

The Blessing of the People

Priest: Almighty, eternal, just and merciful God, give us the grace to do for you alone what we know you want us to do and always to desire what pleases you. Cleans us inwardly, enlighten us, and inflame us by the fire of the Holy Spirit so that we may follow in the footprints of your beloved Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. And, by your grace alone, may we make our way to you, Most High, who lives and reigns in perfect Trinity and simple Unity, and is glorified as God all-powerful, forever and ever. (St. Francis, *Letter to the Entire Order*, 1225-26).

Congregation. Amen

THE BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

ALL SAINTS'
EPISCOPAL
CHURCH



CHELMSFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

Priest: Bless the Lord, all you his creatures

Congregation: Bless the Lord, in heaven and on earth.

Priest: Let us pray. O God, you have made us and our pets and all living things. You are even more wonderful than the things you have made. We thank you for giving us the animals who give us joy. As you take care of us, so also we ask that you help us to take care of our pets who trust us to care for them. By doing this, we know that we share in your own love of all creation. We ask this in Jesus' name.

Congregation: Amen

Psalm 104:24-31 *(Said together)*

O Lord, how manifold are your works!

Wonder is the sea, great and wide,

creeping things innumerable are there,

living things both small and great.

There go the ships,

and Leviathan that you formed to sport in it.

In wisdom you have made them all;

the earth is full of your creatures.

These all look to you

to give them their food in due season;

when you give to them, they gather it up;

when you open your hand, they are filled with good things.

When you hide your face, they are dismayed;

when you take away their breath, they die

and return to their dust.

When you send forth your spirit, they are created;

and you renew the face of the ground.

May the glory of the Lord endure for ever;

may the Lord rejoice in his works.

Prayers

Priest: For all your creatures that breathe and move and have life.

Congregation: We thank you, O Lord.

Priest: That we may love and honor the works of your

hand.

Congregation: We thank you, O Lord.

Priest: That each animal here may be treasured with care.

Congregation: We thank you, O Lord.

Priest: Most high, Almighty Lord, Creator God, yours are

the praise, the glory, the honor and all blessings! To you

alone do all things belong. Be praised, O Father, for giving

us the animals, birds, and fish which fill our world. May we

think of you and thank you when we see them, play with

them, work with them, and care for them. Help us always

to care for them so that they will be healthy and well.

Father, your world is wonderful. May we all come into your

even greater world of the kingdom of heaven where we

shall see even greater things and where we shall all live and

love forever. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Congregation: Amen.

The Blessing of the Animals