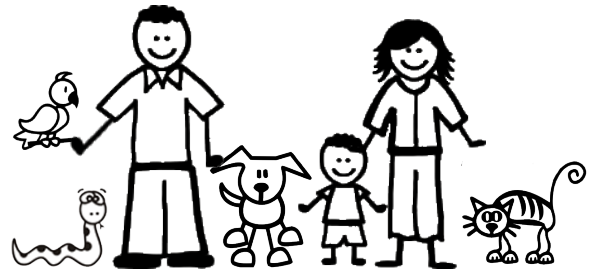


Blessing of the Animals

2021



An At-Home Blessing

The Blessing of the Animals is a beloved Franciscan tradition celebrated each fall in honor of Saint Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of animals and ecology. This year, instead of an in-person Blessing of the Animals ceremony, we invite you to celebrate the Blessing of the Animals at home with these beautiful prayers offered by blessers Rose Blank and Kristina Roth-Klinck. And of course, we offer the traditional Canticle of Creation by Saint Francis as well.

We invite you to set aside special time with your animal family on the afternoon of Sept. 26, the day we all would have gathered in person, or on a day that works for you, to celebrate the life of our animal kin.

Prayer by Rose Blank

Loving Creator, you have gifted me with creature kin of all types—our pets, the creatures who dwell on the Earth, in the seas and in the skies. For each one, I offer gratitude this day. As I give thanks, O Holy One, I especially am grateful for this beloved member of my household who brings joy into my life, who embodies Your holy and unconditional love towards me, who invites me to celebrate the wonder of all that is around me. Thank you, Gracious Spirit. Bless this beloved with your grace and mercy that he/she may continue to live in wholeness and goodness. May this beloved know that he/she is deeply cared for, not only by me, but by Your Abundant Love. Be with us all as we celebrate the joy and gift of life. Blessed be and may it be so.

Prayer by Kristina Roth-Klinck

Holy God, we give you thanks for the joy of all creatures and join with you in celebration. We ask for your blessing, your shalom, your peace, on all creatures present among us here and on all creatures on Earth. We thank you for giving us these pets who bring us joy. We also ask your help that we might take care of those who trust us to look after them. In the name of God who creates, in the name of Jesus Christ who redeems and in the name of the Spirit which renews all life. Amen.



An Adaption of Psalm 148 by Kristina Roth-Klinck

All dogs and cats, large and small,
Praise the Lord!

All rabbits, hamsters and guinea pigs,
Praise the Lord!

All goldfish, guppies and swimming creatures,
Praise the Lord!

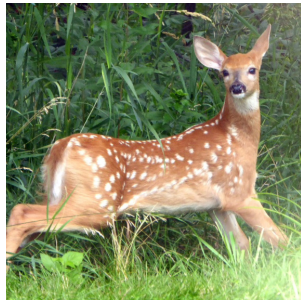
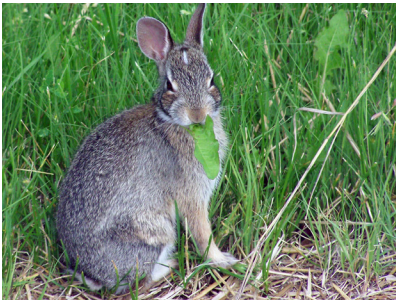
All robins, wrens and sparrows,
Praise the Lord!

All horses, cows and goats,
Praise the Lord!

All lizards, snakes and creeping things,
Praise the Lord!

Every animal in the sky, sea and forest,
Praise the Lord!

May God, who created the animals of this Earth,
continue to protect and sustain us all, now and
forever. Amen.



photos by Joni Reed Cooley

The Canticle of Creation (by Saint Francis of Assisi)

O Most High, all-powerful, good Lord God,
to you belong praise, glory,
honour and all blessing.
Be praised, my Lord, for all your creation
and especially for our Brother Sun,
who brings us the day and the light;
he is strong and shines magnificently.
O Lord, we think of you when we look at him.
Be praised, my Lord, for Sister Moon,
and for the stars
which you have set shining and lovely
in the heavens.
Be praised, my Lord,
for our Brothers Wind and Air
and every kind of weather
by which you, Lord,
uphold life in all your creatures.
Be praised, my Lord, for Sister Water,
who is very useful to us,
and humble and precious and pure.

Be praised, my Lord, for Brother Fire,
through whom you give us light in the darkness:
he is bright and lively and strong.
Be praised, my Lord,
for Sister Earth, our Mother,
who nourishes us and sustains us,
bringing forth
fruits and vegetables of many kinds
and flowers of many colours.
Be praised, my Lord,
for those who forgive for love of you;
and for those
who bear sickness and weakness
in peace and patience
—you will grant them a crown.
Be praised, my Lord, for our Sister Death,
whom we must all face.
I praise and bless you, Lord,
and I give thanks to you,
and I will serve you in all humility.