!

Praise for them, springing

fresh from the Word!

Sweet the rain's new fall  
sunlit from heaven,  
like the first dewfall  
on the first grass.

Praise for the sweetness  
of the wet garden,  
sprung in completeness  
where God's feet pass.

Mine is the sunlight!  
Mine is the morning  
born of the one light  
Eden saw play!  
Praise with elation,  
praise every morning,  
God's recreation  
of the new day!

## **PRAYERS**

We haven't always taken care of the world you have given us.

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

We haven't always shared in the bounty of the earth fairly.

Christ, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

We have failed to protect resources for others.

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Ending with:

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come;  
thy will be done;  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation;  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
the power and the glory,  
for ever and ever.  
Amen.**

## **BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS**

The animals of God's creation live in the skies, on the earth, and in the sea. They have a part in our lives. Francis of Assisi recognized this when he called the animals, wild and tame, his brothers and sisters. Remembering Francis' love for these brothers and sisters of ours, we ask for God's blessing on these animals, and we thank God for letting us share the earth with all the creatures.

## **THE PRAYER OF ST FRANCIS**

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace

Where there is hatred, let me sow love;

Where there is injury, pardon;

Where there is doubt, faith;

Where there is despair, hope;

Where there is darkness, light;

Where there is sadness, joy.

Grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console,

To be understood as to understand,

To be loved as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive,

It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,

And it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

May each and every pet, animal and creature here today be blessed in the Name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. May we all enjoy our full lives together in companionship and find joy with the God who created us.

**Thanks be to God.**

**HYMN:** If I Were a Butterfly.

If I were a butterfly,

I'd thank You, Lord,

for giving me wings.

And if I were a robin in a tree,

I'd thank You, Lord, that I could sing.

And if I were a fish in the sea,

I'd wiggle my tail

and I'd giggle with glee;

But I just thank You, Father,

For making me 'me'.

*For You gave me a heart  
And You gave me a smile,  
You gave me Jesus  
And You made me Your child,  
And I just thank You, Father,  
For making me 'me'.*

If I were an elephant,  
I'd thank You, Lord, by raising my trunk.  
And if I were a kangaroo,  
You know I'd hop right up to You.  
And if I were an octopus,  
I'd thank You, Lord, for my fine looks;  
But I just thank You, Father,  
For making me 'me'.

*For You gave me a heart...*

If I were a wiggily worm,  
I'd thank You, Lord, that I could squirm.  
And if I were a billy goat,  
I'd thank You, Lord,  
for my strong throat.  
And if I were a fuzzy-wuzzy bear,  
I'd thank You, Lord,  
for my fuzzy-wuzzy hair;  
But I just thank You, Father,  
For making me 'me'.

*For You gave me a heart...*



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