



Truro
Cathedral

The Pets Service



A Service of the blessing of pets is a wonderful opportunity to thank God for the gift of 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.

Care must obviously be taken that certain animals are kept apart!
That said....

We welcome you and your pet friends to this celebration of our relationship with them.

The congregation is welcomed

The priest says:

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

We reply:

And also with you.

Words of welcome are said. We sing the first hymn

Chorus:

**All things bright and beautiful,
All creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful:
The Lord God made them all.**

**Each little flow'r that opens,
Each little bird that sings,
He made their glowing colours,
He made their tiny wings.**

Chorus:

**The purple-headed mountains,
The river running by,
The sunset and the morning
That brightens up the sky.**

Chorus:

**The cold wind in the winter,
The pleasant summer sun,
The ripe fruits in the garden,
He made them every one.**

Chorus:

**He gave us eyes to see them,
And lips that we might tell
How great is God Almighty,
Who has made all things well. (and one final Chorus)**

The priest continues:

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.

When we have forgotten you, Lord Have Mercy
Lord Have Mercy

When we take for granted the gifts you give, Christ Have mercy
Christ Have Mercy

When our love is selfish, Lord Have Mercy
Lord Have Mercy

May the God of Earth and Heaven cleanse you of all sin and draw you to His wonderful light. Amen

Let us pray:

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 those 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.

First Reading
Genesis 1. 8-17

And God said, 'Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky.' So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm, and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good. 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 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. God blessed them, and God said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.'

Thanks be to God

The second hymn:

In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan,
Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
Snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,
In the bleak midwinter, long ago.

Our God, Heaven cannot hold Him, nor earth sustain;
Heaven and earth shall flee away when He comes to reign.
In the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed
The Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ.

Enough for Him, whom cherubim, worship night and day,
Breastful of milk, and a mangerful of hay;
Enough for Him, whom angels fall before,
The ox and ass and camel which adore.

Angels and archangels may have gathered there,
Cherubim and seraphim thronged the air;
But His mother only, in her maiden bliss,
Worshipped the beloved with a kiss.

What can I give Him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;

If I were a Wise Man, I would do my part;
Yet what I can I give Him: give my heart.

Second Reading
Luke 2. 8-20

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!"

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So, they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Thanks be to God

Address

Prayers

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

We thank you, Lord for all creatures that breathe, and move, and have life.

We thank you, Lord for the trust you have shown in giving into our care these, our pets, and we pray that they may be treasured always.

We thank you, Lord for the work of Guide dogs for the Blind and other animals that assist us in our lives and we pray for the RSPCA and organisations which help protect animals.

Finally, we thank you Lord that we may love and honour all your works and creatures, and that we may continue to grow in thankfulness to the honour and glory of your name.

The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come; thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.**

The procession to the High Altar

The Pageant of the Nativity processes from the South Quire Aisle to the West End and then down the main nave aisle of the Cathedral. As the procession passes, please follow them up, bringing your pets, through the Sanctuary to stand around the High Altar. Bring this order of service with you. As we process together, we sing the hymn:

**Away in a manger,
No crib for His bed
The little Lord Jesus
Laid down His sweet head**

**The stars in the bright sky
Looked down where He lay**

**The little Lord Jesus
Asleep on the hay**

**The cattle are lowing
The poor Baby wakes
But little Lord Jesus
No crying He makes**

**I love Thee, Lord Jesus
Look down from the sky
And stay by my side,
'Til morning is nigh.**

**Be near me, Lord Jesus,
I ask Thee to stay
Close by me forever
And love me I pray**

**Bless all the dear children
In Thy tender care
And take us to heaven
To live with Thee there.**

Final prayer and blessing

The priest says:

The animals of God's creation inhabit the skies, the earth, and the sea. They share in the fortunes of human existence and have a part in human life. The baby Jesus was born surrounded by human love and animal warmth. We, therefore, invoke God's blessing on these, our pets, and thank God for the unconditional love they give us. As we do so, let us praise the Creator and ask God to help us be good stewards of all creation.

May the God of all creation, who created the animals of this earth to support us, continue to protect and sustain us with the grace his blessing brings, and may the blessing of Almighty God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen**

Go in the peace of Christ.
Thanks be to God.

**Hark, the herald-angels sing
Glory to the new-born King,
Peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled.
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
Join the triumph of the skies;
With th'angelic host proclaim,
'Christ is born in Bethlehem.'
Hark, the herald-angels sing
Glory to the new-born King.**

**Christ, by highest heaven adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
Late in time behold him come,
Offspring of a Virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see:
Hail, the incarnate Deity,
Pleased as Man with man to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark, the herald-angels sing
Glory to the new-born King.**

**Hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace:
Hail, the Sun of Righteousness.
Light and life to all he brings,
Risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by,
Born that man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth,
Born to give them second birth.
Hark, the herald-angels sing
Glory to the new-born King.**

At the end of the service, a retiring collection will be taken to help support the work of the Cathedral – this will help us to continue this service and our programme of services at Christmas time.