



GREYFRIARS

life in all its fullness / beatha na lànachd



Pet Blessing Service – 9 October 2022, 3 pm

Welcome to Greyfriars

You are warmly invited to remain behind for the Pet's Parade around the Churchyard and for coffee and biscuits, served at the back of the church beneath the organ at the end of the service.

Welcome

Leader: Jesus Christ, we assemble with all your creatures in this circle of life.

People: *We ask you to join our circle and celebrate with us.*

Leader: Jesus Christ, as we join in celebration with you and all creation,

People: *We ask for your blessing, your shalom, on the creatures present here that we love and on all creatures in the wild.*

Leader: In the name of God, who creates all life, in the name of Jesus Christ, who redeems all life, and the name of the Spirit, who renews all life, we call upon you with all in the circle of life:

People: *Shalom! Shalom! Shalom!*

May your blessing come!

Hymn:

Praise, my soul

1. *Mother Earth, our mother birthing ev'ry creature on the land,
Jesus too was flesh and breathing, kin to every greening plant.
Celebrate with all creation: God has joined the web of life.*
2. *Sister Air, our sister lifting ev'ry creature born with wing;
Jesus shared the breath of forests, breath that makes our spirits sing.
Celebrate with all creation: God has joined the web of life.*
3. *Brother Water, brother pulsing deep through ev'ry vein and sea,
Jesus drank the very raindrops for our wine and in our tea.
Celebrate with all creation: God has joined the web of life.*
4. *Father Fire, our father burning with the sacred urge to live.
Jesus' death completes the cycle, bringing life beyond the grave.
Celebrate with all creation: God has joined the web of life.*

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An Iona Blessing

O angels of the Lord, bless the Lord,
O saints of these parts, bless the Lord,
O servants of Christ who here have sung praises to God,
through many generations,

Response: Bless the Lord

O souls of the faithful who rest in Jesus, bless the Lord,
O kindly folk of this place, bless the Lord
O sheep and horned cattle, O lambs that jump in the fields,

Bless the Lord

O fish that glisten in the waters, O rooks that caw from the sycamores,
bless the Lord,
O buzzards that caw from the sycamores,

Bless the Lord

O gulls that fill the beaches with your clamour, bless the Lord,
O terns and gannets that dive headlong for your prey, bless the Lord,
O dunlins that wheel in unison over the waves,

Bless the Lord

O larks that carol in the heavens, bless the Lord,
O blackbirds that pipe at dawning, bless the Lord
O warblers and wrens that make the fields joyful with song, bless the Lord,
O bees that love the heather,
O pets that are our devoted friends,

Bless the Lord

O flowers that gem the earth with colour, bless the Lord,
O green trees that stand tall on the hillsides,

Bless the Lord

O piled rocks, fashioned by nature's might through countless ages,
bless the Lord,
O majestic peaks, O white sand and emerald shallows,
O blue and purple deeps of ocean, bless the Lord,
O winds and cloud,

Bless the Lord

O all the works of the Lord, Bless the Lord.

The Word of God

First Lesson: Genesis 2: 18 – 20

The LORD God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him.”

Now the LORD God had formed out of the ground all the wild animals and all the birds in the sky. He brought them to the man to see what he would name them; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name. So the man gave names to all the livestock, the birds in the sky and all the wild animals.

Second Lesson: St Matthew 6: 25 – 29

Jesus said: “Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life? And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labour or spin. Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendour was dressed like one of these.”

A Time for Reflection

A Time to give thanks and to confess

Leader: Lord, for all the animals in the whole wide world,

People: We thank you, God!

L: Lord, for all the fun and friendship we have with animals,

P: We thank you, God!

L: Lord, for all the times we have hurt or neglected animals,

P: We are sorry.

L: Lord, for all the times we have used poisons that have killed animals,

P: We are sorry.

L: Lord, for all the times we have destroyed the homes of animals
in the forests, oceans, or fields,

P: We are sorry.

L. Christ offers his friendship to all who call upon him. In Christ's name, we call on you to honour and protect all animals and work for a better world in which we share the good things of life with all God's creatures, conserving, caring, nurturing and tending.

May the animals of Earth be our companions in life and lead us to celebrate the circle of life.

P: Amen

Prayer of St. Francis (said together)

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace; where there is hatred, let me 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 God, 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 PRAYER

Most high, almighty Lord, our Creator, yours are the praise, the glory, the honour and all blessings! To you alone do all things belong. Be praised for giving us the animals, birds and fish which fill your world.

May we think of you and thank you when we play with and care for our pets.

Be praised for making us so happy to have our pets and to have them to play with. We ask you, Lord, that we may be good to our pets always, so that they may be happy also. Help us always to take care of them so that they will be healthy. O God, your world is wonderful. May we all care for it with deep reverence and love and come finally to the paradise of your presence. This we ask to your eternal praise, and to our blessing. Amen

Prayer said by all: *Dear Creator, teach us to nurture your earth, and be worthy carers of all that is in it. May our eyes be opened to see your hand in nature; may our hands be open to cherish your gifts in the material things around, may we learn how to live in harmony with your laws and treat all who share life with the respect they are due as your creatures.*

As you have asked us to care and tend the earth and all that is in it, may we never forget that we are mortal creatures, from earth we come, to earth we return, so give us humility and a caring heart in Jesus' name. Amen.

Hymn:

All things bright and beautiful

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

1. *Each little flower that opens, each little bird that sings,
he made their glowing colours, he made their tiny wings:*

All things bright and beautiful ...

2. *The purple headed mountain, the river running by,
the sunset and the morning that brightens up the sky:*

All things bright and beautiful ...

3. *The cold wind in the winter, the pleasant summer sun,
the ripe fruits in the garden, he made them every one:*

All things bright and beautiful ...

4. *The tall trees in the greenwood, the meadows where we play,
the rushes by the water we gather every day:*

All things bright and beautiful ...

5. *He gave us eyes to see them, and lips that we might tell
how great is God Almighty, who has made all things well.*

All things bright and beautiful ...

Cecil Frances Alexander

Benediction