

The Presbyterian Church of Llanerch; Havertown, PA

A Service of Blessing of the Animals

Sunday, September 14, 2014; 2:00 p.m.

Gathering

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Holy God, we assemble with all your creatures in this circle of life.

Many: We ask you to join our circle and celebrate with us.

One: Holy God, as we join in celebration with you and all creation,

Many: We ask for your blessing, your shalom, on the creatures present here that we love and on all creatures celebrating in the wild.

One: In the name of God, who creates all life, In the name of Jesus Christ, who redeems all life, and the name of the Spirit, who renews all life, we cry with all in the circle of life:

Many: Shalom! Shalom! Shalom! May your blessing come!

OPENING PRAYER

Let us pray.

God, our Creator, help us to love all creatures as our kin, all animals as our partners on Earth, all birds as messengers of praise, all small beings as expressions of your mysterious design and all frogs as voices of hope. Amen.

CIRCLE OF PRAISE

Now, the idea here is for all of us to participate in the Circle of Praise. So if we do it excitedly enough, we'll maybe encourage our animal friends to join in—barking, or meowing, or chirping, or whatever their way is...

The litany is in the bulletin but your line is simply "Praise the Lord" so you don't have to be tied to the bulletin you can encourage your pet's interaction:

One: All dogs and cats, large and small:

Many: Praise the Lord!

One: All rabbits, hamsters, and guinea pigs:

Many: Praise the Lord!

One: All goldfish, guppies, and swimming creatures:

Many: Praise the Lord!

One: All robins, wrens, and singing birds:

Many: Praise the Lord!

One: All bats, squirrels, and raccoons:

Many: Praise the Lord!

One: All horses, cows, and sheep:

Many: Praise the Lord!

One: All lizards, snakes and creeping things:

Many: Praise the Lord!

One: Every animal in the sky, the sea, and the forest:

Many: Praise the Lord!

Join me in an attitude of prayer:

We thank you, God: for all the animals in the whole wide world,

We thank you, God: for all the fun and friendship we have with animals,

We are sorry God: for all the times we have hurt or neglected animals,

We are sorry God: for all the times we have used poisons that have killed animals,

We are sorry God: for all the times we have destroyed the homes of animals in the forests, oceans, or fields.

We ask your blessing this day that we might be restored in our relationships with you, with our animal friends, and with the entire earth that you have made. Enable us to be faithful in living out our vocation as caretakers of your creation.

Remind us, renew us, re-equip us, that we may enjoy all the goodness of creation and the animals you have made. AMEN.

BLESSING

[Pet's name],

may the power of this blessing from your Creator God
fill you with life,
bind you to your human partners,
and lead you to praise your Creator.
Amen.

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

One: The peace of God which passes all understanding be with you.

Many: And also with you.

Let us greet one another with signs of blessing peace.

And go with God's blessing for us all!

* BENEDICTION

May the Creator who made the light,

the Christ who is the light,

and the Spirit who ignites the light within

abide with you and all creation now and always.