

# **Braydon Brook Benefice Pet Service**



## **Hello & Opening Words**

### **Yes! We will praise God!**

We will praise God in dog-parks.

We will praise God in paddocks.

### **Yes! We will praise God!**

We will praise God in our aquariums.

We will praise God from our perches.

A little boy with a purring cat on his lap,  
a young girl teaching a puppy to roll over,  
an old woman conversing with her pretty parrot,  
an old man cleaning out the rabbit hutch –  
let them all praise God's name!

### **Yes! We praise the God of all creatures!**

## **Song**

## **Bible Readings**

Genesis 1: 20-25

Psalm 84: 1-4



**Why have a pet?**  
*Some of us share our stories*



## Litany of blessing

Puppies who think puddles are perfect for baths;  
rescuers searching tirelessly through toppled buildings;  
companions guiding the sightless;  
eyes in whose depths we see God,  
greeters at the end of long days,  
ball-chasers and who get us moving.  
For every furry, four-footed best friend,  
we give you thanks,  
One whose name spelled backwards is dog,  
for those companions who shadow us through life;  
and we lift their names to you for blessing in this moment:



*(Names of dogs may be spoken aloud, or held in the silence of our hearts...)*

Canaries that sing carols at evensong;  
finches that lullaby us in the morning;  
budgies who talk our ears off;  
For every squawk and tweet, for every flutter and flutter;  
we give you thanks, God of six-winged seraphim,  
for the birds who send our hearts soaring;  
and we lift their names to you for blessing in this moment:



*(Names of birds may be spoken aloud, or held in the silence of our hearts ...)*

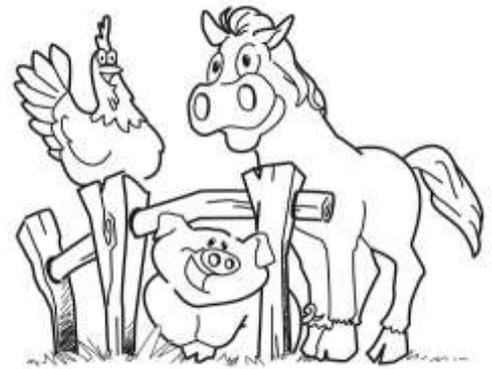
Mums who carry their babies to safety by the scruff of their neck;  
seniors who sleep their days away;  
frightened felines who hide in the smallest spaces;  
lappers who purr grace into our depths;  
For every tiger and tabby,  
for every short-hair, long-hair, no-hair and in between.  
God of gentle contemplation and contentment,  
for those feline friends who see us for who we are,  
even in the shadows of our lives;  
and we lift their names to you for blessing in this moment:



*(Names of cats may be spoken aloud, or held in the silence of our hearts ...)*

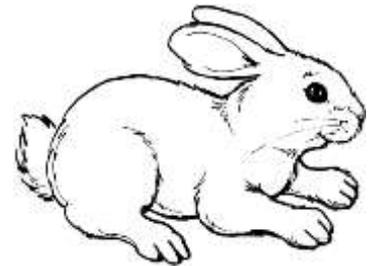
Thoroughbreds moving gently through the morning mist;  
for ponies accepting carrots from children,  
and for those who shake their manes  
to show us who really is in charge.

We give you thanks, God of plains and  
farmlands,  
for horses who love and accept us;  
and we lift their names to you for blessing in  
this moment:



*(Names of horses may be spoken aloud, or held in the silence of our hearts ...)*

For gerbils which teach kids responsibility,  
and remind us of the value of smaller spaces;  
for hamsters which show us how to compost,  
for cottontails and flop-eared bunnies  
whose curiosity knows no bounds;  
for snakes, spiders, mice, rats and other critters others abhor but we  
adore;  
for tropical fish who drive cats crazy –  
for the rich, rainbow variety of your creation  
and all those we are given to love and care for by your grace.



For our cuddly toys who we love and who love us back in their own  
unique back.

We give you thanks, and lift their names to you:

*(Names of pets and different animals and cuddly toys may be spoken aloud,  
or held in the silence of people's hearts ...)*



## Blessing of pets

*You'll need your pet close at hand,  
if possible!*

Song

Closing prayer

**Lord, make us instruments of your peace.**

**Where there is hatred, let us sow love;**

**where there is injury, pardon;**

**where there is doubt, faith;**

**where there is despair, hope;**

**where there is darkness, light;**

**and where there is sadness, joy.**

**O, Divine Master,**

**grant that we 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;**

**it is in dying that we are born again**

**to eternal life. Amen.**

*Saint Francis of Assisi*

And now you and your pet definitely need a treat, a dog

biscuit for you or a piece of cake for your pet perhaps?

(Have I got this the right way round?!)

*Service adapted from Companions on the Journey*

*Thom M Shuman*