

Blessing of the Animals



St Aidan's Uniting Church
5th October 2025

Call to Worship

Dogs bark
and birds sing for joy
in praise of God.

Crickets chirp
and emus drum
in praise of God.

All creation calls out
in the ways they can:
**and we too join in
in praise of God.**

Let us worship God.

Prayers

God of all beings –
and not just God of humans –
as we thank you for loving
all creatures great and small,
we also confess the times
when our love has been too short sighted,
too focused on the animals we know
and the animas to whom we relate.

When we think of the tiny microbes
as being insignificant
because they are so small
that we do not see them,
and yet we forget that,
if nothing else,
they are an important part of the food chain:
**God of all creatures,
forgive us.**

When animals scare us
or disgust us
and we want to rid our world of them
even when they do not hurt us:

**God of all creatures,
forgive us.**

When we only see the negatives
of animals known
for their bites and stings,
and fail to see what they offer,
us as humans,
or to all creation:

**God of all creatures,
forgive us.**

When we fail to consider the impact
that our lives have
on the animals in our world,
so species are endangered
in order to give us a home,
or the technology that helps us,
or simply because we do not care:

**God of all creatures,
forgive us.**

When we look at animals
and only care for them
because they are useful to us
and meet our needs in some way,
rather than to remember how we affect them all
from great to small:

**God of all creatures,
forgive us.**

Help us to start again in new and fresh ways
to share your love,
not only with people like us,
not only with other humans,
but with all who inhabit this world you created
and in which we live.
Amen.

Words of Assurance

God's love is indeed for all,
and that includes each of us.

Through knowing we are loved,
we can repent –
we can have a change of heart
that brings change to our actions.

Know that God helps you to change
and you are forgiven:

Thanks be to God.

Prayer of Intercession

Creator God,
we pray for the needs of our world
and especially pray
for the needs of the animals who inhabit it.

We give thanks for and pray for
the animals who work each day
to help human society –
sheep dogs, police dogs,
the bomb-seeker rats,
and companion animals in nursing homes.

We pray for the livestock, the animals that provide us
with food and clothing,
especially for those animals
who are themselves a source of our food;

we pray for humane care, for love, and compassion.
We pray for the wild animals
especially those losing access
to the lands they have roamed for millennia,
to food and clean water,
and those who are hunted by poachers,
or are threatened with extinction.

We pray for our pets,
the animals who bring
such joy into our lives,
who companion us on our journey of life,
and comfort us when times are hard.

Finally, we pray for all the people
who dedicate their lives
to making life better for animals;
we remember scientists, like Jane Goodall,
the vets in our local practices,
those who protect the environment,
or find out how to care for the fish in our reefs:
zoologists, ecologists, and many others
who all working together
create a better world for animals,
and a better world for all.
Amen.

Prayer after Communion

For these gifts of the earth, Creator God,
made special to us through your blessing,
we give you thanks
and pray that you will strengthen us
to be your people in our context,
caring for the creation
that relies on our compassion.

As we reflect on the small portions
that we have consumed,
teach us to go away hungry –
hungry for justice,
hungry for hope,
hungry for a world in which all may live in peace.
Strengthen us through Christ the Human One
to be bearers of your love
to all your world.
Amen.

Benediction & Blessing

We go out from this place,
out to God's good creation –
and God is already there
to be experienced in all of creation.
So go out knowing
God, the Creator of all beings, is with you,
Christ, who lived as the Human One, is beside you,
and the Spirit inspires your life.
Amen.