

For the good earth which God has given us, and for the wisdom and will to conserve it, and for peace, health, happiness, justice, and good will among all its creatures, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For God's mercy and protection upon all animals, and especially those that are injured or abused, hungry or deserted, lost or dying, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For grateful hearts and gentle hands and for a spirit of respect and wonder for the animals entrusted to our care, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For God's blessing on the animals who give us their loyal companionship and continually remind us of God's unconditional love for us and all creation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Blessed are you, Our God, for making every creature that lives in earth and sea and sky. By the power of your love and Holy Spirit, enable every creature to live according to your plan. May all thy works for ever praise you, O Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

A reading from the 5th chapter of the *Revelation of John*

And every creature which is in heaven, and on earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying: Blessing, and honor, and glory, and power, be unto him that sits upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever.

THE BLESSING OF ANIMALS AND PEOPLE

All ye that live in this forest, overfly it by air, and swim in its waters, may you be blessed in the Name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. May you and we live life together and find joy with the God who created us. And may God watch between us until we meet again. **Amen.**

THE ANIMAL PROTECTION LEAGUE OF NEW JERSEY
BEAR EDUCATION AND RESOURCE PROGRAM
ST. THOMAS' EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Blessing of Wild Beasts

Wawayanda State Park



The conversion of St. Hubert

The following liturgical resources may be used in this celebration.

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Let us pray.

O God, at your command all things came to be. From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the stewards of this earth. Remind us that we share this home with other animals—our ancient relatives—your creatures who have no reason to obey us. Open our eyes and humble our hearts that we may learn the wisdom of your creation. And in so doing, may we learn your love for us all. **Amen.**

A reading from the 1st chapter of *Genesis*

And God said, “Let the waters swarm with swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the expanse of the heavens.” So God created the great sea creatures and every living creature that moves, with which the waters swarm, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. And 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 according to their kinds—livestock and creeping things and beasts of the earth according to their kinds.” And it was so. And God made the beasts of the earth according to their kinds and the livestock according to their kinds, and everything that creeps on the ground according to its kind. And God saw that it was good.

A Litany for God's Creatures

God the Father, Creator of all,
Have mercy upon us.
God the Lamb, our redeemer
Have mercy upon us.

God the Holy Spirit, descending like a dove,
Have mercy upon us.
Mary, who cradled her Son in the manger of the ox and the ass,
Pray for us.
David, shepherd of Israel,
Pray for us.
Elisha, avenged by the she-bears.
Pray for us.
Elijah, fed by ravens,
Pray for us.
Jonah, rescued by a whale,
Pray for us.
Balaam, protected by a donkey,
Pray for us.
Peter, called to repentance by a rooster,
Pray for us.
Andrew, the fisherman,
Pray for us.
Paul, thrown by a horse,
Pray for us.
Jerome, partnered with the lion,
Pray for us.
Hubert, beholding his Redeemer in a vision borne by a stag,
Pray for us.
George, saintly horseman and slayer of the dragon,
Pray for us.
Brigid of Kildare, patroness of cattle,
Pray for us.
Sergius of Radonezh, befriended by a bear,
Pray for us.
Martin of Tours, called to God's will by the honking of a goose,
Pray for us.
Bernard of Menthon, whose dogs rescue the lost,
Pray for us.
Julian of Norwich, whose companion was a cat,
Pray for us.
Francis of Assisi, who called the animal brothers and sisters,
Pray for us.
All holy friends of all that live in earth, and sea, and sky,
Pray for us.