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A Service for the Blessing of Animals

**Welcome**

The animals of God's creation live in the skies, the earth, and the sea. They share in the life of people. God, who looks after all living things, has of ten animals to remind people that he will save the world.

God gives animals their food (Job 38:41)

Noah took the animals into the Ark to escape the Flood. After the Flood God offered to protect all living creatures on earth all the animals and all the people (Genesis 9:9–10)

The Paschal **Lamb** reminds us that the People of Israel were freed from slavery in Egypt (Exodus 12:3–14)

A giant **fish** saved Jonah (Jonah 2:1–10)

**Ravens** brought bread to the prophet Elijah

(1 Kings 17:6)

Animals and people are asked to praise God (Jonah 3:7)

When God recreates the world, and makes it perfect again (Revelation 21) the animals will live in it with the people and enjoy it just as much.

We, therefore, ask God's blessing on all animals.

While we do this, let us praise the Creator

and thank God for asking us to look after the world and all the creatures.

**Song**

**Psalm 8 Read by Geraldine McKenna**

1 O LORD, our Lord,

your greatness is seen in all the world!

Your praise reaches up to the heavens;

2 It is sung by children and babies.

You are safe and secure from all your enemies;

you stop anyone who opposes you.

3 When I look at the sky, which you have made,

at the moon and the stars, which you set in their places —

4 what are human beings, that you think of them;

mere mortals, that you care for them?

5 Yet you made them inferior only to yourself;

you crowned them with glory and honour.

6 You appointed them rulers over everything you made;

you placed them over all creation:

7 Sheep and cattle, and the wild animals too;

8 The birds and the fish and the creatures in the seas.

9 O LORD our Lord, your greatness is seen in all the world!

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.**

**As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.**

**Bible Readings**

**Genesis 1:20-25 Read by Matilda**

**20** Then God commanded, "Let the water be filled with many kinds of living beings, and let the air be filled with birds." **21** So God created the great sea monsters, all kinds of creatures that live in the water, and all kinds of birds. And God was pleased with what he saw. **22** He blessed them all and told the creatures that live in the water to reproduce and to fill the sea, and he told the birds to increase in number. **23** Evening passed and morning came - that was the fifth day. **24** Then God commanded, "Let the earth produce all kinds of animal life: domestic and wild, large and small" - and it was done. **25** So God made them all, and he was pleased with what he saw. **26**

**Genesis 6:17-22 Read by Eliza**

**17** I am going to send a flood on the earth to destroy every living being. Everything on the earth will die, **18** but I will make a covenant with you. Go into the boat with your wife, your sons, and their wives. **19** Take into the boat with you a male and a female of every kind of animal and of every kind of bird, in order to keep them alive. **20** **21** Take along all kinds of food for you and for them." **22** Noah did everything that God commanded.

**Job 12:7-10 Read by Charlie**

7 Even birds and animals have much they could teach you; 8 Ask the creatures of earth and sea for their wisdom, 9 All of them know that the LORD's hand made them. 10 It is God who directs the lives of his creatures; everyone's life is in his power.

**Isaiah 11:6-9 read by Harry / George**

**6** Wolves and sheep will live together in peace, and leopards will lie down with young goats. Calves and lion cubs will feed together, and little children will take care of them. **7** Cows and bears will eat together, and their calves and cubs will lie down in peace. Lions will eat straw as cattle do. **8** Even a baby will not be harmed if it plays near a poisonous snake. **9** On Zion, God's sacred hill, there will be nothing harmful or evil. The land will be as full of knowledge of the Lord as the seas are full of water.

**Talk Revd Iain**

**Prayer**

**Saint Francis’s Prayer for the Animals**

**Read by Harry / George**

God Our Heavenly Father,

You created the world

to serve people’s needs

and to lead them to You.

By our own fault

we have lost the beautiful relationship

which we once had with all your creation.

Help us to see

that by restoring our relationship with You

we will also restore it

with all Your creation.

Give us the grace

to see all animals as gifts from You

and to treat them with respect

for they are Your creation.

We pray for all animals

who are suffering as a result of our neglect.

May the order You originally created

be once again restored to the whole world

Through our Lord Jesus Christ

Who lives and reigns with You

now and forever. Amen.

**A** **Film of our animals** **while we listen to:**

**Hymn: All Creatures of our God and King**

**Prayer of Blessing for the Animals**

**By Revd. Iain**

Lord, bless all these creatures

and fill our hearts with thanks for them.

**Dismissal and Blessing**

May God, who created the animals of this world,

continue to protect and look after us all,

now and for ever. The blessing of God Almighty the Father, the Son and the Holy; n Spirit, be with us all evermore. Amen.

**Song**