

Blessing the Pets 12th October 2019

A great group gathered in Anderson Park, just below the House of Prayer Peace Pole to celebrate and honour all creation and to bless the pets, a tradition since 2002 with our own St. Francis, Fr. Dave ancini.

The liturgy began with a song. **KANYINI**, by Teacher Randall, Aboriginal Peace Warrior, Elder, Campaigner and Song Writer, now deceased, which speaks of 'love with responsibility.' This theme continued throughout the blessing as we acknowledged that no matter how many feet, paws or claws we have, we each hold a special place in creation.

Following the traditions of St Francis, we celebrated animals, wild and tame, remembered and grieved our special friends now gone and Fr. Dave individually blessed every creature present. The park was a wonderful backdrop with a cacophony of nature including the ducks choir which only added to our occasion. Those who bounded across the park on arrival became demure with their blessing (or perhaps it was their biscuits?) and no-one was tempted to fly away or eat another.

Comments from those present -

..... Thanks to all those involved in the wonderful Pets' Liturgy last Saturday, a great roll up of assorted critters and their dedicated humans. Indi and Sankhar enjoyed the social experience, the park, and the dog biscuits, and their behaviour has been exemplary ever since. Thanks for the energy and inspiration that creates this very special occasion. Blessings, Therese

Yes it was a beautiful morning. Thank you Loraine for organizing such a beautiful liturgy. Chris.

....extremely well behaved and this year we had a snake, guinea pigs and birds as well, not to mention all the beautiful butterflies I noticed flying around us, the geese and the plover birds in the background. Well done to the team, thanks to Fr Dave and everyone who was there. I absolutely loved it. Rita

Even as we celebrate our animal friends, our world suffers and groans. As we pray this prayer for peace, may we consider all the flora and fauna of this world.

May the work of peace be ever on our minds,
For even where there is hatred, **cubs and kittens still play.**
Even where there is injury, **the eagles still soar.**
Even where there is despair, **the morning is greeted with song.**
Even where there is darkness,
burrows, dens and nests bring safe sleep.
Even where there is sadness,
the whales and dolphins leap up to the sky.

May we seek not so much to dominate as to
live in peace with all God's creatures.

Parts of the liturgy were adapted from various sources including:
United Church of Christ Worship Ways,
<http://www.webofcreation.org/SeasonofCreation/animalblessing.html> .

