

13th September, 10:30a.m.

Pet Blessing

**ST EDBURGH
YARDLEY**



Welcome and Introduction

Today we give thanks for and give blessing to our beloved pets, those wonderful members of the family that give unconditional love and never judge. So, to all you animals here today, please try and keep your owners well behaved and where needed keep them on their leads.

Please do feel free to move around if your pet needs space and please don't worry if they make noise.

May God, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, who is wonderful in all his works, be with you all.

And also with you

This is the day that the Lord has made.

Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Hymn 253

1. For the beauty of the earth,
for the beauty of the skies,
for the love which from our birth
over and around us lies:

Refrain:

***Lord of all, to thee we raise
this our sacrifice of praise.***

2. For the beauty of each hour
of the day and of the night,
hill and vale and tree and flower,
sun and moon and stars of light: ***Refrain***

3. For the joy of human love,
brother, sister, parent, child,
friends on earth, and friends above,
pleasures pure and undefiled: ***Refrain***

4. For each perfect gift of thine,
to our race so freely given,
graces human and divine,
flowers of earth and buds of heaven: ***Refrain***

5. For thy church which evermore
lifteth holy hands above,
offering up on every shore
her pure sacrifice of love.

Refrain:
Lord of all, to thee we raise
this our sacrifice of praise.

God called us in the beginning to be stewards of His creation, caring for and nurturing the world He made. As we come to ask for God's blessing on our pets, we first ask for forgiveness for the times we have not made the best use of His blessings and gifts, wasting food, water and other God given resources.

O God, you have made us and all living things to form your family on earth. You are even more wonderful than what you have made. 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 these beautiful animals who trust us to look after them. By doing this, we share in your own love for all creation. We ask this in the name of Jesus our Lord. **Amen.**

A Service of the blessing of pets is a wonderful opportunity to thank God for the gift of all animals, and for us to ask God's blessing on all that he has made. A blessing involves praise of God; the wish that spiritual good

fortune will go with what is blessed and dedicates someone or something for a sacred purpose. A blessing also reminds us that all good gifts are gifts from God.

Creator God

We Come together to thank you

For the beauty of creation.

God created us and placed us on the earth

To be stewards of all living things,

Therefore, let us proclaim the glory of our Creator

All: O God, how wonderful are the works of your hands

God of a thousand years

The music of your creatures

Resounds throughout creation

And in heaven a symphony is made.

All: O God, how wonderful are the works of your hands

Collect

Eternal God,

you crown the year with your goodness

and you give us the fruits of the earth in their season:

grant that we may use them to your glory,

for the relief of those in need and for our own well-being;

through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,

who is alive and reigns with you,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

First Reading – Genesis 1.24-27

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.

Then God said, 'Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.'

So, God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

Prayer

O God, you have made us and all living things to form your family on earth. You are even more wonderful than what you have made. We thank you for giving us these pets who bring us joy. As you take care of us, may we take care of the creatures who trust us to look after them. By doing this, we share in your own love for all creation. We ask this in the name of Jesus our Lord. **Amen.**

Talk and Poem

Hymn (NHWS) 329

1. Think of a World without any flowers,
Think of the world without any trees,
Think of the sky without any sunshine,
Think of the air without any breeze.
We thank you, Lord, for flow'rs and trees and sunshine.
We thank you, Lord, and praise your holy name.

2. Think of a world without any animals,
Think of a field without any herd,
Think of a stream without any fishes,
Think of a dawn without any bird.
We thank you, Lord, for all your living creatures,
We thank you, Lord, and praise your holy name.

3. Think of a world without any people,
Think of a street with no one living there,
Think of a town without any houses,
No one to love and nobody to care.
We thank you, Lord, for families and friendships,
We thank you, Lord, and praise your holy name.

Prayer

God gave our first parents the animals when creation lived in peace. We are called to be peacemakers – with each other and the whole of creation. In Christ's name we share his peace.

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

All: And also with you.

Prayers of Intercession

Let us give thanks to God our Creator for all his gifts, for the beauty of the earth and the wonder of his creation, in earth and sea and sky;

We thank you.

For all creatures and animals that breathe, and move, and have life;

We thank you.

For all our pets, of all different shapes, sizes and colours and for the joy and friendship they give to us;

We thank you.

For vets, veterinary nurses and for all those who work in animal sanctuaries.

We thank you.

For all our pets living and departed who have brought so much joy into our lives;

We thank you.

For the times we have passed by and turned away from those creatures weaker and poorer than ourselves, and from those we fear:

We are sorry.

For the times we have been blind and deaf to their pain because of our indifference, greed and carelessness

We are sorry.

For the times we have polluted and abused our environment:

We are sorry

Be good stewards of Creation.

Live in harmony with all things living and go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ. Amen

Let us join together to say The Lord's Prayer:-

Our Father in heaven,

hallowed be your name,

your kingdom come,

your will be done,

on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever.
Amen.

Before the blessing for our pets here today we are going to take time to remember those pets who have died, those we still miss and love.

Reflection:

Organ rendition: - ***Saint-Saens – The Swan (Le Cygne) from Carnival of the Animals***

Prayer

Gentle Maker of all creatures, thank you for the gift of our sweet pets. Thank you for the joy, the gentle nuzzles, the loyalty, and the unconditional love they brought into our lives. We give thanks for all the times they came to us when we were down, giving love in a way only they could, also we thank them for the fun and laughter they brought. Our hearts have ached in the quiet house where they used to be. Please watch over them now, bring them peace, and hold them in your care. Help us to heal, to carry their memory with a smiling heart, and to remember that the love we shared will never die. Lord in that sadness we thank you for other pets who have come into our loves and lifted that sadness with their new love and cuddles. **Amen.**

Animal Blessing

May God Almighty
Father Son and Holy Spirit
Bless these our beloved pets and all animals
Protect them from cruelty
And grant them
A share in the redemption
Of the World
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

(bring your pets forward if you would like to)

Blessing of the animals:

The Reader will bless each animal. When all have been blessed, we will pray: And so we pray for God's blessing upon animals everywhere:-

Prayer

Faithful one, whose word is life: come with saving power
to free our praise, inspire our prayer and shape our lives
for the kingdom of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

We say together:

Lord God our creator, we praise you for the love and friendship of these animals. We promise that we will do our best to care for them, and to treat them and all your creatures with the respect that is their due.

Help us to keep this promise and to work with you to maintain the beauty and wonder of your creation, we ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Hymn

1. All creatures of our God and King,
lift up your voice and with us sing
alleluia, alleluia!

Thou burning sun with golden beam,
thou silver moon with softer gleam,

***O praise him, O praise him,
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!***

2. Thou rushing wind that art so strong,
ye clouds that sail in heaven along,
O praise him, alleluia!

Thou rising morn, in praise rejoice,
ye lights of evening, find a voice;

O praise him...

3. Thou flowing water, pure and clear,
make music for thy Lord to hear,
alleluia, alleluia!

Thou fire so masterful and bright,
that givest us both warmth and light,

O praise him...

4. Dear mother earth, who day by day
unfoldest blessings on our way,
O praise him, alleluia!

The flowers and fruits that in thee grow,
Let them his glory also show;

O praise him...

5. All ye that are of tender heart,
forgiving others, take your part,
O sing ye, alleluia!

Ye who long pain and sorrow bear,
praise God and on him cast your care;

O praise him...

6. And thou, most kind and gentle death,
Waiting to hush our latest breath,
O praise him, alleluia!
Thou ledest home the child of God,
And Christ our Lord the way has trod:
O praise him...

7. Let all things their creator bless,
and worship him in humbleness;
O praise him, alleluia!
Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,
and praise the Spirit, three in One;
***O praise him, O praise him,
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!***

Prayer of Commitment

All: Eternal Father, we thank you for these creatures who live alongside us as our companions and friends; for their loyalty, love and trust which enrich our lives and give us joy. Teach us the value of kindness, the power of mercy, and the strength of gentleness; we ask this through Jesus Christ whose love gives life to us all. Amen.

Blessing and Dismissal

The peace of God which passes all understanding, keep our hearts and minds in the knowledge and the love of God, and of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord; And the blessing of God Almighty- the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be with you, your beloved pets and all those whom you love, this day and forever.

Amen.

Go in peace to love all creatures and to serve the lord and the planet

Amen.

