



Welcome!

Please stay for refreshments for pets and their humans after the service!

Each year, St. John's opens its grounds to all of God's creatures in a service called "The Blessing of the Animals." The service is rooted in the life of a man named Francis who lived hundreds of years ago in an Italian village called Assisi. Francis saw the good that God had intended in forming the earth, the skies, and all who dwell in them. He saw animals as God's special gift of companionship. We bless animals on the Sunday closest to October 4th (Francis' Feast Day) to honor him and to recall the many ways in which God blesses us, and all of creation.

St. John's welcomes all walking, swimming, crawling, and flying pets and their people. As each animal is blessed, let us give thanks that God blesses our lives with friendship, loyalty, and companionship through our pets. May we also thank God for people like Francis who see and celebrate the joy of God's creation.

*We extend **very special thanks** to:*

***Mary Bird**, lover of all four-legged souls, for organizing this service!*

*Courtney of **the Cheeky Puppy** (Connecticut and R Streets, NW) who donated pet treats!*

*Nasser of **G'Town Bites** for his generous donation of treats for those of us with two legs!*

*And to **Capital Canines** and **Washington Animal Rescue League** for their work and for bringing some great new friends!*



Sunday Services at St. John's

9:00 a.m. Family-friendly service
10:00 a.m. Education for all ages
11:00 a.m. Service with full choir

Child care from 8:30-12:30

Tuesdays

5:30 p.m. Holy Eucharist
& Centering Prayer in the Chapel
(enter on Potomac Street)

Phone: 202.338.1796

Website: stjohnsgeorgetown.org



The Blessing of the Animals

St. John's Church, Georgetown
3240 O St., NW, Washington, DC

Opening Hymn

All Things Bright & Beautiful!

Refrain:

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

Each little flower that opens,
Each little bird that sings,
God made their glowing colors,
He made their tiny wings.

Refrain

God gave us eyes to see them,
And lips that we might tell
How great is God Almighty,
Who has made all things well.

Refrain



The Service of the Blessing of the Animals

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

PRAYER FOR ANIMALS

St. Francis

God our Heavenly Father, You created the world to serve humanity'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 established be once again restored to the whole world through Your Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You now and forever. **Amen.**

THE READING

Genesis 1:20-31a

PRAYER FOR PETS WHO ARE LOST OR HAVE DIED

Blessed are you, Lord God, for all living creatures you have made. You keep them in your care and not one of them is lost to You. They glorify you, each in its own way, and speak to us of your beauty and love. Bless them and keep them from harm. And God, because you are infinite, unbounded Love, and will not allow the love which exists between your creatures to perish: We pray for those animals who have died. Comfort all those who mourn, especially those who have lost a beloved pet. **Amen.**

PEACE PRAYER

St. Francis

**Lord,
make me an instrument of your peace :
where there is hatred,
let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is discord, union;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
and where there is sadness, joy.**

**Grant, that I may not so much seek to be
consoled as to console:
to be understood, as to understand,
to be loved as to love;
for it is in giving that we receive,
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal
life. Amen.**

THE BLESSING OF ANIMALS

***St. John's Clergy will
move among you
blessing each animal.***

THE DISMISSAL

