



Blessing of the Animals

St. Cyprian's Episcopal Church
1242 West Queen Street
Hampton, VA 23669
October 13, 2019

The Blessing of Each Pet Individually

Bless O God, this your creature, and all who are involved in its care and protection. [*PET'S NAME*] may you be blessed in the Name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. May you and [*OWNER'S NAME*] enjoy life together and find joy with the God who created you."

Closing

Officiant

May God, who created the animals of this earth as a help to us, continue to protect and sustain us with the grace his blessing brings, now and forever.

People Respond

AMEN.

Opening Prayers – The Rector

Lord, thank you for blessing our lives with animals.
Tender of heart and pure in soul,
They touch us in so many ways.
Commitment, unconditional love, faith, and forgiveness,
Inherent traits never questioned nor compromised,
Yet shared and bequeathed freely
Upon any and all who offer them the same.
It is with animals that we are taught tolerance and diversity,
For their uniqueness serves to brighten our existence.
They are an incomparable gift from God,
One that we open and rediscover daily,
Showing us how to make the world a little better,
And our society a bit more humane.
Lord, thank you for blessing our lives with animals.
For it is within these divine creatures that we rediscover
The true meanings of your teachings and infinite wisdom.

--Heather Berry

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O God, creator of all things, give us grace that we may be instruments of your peace. Give us generous spirits that we may with reckless and joyous abandon sow your truth throughout all the world. Give us the mind of Christ that we may accept all who call upon your name, and that birds and beggars and all creation may be drawn into that kingdom which lives forever in your presence through Jesus Christ our Lord.

People Respond

Amen.

Lector

For the artistry of spinning spiders,
the industry of ants,
for all alert animals of field and forest,
for squirrels that gather, chipmunks that chatter,
for mice that burrow, and pigs that root.
For the splendor of the great deep and sparkling streams,
for water bugs and dolphins, for all fish and all sea life, and
for the sheer size of whales.

For all things that fly and have taught us to reach upward,
for pelicans and parakeets, barn owls and peacocks
for eagles that soar, and
for birds that nest in eaves and attics
reminding us that we are not alone

People Respond

We give you thanks, O Lord.

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Give us the grace to learn from the animal kingdom that you created all things that we might work together for the common good. Make us proper stewards of all creation that, caring for your creatures and for their homes, we may come at last to that peaceable kingdom where lion and lamb lie down together.

People Respond

Hear us, O Lord.

A Reading from Genesis – Officiant

And God said, “Let the land produce living creatures according to their kinds: livestock, creatures that move along the ground, and wild animals, each according to its kind.” And it was so. God made the wild animals according to their kinds, the livestock according to their kinds, and all the creatures that move along the ground according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good.

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Surrounded by the animals we love, we remember with gratitude the pets, protectors, and animal companions who have blessed our lives. We give thanks for our childhood pets, who taught us to love and to cry. We give thanks for our children's pets, who help us to teach them responsibility and relationship, and we give thanks for the pets who brighten our days and comfort our nights.