

Blessing of the Stuffed Animals - 2016 10 02

In many churches like ours, people sometimes come together to bless the animals. A blessing shows how we appreciate the animals in our lives. These might be the pets in our families. It can also be animals we think are beautiful to look at or nice to pet on a farm, or animals that give us wool for clothes, pull plows on farms, and even give us food (like milk). Today at 3 o'clock we are going to have a Blessing of Animals in our courtyard.

But this morning is special too. There is another blessing. Many of you are holding a stuffed animal. **Think of at least one thing that is special, valuable, or wonderful about the animal you are holding.** As an example - Snort here is my little red pig. Pigs make fun and funny sounds. I also brought Monkey - that's what I called him as a child too. I have had him since I was a small boy. I love Monkey - have for years. And one thing special about monkeys is that monkeys are cute and smart.

Horses are fun to ride. Kangaroos can jump high. Lambs grow up to give us wool. Dogs love you if you are kind to them and take care of them.

**What is the special, valuable, or wonderful thing about the animal you are holding?**

Everyone hold your animal up, and let's have a blessing. (and if you forgot your stuffed animal today, or if you aren't able to come this afternoon to the Blessing of Animals, you can imagine they are invisible but really here, and hold them up anyway)

**O God, author and giver of every gift, bless these children today, and the animals they hold in their hearts. All animals are an essential part of your creation, providing love, labor, and nourishment for our lives. Bless us all in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, that you will continue to enrich our lives with our pets and give us all things needed to live a joy-filled life. Amen.**